

# Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys' Association



## MD Senate -Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 7, 2023 1:00pm

### Hearing on SB 97

#### Courts – Jury Service - Disqualification

## MCDAA POSITION: SUPPORT

**Brief bill explanation:** This bill incorporates the amendments made by the Maryland General Assembly during the 2022 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 2023 legislation, an individual is not qualified for jury service if the individual has been convicted of a felony or crime punishable by a sentence more than one year 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](mailto:JohnGiannetti.mcdaa@gmail.com)