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Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee
Vice Chair, Rules Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB 118: *Driving Offenses – Expungement and the Ignition Interlock System Program*

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, Vice Chairman and members of the Judiciary Committee.

As amended Senate Bill 118 would expand the **eligibility** of convictions that qualify for expungement to include driving under the influence or while impaired. The petition for expungement based on a PBJ under this section may **NOT** be filed earlier than **15 years** after the person is discharged from probation. The amended bill also requires participation in the **Ignition Interlock System Program** if an individual is convicted of *or* granted a PBJ.

Additionally, the State's Attorney can file an objection and petition the court, therefore, the expungement petition is not automatic, and a person is not entitled to an expungement if they violate §21-902 of the transportation article.

As you know criminal records can prevent individuals from employment, housing, and educational opportunities. In fact more than 85% of employers perform background checks on an applicant when they apply for job. So, if you have a past criminal conviction of any kind... it is more difficult for you to obtain employment. Not to mention, anything that occurs after an arrest is documented on an individual's criminal record and it will remain publicly visible via Maryland Case Search until the charges and dispositions are expunged.

In closing, many of us are not the same person that we were 15 years ago, and we should not be limited to employment, housing, and educational opportunities... if we are REHABILITATED. Lastly, this bill does NOT allow repeat drunk drivers to have their records expunged and again it can only be expunged after 15 years.

Therefore, I urge a FAVORABLE report for SB 118 as AMENDED.