



House Judiciary Committee

March 4, 2025

House Bill 545

**Criminal Procedure - Automated Expungement
Support**

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 545. NCADD-Maryland has long advocated for policies that help people involved with the criminal justice system avoid some of the unintended collateral damage caused by our drug policies. When people who struggle with substance use disorders get treatment and start the recovery process, criminal records are often huge barriers to success. Obtaining employment and housing is difficult, and sometimes impossible. Without a place to live or a reliable income, some people are much more likely to re-offend and/or return to alcohol and drug use.

House Bill 545 will automatically expunge eligible convictions from people's records. With the advances in technology in the Judiciary, it seems unreasonable to require people who meet the requirements for expungement to have to file petitions and potentially appear in court to obtain something they have a right to and that can be easily accomplished by the State.

These kinds of policy changes are a necessary component to significantly improving our communities. When people have served their time, they should have the opportunities and supports needed to ensure they are able maintain productive lives and livelihoods with their families. Removing some of the barriers to success will also help people with substance use disorders maintain their recovery.

We urge your support of House Bill 545.