



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, Dr.PH, Acting Secretary

March 4, 2025

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee
101 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill (HB) 621 – Criminal Procedure – Expungement – Adverse Actions and Removal From Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) System– Letter of Support

Dear Chair Clippinger and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 621 – Criminal Procedure – Expungement – Adverse Actions and Removal From Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) System

The Department supports House Bill 621 which strengthens protections for individuals with expunged criminal records and removes barriers to employment, education, and public services. This legislation aligns with Maryland’s ongoing efforts to promote criminal justice reform, health equity, and harm reduction principles by ensuring that past interactions with the criminal justice system do not impose unnecessary and lasting disadvantages on individuals seeking to rebuild their lives.

House Bill 621 specifically prohibits government agencies, licensing boards, and educational institutions from denying individuals’ applications solely because they refuse to disclose expunged criminal charges. This change ensures that expungement provides meaningful relief, allowing individuals to pursue professional and educational opportunities without fear of discrimination. Additionally, the bill mandates the removal of cannabis possession cases from the Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) system if the case was disposed of before a specified date. This provision aligns with Maryland’s evolving approach to cannabis decriminalization and harm reduction by ensuring that outdated, minor offenses no longer hinder individuals’ access to stable employment, housing, or education.

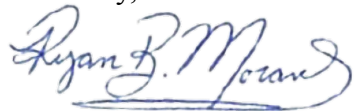
Expanding protections for individuals with expunged records supports broader public health and social stability goals. Research has shown that barriers to employment and education contribute to negative health outcomes, increased reliance on public assistance, and recidivism. By ensuring that Marylanders with expunged records can fully participate in society without unnecessary

restrictions, HB 621 enhances economic opportunity, reduces health disparities, and improves long-term outcomes for individuals and communities.

For these reasons, the Department urges a favorable report on House Bill 621.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan B. Moran". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ryan B. Moran Dr.P.H, MHSA
Acting Secretary