

SENATOR JEFF WALDSTREICHER  
*Legislative District 18*  
Montgomery County

—  
*Vice Chair*  
Judicial Proceedings Committee

—  
Joint Committee on Federal Relations



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*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Jeff Waldstreicher  
**Senate Bill 173 – Automatic Expungement – Clarification**

February 7, 2023

Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Recently, this committee has put a great deal of effort into offering Marylanders second chances and expungement opportunities, particularly for those with non-convictions on their records. Two years ago, the General Assembly passed revolutionary legislation allowing for the automatic expungement of criminal charges and civil offenses that resulted in non-convictions. That bill – which was sponsored by Senator Patterson and our committee’s very own Senator Sydnor – passed unanimously and in a bipartisan manner.

Senate Bill 173 offers a technical, non-substantive fix to that statute. As you may know, the Maryland Code – contained in the books lining the shelves of our committee – is not published by the State. Rather, these books are published by third-party publishers. As they compile new laws, publishers add their own headings to the statutes. Those headings are not substantive law, but they do give people researching the law a hint as to our legislative intent. Judges see them as well when they are ruling on the law.

Soon after the underlying legislation was passed, it was brought to my attention that third-party publishers were misinterpreting the law and that the best method to resolve this error is through a technical clarification. That is what Senate Bill 173 does.

This bill is a simple rewording of the 2021 legislation to make clear what our intent is, so that third-party publishers appropriately categorize the law. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 173.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Waldstreicher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "W".

Senator Jeff Waldstreicher