

CORY V. McCRAY  
Legislative District 45  
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety, Transportation,  
and Environment



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 221  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3165 · 301-858-3165  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3165  
Cory.Mccray@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 111**

**Occupational Licenses or Certificates - Pre-application Determinations - Criminal Convictions**

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I write to urge you to **support** Senate Bill 111. Removing structural barriers to licensure for people with criminal records is critical to improving workforce development within the State of Maryland.

Individuals who have been previously convicted of a crime experience more difficulties in obtaining the licenses and/or certifications requisite to working certain occupations. A conviction of a crime may serve as a basis for denial of an occupational license and/or certificate. Furthermore, persons with criminal history are not informed of how their past records may negatively impact their application status. The State imposes the regulations that govern the licensing process; therefore, it is essential that prospective applicants are provided with a caveat to avert impediments to their progress.

Under Senate Bill 111, a prospective applicant may request that a licensing body or department provide them with a determination addressing whether their criminal conviction would disqualify them from acquiring occupational licensure and/or certification. Having access to such information during the pre-application process would provide applicants with transparency, clarity, and the opportunity to adjust their plans prior to investing valuable time and resources.

If enacted, Senate Bill 111 will take effect on October 1, 2022, and licensing departments will be required to adopt practices in accordance with the change in law.

In efforts to bolster fairer licensing practices and remove barriers to licensure for individuals with criminal records, I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 111.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cory V. McCray".

Cory V. McCray

State Senator, 45<sup>th</sup> District