



Continuing the Missions of the Stephanie Roper Committee and Foundation, Inc.

☎ 877-VICTIM-1 (877-842-8461)

✉ mail@mdcrimevictims.org

🌐 mdcrimevictims.org

1001 Prince George's Blvd, Suite 750  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774  
301-952-0063 (Phone)  
301-952-2319 (fax)

1 North Charles Street, Suite 700  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
410-234-9885 (phone)

February 27, 2026

Re: Unfavorable to HB 187

On behalf of the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center (MCVRC), I respectfully urge an **unfavorable report** on House Bill 187.

For more than four decades, MCVRC has walked alongside victims and surviving family members throughout the criminal justice process. We recognize the importance of rehabilitation and second chances. However, HB 187 is unclear in its application and makes no effort to align with other areas of the Maryland Code already enacted on the same and similar issues.

There is currently a detailed expungement statute in Maryland law, Md. Code, Criminal Procedure (CP) Article § 10-110. It lists the various crimes for which expungement is available if a court makes findings, at least 5 years after the completion of any sentence that was imposed and after notice and an opportunity to comment by the State and the crime victim, that the charged person has paid all monetary restitution that was ordered, is not a risk to public safety, and that expungement is in the interest of justice. HB187 only seeks to amend § 10-110, but in fact Criminal Procedure § 10-105 has a number of sections that already address the situations identified in HB 187.

House Bill 187 proposes this language:

(J) A DISPOSITION MAY BE EXPUNGED UNDER THIS SECTION **IF THE CASE WAS NOT DISPOSED OF BY AN UNEQUIVOCAL CONVICTION** BUT WAS INSTEAD INCLUDED IN A CASE THAT WAS: (1) DISPOSED OF BY THE COURT WITH A **NO FINDING** DESIGNATION; OR (2) DESIGNATED BY THE COURT AS HAVING BEEN TERMINATED WITHOUT FINDING.

The language used above does not include legal terms commonly used by lawyers engaged in criminal practice. One with experience may surmise that "Not disposed of by an unequivocal conviction" would seem to include:

- Cases that were dismissed,
- Entered nolle prosequi
- Entered “no verdict” after a jury trial
- “Closed without a finding of delinquency” in a juvenile case
- Placed on the Stet Docket
- Granted a Probation Before Judgment
- And likely many more possible scenarios which are unknown due to the unclear language. Would it have to be entered by the clerk to include the language “no finding”?

**There are already laws that designate the proper procedure for expunging the dispositions cited above. This bill is confusing and inconsistent with other laws on point. It offers no time frame in which these expungements can be filed, which in effect could mean a probation before judgment or a case placed on the Stet Docket could be expunged prior to completion of the term required by the Court.**

For these reasons, the Maryland Crime Victims’ Resource Center respectfully requests an **unfavorable report** on HB 187. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to Maryland’s justice system.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Corbett Wilt, Senior Attorney  
& Joanna D. Mupanduki, Esq., Deputy Director  
Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center, Inc.