

## Chapter 801

**(Senate Bill 949)**

AN ACT concerning

**Criminal Procedure – Expungement – Possession of Marijuana ~~and Fees~~**

FOR the purpose of authorizing a person to file a certain petition for expungement ~~if the~~ within a certain amount of time after a *at a certain time if the* person was convicted of possession of marijuana ~~before a certain time; requiring that filing fees for petitions for expungement collected by the District Court be remitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts to be used only for a certain purpose; making a certain conforming change; providing for the effective date of certain provisions of this Act;~~ and generally relating to expungement of records.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 Article – Criminal Procedure  
 Section 10–105  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Criminal Procedure  
Section 10–110(a)(8)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)  
(As enacted by Chapter 515 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2016)

~~BY adding to~~  
~~Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings~~  
~~Section 7–302(h)~~  
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
~~(2013 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Criminal Procedure**

10–105.

(a) A person who has been charged with the commission of a crime, including a violation of the Transportation Article for which a term of imprisonment may be imposed, or who has been charged with a civil offense or infraction, except a juvenile offense, as a substitute for a criminal charge may file a petition listing relevant facts for expungement

of a police record, court record, or other record maintained by the State or a political subdivision of the State if:

- (1) the person is acquitted;
- (2) the charge is otherwise dismissed;
- (3) a probation before judgment is entered, unless the person is charged with a violation of § 21–902 of the Transportation Article or Title 2, Subtitle 5 or § 3–211 of the Criminal Law Article;
- (4) a nolle prosequi or nolle prosequi with the requirement of drug or alcohol treatment is entered;
- (5) the court indefinitely postpones trial of a criminal charge by marking the criminal charge “stet” or stet with the requirement of drug or alcohol abuse treatment on the docket;
- (6) the case is compromised under § 3–207 of the Criminal Law Article;
- (7) the charge was transferred to the juvenile court under § 4–202 of this article;
- (8) the person:
  - (i) is convicted of only one criminal act, and that act is not a crime of violence; and
  - (ii) is granted a full and unconditional pardon by the Governor;
- (9) the person was convicted of a crime or found not criminally responsible under any State or local law that prohibits:
  - (i) urination or defecation in a public place;
  - (ii) panhandling or soliciting money;
  - (iii) drinking an alcoholic beverage in a public place;
  - (iv) obstructing the free passage of another in a public place or a public conveyance;
  - (v) sleeping on or in park structures, such as benches or doorways;
  - (vi) loitering;

(vii) vagrancy;

(viii) riding a transit vehicle without paying the applicable fare or exhibiting proof of payment; or

(ix) except for carrying or possessing an explosive, acid, concealed weapon, or other dangerous article as provided in § 7-705(b)(6) of the Transportation Article, any of the acts specified in § 7-705 of the Transportation Article;

(10) the person was found not criminally responsible under any State or local law that prohibits misdemeanor:

(i) trespass;

(ii) disturbing the peace; or

(iii) telephone misuse; [or]

(11) the person was convicted of a crime and the act on which the conviction was based is no longer a crime; **OR**

**(12) THE PERSON WAS CONVICTED OF POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA UNDER § 5-601 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2014.**

(a-1) A person's attorney or personal representative may file a petition, on behalf of the person, for expungement under this section if the person died before disposition of the charge by nolle prosequi or dismissal.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, a person shall file a petition in the court in which the proceeding began.

(2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, if the proceeding began in one court and was transferred to another court, the person shall file the petition in the court to which the proceeding was transferred.

(ii) If the proceeding began in one court and was transferred to the juvenile court under § 4-202 or § 4-202.2 of this article, the person shall file the petition in the court of original jurisdiction from which the order of transfer was entered.

(3) (i) If the proceeding in a court of original jurisdiction was appealed to a court exercising appellate jurisdiction, the person shall file the petition in the appellate court.

(ii) The appellate court may remand the matter to the court of original jurisdiction.

(c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a petition for expungement based on an acquittal, a nolle prosequi, or a dismissal may not be filed within 3 years after the disposition, unless the petitioner files with the petition a written general waiver and release of all the petitioner's tort claims arising from the charge.

(2) A petition for expungement based on a probation before judgment or a stet with the requirement of drug or alcohol abuse treatment may not be filed earlier than the later of:

(i) the date the petitioner was discharged from probation or the requirements of obtaining drug or alcohol abuse treatment were completed; or

(ii) 3 years after the probation was granted or stet with the requirement of drug or alcohol abuse treatment was entered on the docket.

(3) A petition for expungement based on a nolle prosequi with the requirement of drug or alcohol treatment may not be filed until the completion of the required treatment.

(4) A petition for expungement based on a full and unconditional pardon by the Governor may not be filed later than 10 years after the pardon was signed by the Governor.

(5) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a petition for expungement based on a stet or a compromise under § 3-207 of the Criminal Law Article may not be filed within 3 years after the stet or compromise.

(6) A petition for expungement based on the conviction of a crime under subsection (a)(9) of this section may not be filed within 3 years after the conviction or satisfactory completion of the sentence, including probation, that was imposed for the conviction, whichever is later.

(7) A petition for expungement based on a finding of not criminally responsible under subsection (a)(9) or (10) of this section may not be filed within 3 years after the finding of not criminally responsible was made by the court.

**(8) A PETITION FOR EXPUNGEMENT BASED ON THE CONVICTION OF A CRIME UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(12) OF THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE FILED WITHIN ~~5~~ 4 YEARS AFTER THE CONVICTION OR SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE SENTENCE, INCLUDING PROBATION, THAT WAS IMPOSED FOR THE CONVICTION, WHICHEVER IS LATER.**

~~(8)~~ **(9)** A court may grant a petition for expungement at any time on a showing of good cause.

(d) (1) The court shall have a copy of a petition for expungement served on the State's Attorney.

(2) Unless the State's Attorney files an objection to the petition for expungement within 30 days after the petition is served, the court shall pass an order requiring the expungement of all police records and court records about the charge.

(e) (1) If the State's Attorney files a timely objection to the petition, the court shall hold a hearing.

(2) If the court at the hearing finds that the person is entitled to expungement, the court shall order the expungement of all police records and court records about the charge.

(3) If the court finds that the person is not entitled to expungement, the court shall deny the petition.

(4) The person is not entitled to expungement if:

(i) the petition is based on the entry of probation before judgment, except a probation before judgment for a crime where the act on which the conviction is based is no longer a crime, and the person within 3 years of the entry of the probation before judgment has been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation or a crime where the act on which the conviction is based is no longer a crime; or

(ii) the person is a defendant in a pending criminal proceeding.

(f) Unless an order is stayed pending an appeal, within 60 days after entry of the order, every custodian of the police records and court records that are subject to the order of expungement shall advise in writing the court and the person who is seeking expungement of compliance with the order.

(g) (1) The State's Attorney is a party to the proceeding.

(2) A party aggrieved by the decision of the court is entitled to appellate review as provided in the Courts Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Criminal Procedure**

10–110.

(a) A person may file a petition listing relevant facts for expungement of a police record, court record, or other record maintained by the State or a political subdivision of the State if the person is convicted of a misdemeanor that is a violation of:

(8) § 5-601 NOT INVOLVING THE USE OR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA, § 5-618, § 5-619, § 5-620, § 5-703, § 5-708, or § 5-902 of the Criminal Law Article;

~~Article—Courts and Judicial Proceedings~~

~~7-302.~~

~~(H) (1) FILING FEES FOR PETITIONS FOR EXPUNGEMENT COLLECTED BY THE DISTRICT COURT SHALL BE REMITTED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS.~~

~~(2) THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS MAY USE MONEY RECEIVED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE PROCESSING OF EXPUNGEMENTS.~~

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017, the effective date of Section 2 of Chapter 515 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2016. If the effective date of Section 2 of Chapter 515 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2016 is amended, Section 2 of this Act shall take effect on the taking effect of Section 2 of Chapter 515 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2016.

SECTION ~~2~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

**Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 27, 2017.**