

HB 621

<u>Criminal Procedure – Expungement of Records – Adverse Actions and</u> Removal From Maryland Electronic Couts (MDEC) System

MCAA Position: **OPPOSE**TO: Judiciary

DATE: February 28, 2025 FROM: Ryan Ross, President

Lamonte Cooke, Legislative Committee Mary Ann Thompson, Legislative Committee

The Maryland Correctional Administrator's Association (MCAA), an organization comprised of our statewide jail wardens and administrators for promoting and improving best correctional practices, appreciates the opportunity to provide information regarding HB 621.

No matter an employee's role, i.e., Correctional Officer, Civilian Support, Food Service, Medical, Mental Health, Case Management, Counselor, Volunteer, Clergy, and so on, in a Correctional Facility, they require access to sensitive information and critical infrastructure, requiring a high level of trust and reliability. While a record may be expunged, it does not address the underlying factors of criminal behavior.

If an individual does have their record expunged but fails to disclose their criminal history, it can be viewed as a deliberate attempt to deceive, jeopardizing their chances of obtaining a clearance. Criminal conduct raises doubts about an individual's trustworthiness and adherence to the law, both critical aspects for roles with access to a secure correctional facility.

The Maryland Correctional Administrators Association strongly opposes this bill and respectfully requests that this committee issue an **UNFAVORABLE REPORT** on House Bill 621.