



## POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Bill: SB 0114 Criminal Law – Criminal Procedure-Expungement of Conviction-Driving While Privilege Is Canceled, Suspended, Refused, or Revoked.

Position: Favorable

Date: January 15, 2021

The Office of the Public Defender supports SB 0114, which would allow a person convicted of a misdemeanor for driving while their license or privilege to drive was canceled, revoked, refused or suspended to petition for expungement. Involvement in the criminal legal process, even for misdemeanors, can have severe and lasting impacts on Marylanders. Simply being charged with a crime could result in the loss of a job, housing, or professional licenses. Additionally, it is important to highlight that traffic convictions can also have an unintended consequence of preventing other cases that would otherwise be eligible to be expunged, from being expunged. The State of Maryland moved in the right direction by eliminating the possibility of jail time for non-violent offenses such as driving on a suspended, canceled, refused or revoked license with the passage of HB 76 in 2019. This bill continues that positive momentum by allowing individuals to expunge these license-based convictions from their record.

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For these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 114.