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March 3, 2026

**TO:** The Honorable J. Sandy Bartlett  
Chair, Judiciary Committee

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

**RE:** House Bill 397 – Criminal Procedure - Expungement - Failure to Obey a  
Court Order to Report to Confinement (Support in Concept)

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The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) supports in concept House Bill 397 - Criminal Procedure – Expungement – Failure to Obey a Court Order to Report to Confinement. HB 397 authorizes a person convicted of failure to obey a court order to report to a place of confinement to petition for expungement of that conviction, subject to a waiting period after completion of the sentence.

This legislation directly supports our efforts to ensure that Maryland's expungement laws provide proportionate and equitable relief to individuals who have fulfilled their obligations to the justice system and demonstrated a commitment to rehabilitation. A conviction for failure to report to confinement, while serious, should not permanently foreclose an individual's access to employment, housing, education, and economic stability long after the sentence has been served. Providing this pathway is consistent with the broader principle that individuals who have completed their sentences deserve a meaningful opportunity to move forward without the lifelong burden of a criminal record.

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

Cc: Members of the Committee