



**House Bill 557 - Occupational Licensing and Certification - Criminal History -
Predetermination Review Process**

Position: Support

Maryland REALTORS® supports HB 557, which would establish a process where an applicant seeking a real estate license could seek a predetermination from the Department of Labor as to whether their past crimes would bar them from licensure.

Maryland REALTORS® believes that that a criminal background pre-determination process would be helpful for those who are considering careers in real estate. Prior to applying for a real estate license, applicants are required to complete 60 hours of pre-licensing coursework and pass an examination. They are required to spend a considerable amount of time and expense before submitting their formal application for licensure.

Under HB 557, individuals would have the opportunity to request official predetermination from the Department prior to attending pre-licensing classes and passing an exam to know if they are disqualified from obtaining a license due to past criminal offenses.

Due to the reasons above, we recommend a favorable report.

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