

Maryland Criminal Defense Attorney's Association



MD House of Delegates -Judiciary Committee

January 19, 2022 1:00pm

Hearing on HB 74

Courts – Jury Service - Disqualification

MCDAA POSITION: SUPPORT

Brief bill explanation: This bill incorporates the amendments made by the Maryland General Assembly during the 2021 legislative session. It reverses the disenfranchisement of individuals convicted of crimes by making individuals eligible to serve on a jury AFTER their sentences, including probation, are complete, as long as they do not have any pending felony or serious misdemeanor charges.

All Marylanders who have completed their criminal sentence may vote in elections. Under this legislation, those same individuals will have their rights to serve on juries restored also. See 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, under the 2022 legislation, an individual is not qualified for jury service if the individual has been convicted of a felony and is currently serving the sentence imposed for the conviction, including any term of probation, OR if the individual has current felony or serious misdemeanor charges pending.

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