



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY

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

Good afternoon, Chairman Smith, Vice Chair and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. Senate Bill 649 is a technical fix to the expungement statute that will allow charges designated as a “**No Finding**” to be eligible for expungement.

Under current law, expungement is available for acquittals, dismissals, and a limited selection of misdemeanors and felonies. In Prince George’s County, many residents have a unique disposition called “No Finding,” which is not enshrined in statute and makes them ineligible for expungement. Before the Justice Reinvestment Act of 2016, certain judges in Prince George’s County used no findings to prevent individuals from being convicted of minor crimes, as the conversations around expungement access had yet to emerge fully. Thus, we have a large contingency in Prince George’s County who have charges that would be eligible for expungement under normal circumstances but are not due to this unique disposition.

In closing, Senate Bill 649 is a technical fix to the expungement statute that addresses the “No Finding” disposition. It allows it to be eligible for expungement in accordance with the intent of the judicial officials who created the designation. Therefore, I respectfully urge a FAVORABLE report for SB 649.