



**SB 602 - Criminal Procedure - Automated Expungement, Waiting Periods, and Adverse Actions
(Clean Slate Act of 2024)**

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Date: February 21, 2024

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Bankers Association **SUPPORTS** SB 602. This legislation allows for the automatic expungement of clean slate eligible charges. If passed, this legislation will allow more Marylanders to enter the workforce without going through the burdensome and sometimes frightening expungement process.

Marylanders with a prior criminal history face significant barriers once they complete their sentence and return to their communities. One of these barriers is access to employment, where prior criminal history can disqualify Marylanders from certain types of jobs. Legislatures across the country have embraced the expungement process to allow those who have repaid their debt to society to again contribute to their families and communities. However, the process of filing a petition with the court of jurisdiction and potentially being forced to attend a hearing for expungement frightens many possible petitioners away.

Banks continue to hire Marylanders to help customers achieve their financial goals. Creating and implementing an automatic expungement process will increase the applicant pool and will allow Maryland businesses, including banks, to hire qualified employees who may otherwise be discouraged to apply for available employment opportunities.

Accordingly, MBA urges issuance of a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 602.

The Maryland Bankers Association (MBA) represents FDIC-insured community, regional, and national banks, employing more than 26,000 Marylanders and holding more than \$209 billion in deposits in over 1,200 branches across our State. The Maryland banking industry serves customers across the State and provides an array of financial services including residential mortgage lending, business banking, estates and trust services, consumer banking, and more.