



POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Bill: HB 1269 Criminal Procedure - Expungement of Records - Waiting Period Position:

Favorable

Date: March 9, 2021

The Office of the Public Defender supports HB 1169, which would reduce the waiting period for individuals to seek expungement in certain circumstances. As public defenders we often hold expungement clinics for our clients. We've seen firsthand how criminal convictions or merely criminal charges prevent our clients from obtaining housing, employment, and professional licenses. By reducing the waiting period for certain people in certain circumstances, this will help Marylanders suffering from collateral consequences from criminal charges.

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For these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges a favorable report on this bill.