



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

## Maryland Sheriffs' Association



### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger Chair and  
Members of the Judiciary 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: March 4, 2025

RE: **HB 55 - Criminal Procedure - Expungement of Records - Good Cause**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE HB 55**. This bill authorizes the court to grant the expungement of a misdemeanor or a felony conviction after the completion of the sentence, parole, probation, and any other form of mandatory treatment associated with the conviction for which an expungement is being requested.

MCPA-MSA recognizes the importance of rehabilitation and second chances, however this bill raises serious concerns about transparency, public safety, and accountability. The criminal justice system operates on principles of accountability and public trust. Allowing individuals to expunge felony and misdemeanor convictions, regardless of the nature of the crime, significantly undermines these principles. Employers, landlords, and community members have a right to make informed decisions when it comes to hiring, housing, and other important matters. Concealing past criminal records may inadvertently put vulnerable populations at risk, especially when dealing with individuals who have committed violent or financially exploitative offenses.

Businesses and organizations rely on background checks to ensure safe working environments. If felony and misdemeanor records are routinely expunged, employers will be deprived of critical information when making hiring decisions, potentially increasing liability and jeopardizing workplace safety. Transparency allows businesses to make informed choices that protect employees, customers, and the public at large. Additionally, victims of crime deserve to know that justice has been served, and that accountability remains intact. Expunging records, particularly for serious offenses, erases public documentation of criminal activity, making it harder for victims and advocacy groups to track offenders who may pose ongoing risks. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **OPPOSE HB 55** and urge an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report.