



Testimony - HB 360 Criminal Procedure - Automated Expungement  
(Clean Slate Act of 2026)  
Favorable  
House Judiciary Committee  
March 3, 2026  
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Director of Political & Legislative Affairs on Behalf of SEIU Local 500

Honorable Chairwoman Bartlett & Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

SEIU Local 500 represents workers who keep our communities functioning every day—school support staff, early childhood educators, county employees, and nonprofit workers. Many of our members, their family members, and the communities they serve have been directly impacted by the long-term consequences of contact with the criminal legal system, including records that remain visible long after accountability has been met and rehabilitation has occurred.

House Bill 360 takes an important and necessary step toward fairness by requiring automated expungement for eligible cases. By removing the burden from individuals to navigate a complex, time-consuming, and costly legal process, this bill ensures that relief promised under existing law actually reaches the people it was intended to help.

Criminal records—especially for dismissed cases, minor offenses, or decades-old convictions—create lifelong barriers to employment, housing, education, and economic stability. These barriers disproportionately harm Black and Brown communities and working-class families, reinforcing cycles of poverty and exclusion. Automation is not just an efficiency measure; it is a matter of equity and justice.

From a workforce perspective, HB 360 strengthens Maryland's economy. Employers across the public and private sectors struggle to fill critical positions. Allowing qualified individuals to fully reenter the workforce without the shadow of an outdated record benefits workers, families, employers, and taxpayers alike.

SEIU Local 500 also strongly supports the bill's clear timelines and shared responsibility between the Judiciary and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. These provisions provide accountability and ensure that expungement is not delayed indefinitely by administrative barriers.

The Clean Slate Act of 2026 reflects the values Maryland claims to uphold: redemption, fairness, and opportunity. It recognizes that people are more than their worst mistake—and that when we remove unnecessary barriers, our communities are safer, stronger, and more just.

For these reasons, SEIU Local 500 urges a favorable report on House Bill 360.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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