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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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SPONSOR TESTIMONY

SENATE BILL 464 Commission to Examine the Expungement Laws of Maryland

Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

For the record, I am Senator Anthony Muse, representing District 26 in Prince George's County, presenting Senate Bill 464: Commission to Examine the Expungement Laws of Maryland, as amended by the Senate of Maryland, to create a commission to examine Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the Criminal Procedure Article for the purpose of redesigning the statute for efficiency and equity.

10 years have passed since the passage of the Justice Reinvestment Act, which created the expungement statute and made a limited number of convictions eligible for expungement. Since its passage, many legislators have returned each year to discuss adding more charges to the expungement list, the conditions of expungement, and the expungement process. This has prompted calls to update the statute entirely rather than take a piecemeal approach.

Senate Bill 464 seeks to establish a commission to review the expungement statute, identify inefficiencies, compare us to other states, and develop solutions. The Senate has amended the bill to push the start to June 1st, 2027, to accommodate the campaign season and has added more stakeholders to the commission.

I urge a favorable report.