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February 17, 2026

**TO:** The Honorable Will Smith  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Tiffany Clark  
Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

**RE:** Senate Bill 483 - Criminal Procedure - Automated Expungement (Clean Slate Act of 2026) (Support in Concept)

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The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) supports in concept **Senate Bill 483 – Criminal Procedure – Automated Expungement (Clean Slate Act of 2026)**. SB 483 establishes an automated expungement system that removes eligible criminal records from public view without requiring individuals to file petitions.

This legislation directly supports our efforts to remove barriers to employment, housing, education, and economic opportunity for Marylanders who have completed their obligations to the justice system. Criminal records create significant obstacles to stable futures for justice-involved individuals and their families, limiting access to employment, housing, public assistance, and family reunification. While Maryland law currently allows petition-based record clearance, many eligible individuals are unaware of their rights or cannot afford the thousands of dollars in legal fees and court costs required to navigate the complex process.

Senate Bill 483 implements an automated system using technology to seal eligible records, ensuring that everyone who qualifies for record-clearing receives relief—regardless of their ability to hire a lawyer or take time off work for court appearances. The bill requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Judiciary to expunge all eligible cases by July 1, 2028, and establishes monthly automated processing beginning August 1, 2028. Cases become eligible for automatic expungement after 3 years for non-conviction dispositions under § 10-105 and after 7 years for misdemeanor convictions, excluding second-degree assault

and domestically related crimes. This approach also reduces the burden on courts from processing individual petitions, preserving valuable judicial resources.

We appreciate the General Assembly's work on this important policy and welcome the opportunity to share our perspective.

Cc: Members of the Committee