

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 310
(Senator Jennings)
Judicial Proceedings

Criminal Records - Maryland Judiciary Case Search - Traffic Violation by a Minor

This bill prohibits the Maryland Judiciary Case Search from referring in any way to the existence of records relating to an alleged violation of the Maryland Vehicle Law or any other traffic law, ordinance, or regulation by a minor.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures for the Judiciary increase by \$83,100 in FY 2027 only for one-time programming changes. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Maryland Judiciary Case Search provides public Internet access to information from Maryland District Court and circuit court traffic, criminal, and civil case records. The information shown generally includes names of parties, addresses, case numbers, dates of birth, trial dates, charges, and case dispositions. Statute prohibits the Maryland Judiciary Case Search from referring in any way to the existence of:

- records of a charge in a case with electronic records if the charge resulted in acquittal; dismissal; or *nolle prosequi*, except *nolle prosequi* with the requirement of drug or alcohol treatment (this exception is repealed effective January 31, 2026);

- records of a charge in a case with electronic records for (1) a charge marked “*stet*” on the docket at least three years previously or (2) a charge of possession of cannabis that resulted in a conviction that was later pardoned the Governor (effective January 31, 2026); and
- a criminal case in which possession of cannabis is the only charge in the case, and the charge was disposed of before July 1, 2023.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures increase by \$83,095 in fiscal 2027 only for one-time computer programming of the Maryland Judiciary Case Search system. The Judiciary advises that because the bill does not specify that it applies prospectively only, these costs include programming to remove references to historical case records as well.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Juvenile Services; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 2026

sj/jkb

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