

SB0525_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
02/17/2026
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TESTIMONY ON SB#0525 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Criminal Procedure - Expungement of Records - Good Cause

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0525, **Criminal Procedure - Expungement of Records - Good Cause**

This bill recognizes that a criminal record can affect the person's ability to secure employment, education, housing, public assistance, licensing, and opportunities for economic stability.

Expungement: Under Maryland law, there are several ways to "clean up" parts of your criminal record. Expungement is a process that lets you ask the court to remove certain kinds of court and police records from public view.¹

Removal of that record from public view can mitigate the negative effects of a criminal conviction after a person has completed all the requirements of their sentence and committed no further offenses against the law. This bill sets time limits and considerations that occur when a petition for expungement is made and the disposition and time limits associated with that petition and resulting decision.

The bill authorizes a person to file a petition for expungement of any misdemeanor or felony conviction a certain period of time after the completion of the sentence, parole, probation, and any other form of mandatory treatment associated with the conviction; authorizing a court to grant a petition on a showing of good cause; and providing that a denial of a petition may not be appealed and a subsequent petition may not be filed for a certain period of time.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0525.

¹ <https://www.peoples-law.org/expungement-and-changing-your-criminal-record>