



TESTIMONY - FAVORABLE

**HB360 Criminal Procedure - Automated Expungement
(Clean Slate Act of 2026)**

To: The Honorable Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair, The Honorable Delegate Debra Davis, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: The Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN)

DATE: March 3, 2026

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network offers favorable testimony in support of HB 360. Our congregations serve people throughout Maryland.

It is confusing for individuals formerly incarcerated to be aware of their right to have their records expunged. Even if aware of that right, these individuals must then file legal paperwork, appear in court, and often hire an attorney. Even after obtaining a decision in their favor, they must then monitor the applicable state agency to make sure that the expungement occurs.

As a result, only 2% of eligible Marylanders receive expungement relief, and under the current system it would take 86 years to clear all eligible convictions. The consequences are profound. The estimated annual earnings loss from clearable convictions alone is \$1.5 billion in taxable income, not including losses from non-conviction records. These barriers affect families, employers, and communities statewide Marylanders need a reliable, automatic mechanism to recognize when they have met the legal requirements for record clearance.

For these reasons, the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network urges this committee to issue a favorable report on HB 360.

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN) is a ministry of The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, The Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and The Delaware-Maryland Synod ELCA