



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 12, 2025

RE: **SB 649 - Criminal Procedure - Expungement - No Finding and Case Terminated
Without Finding**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE SB 649**. This bill authorizes the expungement of a charge under the provision that the charge was disposed of by the court with no finding or was included in a case that was designated by the court as having been terminated without finding.

MCPA and MSA oppose SB 649, as it undermines public safety and transparency by allowing the expungement of criminal charges that were not resolved with an unequivocal finding. While we recognize the importance of second chances, this bill creates a loophole that could allow individuals with serious charges, regardless of the circumstances of their dismissal, to erase their records without a thorough review. This not only weakens accountability but also hinders law enforcement's ability to make informed decisions when dealing with repeat offenders or individuals with concerning patterns of behavior.

Additionally, the proposed legislation risks diminishing public trust by limiting access to critical case history for both law enforcement and the judicial system. Records of past charges, even those not resulting in conviction, often provide valuable context in ongoing investigations and legal proceedings. Automatically allowing their removal without clear justification could result in unintended consequences, such as hindering background checks for sensitive positions or enabling individuals with repeated run-ins with the law to avoid scrutiny. We urge this committee to reconsider this broad approach and instead pursue reforms that balance fairness with the need to maintain public safety and judicial integrity. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **OPPOSE SB 649** and urge a **UNFAVORABLE** committee report.