

HB 131: Criminal Procedure - Expungement - Adverse Actions and Removal From Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) System: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE HB 13**, *Criminal Procedure - Expungement - Adverse Actions and Removal From Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) System*.

HB 131 goes too far by broadly restricting how expunged records can influence legitimate decisions in licensing, employment-related permits, education, and government services. **Decision-makers (including professional boards, schools, and agencies) often need full context for public safety-sensitive roles—such as those involving vulnerable populations, security clearances, or fiduciary responsibilities—where even expunged charges may indicate patterns or risks.** Prohibiting consideration of a refusal to disclose a crime could force blind approvals, undermining accountability and **potentially endangering communities.**

Additionally, mandating the systematic scrubbing of cannabis possession cases from MDEC—beyond standard expungement processes—raises concerns about judicial record integrity, historical accuracy, and transparency in the court system. While cannabis laws have changed, erasing these dispositions from the electronic case management system could complicate future audits, appeals, or related inquiries without sufficient justification.

Maryland's existing expungement laws already provide meaningful second-chance opportunities for non-violent offenses without overly restricting the discretion of licensing bodies, educators, or public officials. **This bill will erode that balance in favor of overly broad protections that prioritize individual privacy over public safety and institutional judgment.**

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote against HB 131.**

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important criminal justice and public safety matter.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals