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MAYOR

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SB 0483

March 31, 2026

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 483: Criminal Procedure – Automated Expungement (Clean Slate Act of 2026)

POSITION: Support

Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 483.

SB 483 would allow for the automatic shield of cases already expungable through the appropriate judicial processes if the required time has passed since the offense. Importantly, this bill would not expand eligibility for expungement and would require each individual to maintain good standing under the law.

While certain cases are currently expungable under the law, individuals who have served their time often lack the resources or knowledge to expunge or shield their criminal history. Their criminal record can be a significant barrier to accessing employment, housing, and other supports that would help them rebuild their lives, even after they have paid back their debt to society.

By automating the relevant processes and removing this barrier, the legislature can help eligible, law-abiding Marylanders shield records that may otherwise prevent them from accessing necessary resources, so long as that person has met the minimum time requirements and has not committed any new offenses. This would have a significant, immediate impact on helping these residents get back on their feet quickly, while underscoring Maryland's belief in people's ability to change and be rehabilitated.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 483.