



**Senate Bill 815 –Occupational Licensing and Certification – Criminal History – Prohibited Disclosures**

**Position: Oppose**

Maryland REALTORS® have concerns with SB 815, which would prevent the Department of Labor from requiring applicants seeking a license to engage in real estate transactions to disclose certain convictions based on the amount of time that has elapsed.

There are certain criminal histories, including non-violent crimes such as those involving crimes of dishonesty, specifically those involving theft, forgery, fraud that are incompatible with the duties of a real estate professional. Real estate professionals have personal access to their clients, homes and an individual's financial information in the ordinary course of business; therefore, REALTORS® are concerned that by allowing those who have been convicted of these types of crimes to become licensed, would put the general public at risk of harm.

On the whole, SB 815 would diminish the ability for the Department of Labor to prevent those with past convictions that are incompatible with the duties of a licensee from becoming licensed. Therefore, we recommend an unfavorable report.

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