



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William Smith Jr., Chair and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Sheriff Darren Popkin, Co-Chair, MSA, Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Natasha Mehu, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: March 9, 2022

RE: **SB 505 Criminal Procedure – Expungement – Convictions**

POSITION: OPPOSE

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE** SB 505. This bill authorizes a person to file an expungement for felony convictions.

MCPA and MSA, while understanding the desire to provide a second chance for persons in certain circumstances, generally oppose legislation that increases the categories or timeframes for expungement because it could interfere with the necessary access to prior criminal information. In some instances, this could be a safety factor for law enforcement personnel in carrying out their official duties.

Each year, several pieces of legislation are introduced that seek to adjust the considerations and time frames under which expungement, pardons, or shielding can be sought. MCPA and MSA believe such changes require participation and input from the judiciary, prosecutors, and law enforcement and, rather than being dealt with in a piecemeal manner, should be addressed comprehensively in a process that involves all stakeholders and in a setting that is conducive to reasonable solutions while, at the same time, not affecting public safety.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **OPPOSE SB 505** and urge an **UNFAVORABLE** Committee report.