



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY by Senator C. Anthony Muse

SB 505: *Criminal Procedure – Expungement – Convictions*

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, Vice Chairman and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Senate Bill 505 as **amended** would expand the eligibility of convictions that qualify for expungement to include *driving under the influence or while impaired*. And a petition for expungement under this section may not be filed earlier than 10 years after the person satisfies the sentence imposed for all convictions for which expungement is requested, including parole, probation, or mandatory supervision.

As you know criminal records can prevent individuals from employment, housing, and educational opportunities. More than 85% of employers perform background checks on all job applicants and deny employment to many citizens based on a record. In fact, a past criminal conviction of any sort reduces job offers by half. Not to mention, anything that occurs after an arrest is documented on an individual's criminal record and, in Maryland, will remain publicly visible via Maryland Case Search until the charges and dispositions are expunged.

In closing, many of us are not the same person that we were 10 years ago, and we should not have limited because of the past mistake. SB 505 as *amended* would allow rehabilitated persons who are eligible to have their records expunged to advance in life; whether its by way of employment, housing or furthering their education.