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March 4, 2025

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger  
Chair, Judiciary Committee

FROM: Adam Spangler  
Legislative Aide, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: **House Bill 777- Criminal Procedure - Expungement - Effect– Support in Concept**

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The Office of the Attorney General supports the intent of **House Bill 777**. The proposed legislation amends Criminal Procedure § 10-101.1 to add a provision that states that a person who is granted an expungement shall be determined not to have been arrested for, cited for, charged with, or convicted of the underlying offense. This change would effectively codify what already exists in statute.

Expungement plays a crucial role in allowing individuals to move forward with their lives after encountering the criminal justice system. It provides people with a second chance, enabling them to pursue employment, housing, and educational opportunities that may otherwise be denied due to a past offense. Moreover, the provisions of this bill align with broader goals of justice reform. They emphasize rehabilitation over punishment, acknowledging that past actions should not perpetually define an individual's future. By promoting a fairer legal framework, we foster a more inclusive society where everyone has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their history.

The OAG supports the intent of this legislation and urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on **House Bill 777**.

cc: The Honorable Delegate Robin L. Grammer  
Members of the Judiciary Committee