

# Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys' Association



## MD House of Delegates – Judiciary Committee

March 31, 2012 1:30 pm

### Hearing on SB 625

#### Courts – Jury Service - Disqualification

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## MCDAA POSITION:

## SUPPORT W/ SENATE AMENDMENTS

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**Brief bill explanation:** This bill reverses the disenfranchisement of individuals convicted of crimes by adopting the standards used in recent years in Maryland's voter enfranchisement legislation, which are now law.

**Under this bill as amended, all Marylanders who have completed their criminal sentence may vote in elections, unless they have charges pending for a serious crime.** When this becomes law, unless you have charges pending, if you can vote in Maryland, you can serve on a jury. Md. Code Elections, Section 3-102.

This bill alters the circumstances under which an individual may be disqualified for jury service by repealing provisions that disqualify individuals who received a sentence of imprisonment for more than one year or have pending charges for crimes punishable by imprisonment for more than one year. Instead, an individual is qualified to vote once any sentence they are serving is complete, unless they are facing pending charges of a crime punishable by more than a year in jail. This legislation will expand the jury pool dramatically, and will give defendants a more diverse population from which to empanel juries for their trials. **Further, it re-enfranchises individuals who have paid for their crimes.**

For additional information or questions regarding this legislation, please contact MCDAA Government Relations Contact John Giannetti 410.300.6393, [JohnGiannetti.mcdaa@gmail.com](mailto:JohnGiannetti.mcdaa@gmail.com)