

HOUSE BILL 550

E2
HB 1336/20 – JUD

4lr0668

By: **Delegate Williams**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Procedure – Partial Expungement**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a person to file a petition for partial expungement for a
4 certain eligible offense even if another charge or conviction arising out of the same
5 incident, transaction, or set of facts is not eligible for expungement; requiring a court
6 to order partial expungement in certain circumstances; repealing a provision of law
7 prohibiting partial expungement; and generally relating to partial expungement.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Criminal Procedure

10 Section 10–105 and 10–110

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

13 BY repealing

14 Article – Criminal Procedure

15 Section 10–107

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Criminal Procedure**

21 10–105.

22 (a) A person who has been charged with the commission of a crime, including a
23 violation of the Transportation Article for which a term of imprisonment may be imposed,
24 or who has been charged with a civil offense or infraction, except a juvenile offense, may

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 file a petition listing relevant facts for expungement of a police record, court record, or other
2 record maintained by the State or a political subdivision of the State if:

3 (1) the person is acquitted;

4 (2) the charge is otherwise dismissed;

5 (3) a probation before judgment is entered, unless the person is charged
6 with a violation of § 21–902 of the Transportation Article or Title 2, Subtitle 5 or § 3–211
7 of the Criminal Law Article;

8 (4) a nolle prosequi or nolle prosequi with the requirement of drug or
9 alcohol treatment is entered;

10 (5) the court indefinitely postpones trial of a criminal charge by marking
11 the criminal charge “stet” or stet with the requirement of drug or alcohol abuse treatment
12 on the docket;

13 (6) the case is compromised under § 3–207 of the Criminal Law Article;

14 (7) the charge was transferred to the juvenile court under § 4–202 of this
15 article;

16 (8) the person:

17 (i) is convicted of only one criminal act, and that act is not a crime
18 of violence; and

19 (ii) is granted a full and unconditional pardon by the Governor;

20 (9) the person was convicted of a crime or found not criminally responsible
21 under any State or local law that prohibits:

22 (i) urination or defecation in a public place;

23 (ii) panhandling or soliciting money;

24 (iii) drinking an alcoholic beverage in a public place;

25 (iv) obstructing the free passage of another in a public place or a
26 public conveyance;

27 (v) sleeping on or in park structures, such as benches or doorways;

28 (vi) loitering;

29 (vii) vagrancy;

1 (viii) riding a transit vehicle without paying the applicable fare or
2 exhibiting proof of payment; or

3 (ix) except for carrying or possessing an explosive, acid, concealed
4 weapon, or other dangerous article as provided in § 7-705(b)(6) of the Transportation
5 Article, any of the acts specified in § 7-705 of the Transportation Article;

6 (10) the person was found not criminally responsible under any State or
7 local law that prohibits misdemeanor:

8 (i) trespass;

9 (ii) disturbing the peace; or

10 (iii) telephone misuse;

11 (11) except as provided in subsection (a-1) of this section, the person was
12 convicted of a crime and the act on which the conviction was based is no longer a crime;

13 (12) the person was convicted of possession of cannabis under § 5-601 of the
14 Criminal Law Article; or

15 (13) the person was convicted of a crime and the conviction was vacated
16 under § 8-302 of this article.

17 (a-1) An expungement may not be obtained under subsection (a)(11) of this section
18 for a conviction for sodomy as that offense existed before October 1, 2020, or a violation of
19 § 3-322 of the Criminal Law Article as that offense existed before October 1, 2023, where
20 the offense was committed:

21 (1) without consent;

22 (2) with a minor under the age of 16;

23 (3) with anyone the individual could not marry under § 2-202 of the Family
24 Law Article;

25 (4) with a mentally incapacitated individual, as defined in § 3-301 of the
26 Criminal Law Article;

27 (5) with a physically helpless individual, as defined in § 3-301 of the
28 Criminal Law Article; or

29 (6) with a substantially cognitively impaired individual, as defined in §
30 3-301 of the Criminal Law Article.

1 (a-2) A person's attorney or personal representative may file a petition, on behalf of
2 the person, for expungement under this section if the person died before disposition of the
3 charge by nolle prosequi or dismissal.

4 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection and §
5 10-105.1 of this subtitle, a person shall file a petition in the court in which the proceeding
6 began.

7 (2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, if the
8 proceeding began in one court and was transferred to another court, the person shall file
9 the petition in the court to which the proceeding was transferred.

10 (ii) If the proceeding began in one court and was transferred to the
11 juvenile court under § 4-202 or § 4-202.2 of this article, the person shall file the petition in
12 the court of original jurisdiction from which the order of transfer was entered.

13 (3) (i) If the proceeding in a court of original jurisdiction was appealed
14 to a court exercising appellate jurisdiction, the person shall file the petition in the appellate
15 court.

16 (ii) The appellate court may remand the matter to the court of
17 original jurisdiction.

18 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a petition for
19 expungement based on an acquittal, a nolle prosequi, or a dismissal may not be filed within
20 3 years after the disposition, unless the petitioner files with the petition a written general
21 waiver and release of all the petitioner's tort claims arising from the charge.

22 (2) A petition for expungement based on a probation before judgment or a
23 stet with the requirement of drug or alcohol abuse treatment may not be filed earlier than
24 the later of:

25 (i) the date the petitioner was discharged from probation or the
26 requirements of obtaining drug or alcohol abuse treatment were completed; or

27 (ii) 3 years after the probation was granted or stet with the
28 requirement of drug or alcohol abuse treatment was entered on the docket.

29 (3) A petition for expungement based on a nolle prosequi with the
30 requirement of drug or alcohol treatment may not be filed until the completion of the
31 required treatment.

32 (4) A petition for expungement based on a full and unconditional pardon
33 by the Governor may not be filed later than 10 years after the pardon was signed by the
34 Governor.

1 (5) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a petition for
2 expungement based on a stet or a compromise under § 3–207 of the Criminal Law Article
3 may not be filed within 3 years after the stet or compromise.

4 (6) A petition for expungement based on the conviction of a crime under
5 subsection (a)(9) of this section may not be filed within 3 years after the conviction or
6 satisfactory completion of the sentence, including probation, that was imposed for the
7 conviction, whichever is later.

8 (7) A petition for expungement based on a finding of not criminally
9 responsible under subsection (a)(9) or (10) of this section may not be filed within 3 years
10 after the finding of not criminally responsible was made by the court.

11 (8) A petition for expungement based on the conviction of a crime under
12 subsection (a)(12) of this section may not be filed before satisfactory completion of the
13 sentence, including probation, that was imposed for the conviction.

14 (9) A court may grant a petition for expungement at any time on a showing
15 of good cause.

16 (d) **WHEN TWO OR MORE CHARGES ARISE FROM THE SAME INCIDENT,
17 TRANSACTION, OR SET OF FACTS, AND ONE OR MORE OF THE CHARGES ARE NOT
18 ELIGIBLE FOR EXPUNGEMENT UNDER THIS SECTION, A PERSON MAY FILE A
19 PETITION FOR PARTIAL EXPUNGEMENT FOR THE CHARGES ELIGIBLE FOR
20 EXPUNGEMENT UNDER THIS SECTION.**

21 (E) (1) Except as provided in § 10–105.1 of this subtitle, the court shall have a
22 copy of a petition for expungement served on the State’s Attorney.

23 (2) Unless the State’s Attorney files an objection to the petition for
24 expungement within 30 days after the petition is served, the court shall pass an order
25 requiring the expungement of all police records and court records about the charge.

26 [(e)] (F) (1) If the State’s Attorney files a timely objection to the petition, the
27 court shall hold a hearing.

28 (2) (I) [If] **SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,**
29 **IF** the court at the hearing finds that the person is entitled to expungement, the court shall
30 order the expungement of all police records and court records about the charge.

31 (II) **IF THE STATE’S ATTORNEY FILES AN OBJECTION TO THE
32 PETITION ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PARTIAL EXPUNGEMENT OF A POLICE
33 RECORD, COURT RECORD, OR OTHER RECORD MAINTAINED BY THE STATE OR A
34 POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE IS IMPRACTICABLE DUE TO THE NARRATIVE
35 OF THE STATEMENT OF CHARGES THAT INCLUDES BOTH THE CHARGES THAT ARE
36 ELIGIBLE FOR EXPUNGEMENT AND THE CHARGES THAT ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR**

1 EXPUNGEMENT, THE COURT SHALL ORDER THE EXPUNGEMENT OF ALL POLICE
2 RECORDS, COURT RECORDS, AND OTHER RECORDS ABOUT THE CHARGES THAT ARE
3 ELIGIBLE FOR EXPUNGEMENT IF, AFTER A HEARING, THE COURT FINDS AND STATES
4 ON THE RECORD THAT:

5 1. THE CHARGES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR EXPUNGEMENT
6 UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION;

7 2. GIVING DUE REGARD TO THE NATURE OF THE
8 ALLEGED CRIME, THE HISTORY AND CHARACTER OF THE PERSON, AND THE
9 PERSON'S CONDUCT AFTER BEING CHARGED, THE PERSON IS NOT A RISK TO PUBLIC
10 SAFETY; AND

11 3. THE EXPUNGEMENT WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF
12 JUSTICE.

13 (3) If the court finds that the person is not entitled to expungement, the
14 court shall deny the petition.

15 (4) The person is not entitled to expungement if:

16 (i) the petition is based on the entry of probation before judgment,
17 except a probation before judgment for a crime where the act on which the conviction is
18 based is no longer a crime, and the person within 3 years of the entry of the probation before
19 judgment has been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation or a crime where
20 the act on which the conviction is based is no longer a crime; or

21 (ii) the person is a defendant in a pending criminal proceeding.

22 **[(f)] (G)** Except as provided in § 10–105.1 of this subtitle and unless an order is
23 stayed pending an appeal, within 60 days after entry of the order, every custodian of the
24 police records and court records that are subject to the order of expungement shall advise
25 in writing the court and the person who is seeking expungement of compliance with the
26 order.

27 **[(g)] (H)** (1) The State's Attorney is a party to the proceeding.

28 (2) A party aggrieved by the decision of the court is entitled to appellate
29 review as provided in the Courts Article.

30 [10–107.

31 (a) (1) In this subtitle, if two or more charges, other than one for a minor traffic
32 violation or possession of cannabis under § 5–601 of the Criminal Law Article, arise from
33 the same incident, transaction, or set of facts, they are considered to be a unit.

1 (2) A charge for a minor traffic violation or possession of cannabis under §
2 5–601 of the Criminal Law Article that arises from the same incident, transaction, or set of
3 facts as a charge in the unit is not a part of the unit.

4 (b) (1) If a person is not entitled to expungement of one charge or conviction in
5 a unit, the person is not entitled to expungement of any other charge or conviction in the
6 unit.

7 (2) The disposition of a charge for a minor traffic violation that arises from
8 the same incident, transaction, or set of facts as a charge in the unit does not affect any
9 right to expungement of a charge or conviction in the unit.]

10 10–110.

11 (a) A person may file a petition listing relevant facts for expungement of a police
12 record, court record, or other record maintained by the State or a political subdivision of
13 the State if the person is convicted of:

14 (1) a misdemeanor that is a violation of:

15 (i) § 6–320 of the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article;

16 (ii) an offense listed in § 17–613(a) of the Business Occupations and
17 Professions Article;

18 (iii) § 5–712, § 19–304, § 19–308, or Title 5, Subtitle 6 or Subtitle 9 of
19 the Business Regulation Article;

20 (iv) § 3–1508 or § 10–402 of the Courts Article;

21 (v) § 14–1915, § 14–2902, or § 14–2903 of the Commercial Law
22 Article;

23 (vi) § 5–211 of this article;

24 (vii) § 3–203 or § 3–808 of the Criminal Law Article;

25 (viii) § 5–601 not involving the use or possession of cannabis, §
26 5–602(b)(1), § 5–618, § 5–619, § 5–620, § 5–703, § 5–708, or § 5–902 of the Criminal Law
27 Article;

28 (ix) § 6–105, § 6–108, § 6–205 (fourth degree burglary), § 6–206, §
29 6–301, § 6–303, § 6–306, § 6–307, § 6–402, or § 6–503 of the Criminal Law Article;

30 (x) § 7–104, § 7–203, § 7–205, § 7–304, § 7–308, or § 7–309 of the
31 Criminal Law Article;

- 1 (xi) § 8–103, § 8–206, § 8–401, § 8–402, § 8–404, § 8–406, § 8–408, §
2 8–503, § 8–521, § 8–523, or § 8–904 of the Criminal Law Article;
- 3 (xii) § 9–204, § 9–205, § 9–503, or § 9–506 of the Criminal Law Article;
- 4 (xiii) § 10–110, § 10–201, § 10–402, § 10–404, or § 10–502 of the
5 Criminal Law Article;
- 6 (xiv) § 11–303, § 11–306, or § 11–307 of the Criminal Law Article;
- 7 (xv) § 12–102, § 12–103, § 12–104, § 12–105, § 12–109, § 12–203, §
8 12–204, § 12–205, or § 12–302 of the Criminal Law Article;
- 9 (xvi) § 13–401, § 13–602, or § 16–201 of the Election Law Article;
- 10 (xvii) § 4–509 of the Family Law Article;
- 11 (xviii) § 18–215 of the Health – General Article;
- 12 (xix) § 4–411 or § 4–2005 of the Housing and Community Development
13 Article;
- 14 (xx) § 27–403, § 27–404, § 27–405, § 27–406, § 27–406.1, § 27–407, §
15 27–407.1, or § 27–407.2 of the Insurance Article;
- 16 (xxi) § 8–725.4, § 8–725.5, § 8–725.6, § 8–725.7, § 8–726, § 8–726.1, §
17 8–727.1, or § 8–738.2 of the Natural Resources Article or any prohibited act related to speed
18 limits for personal watercraft;
- 19 (xxii) § 10–301, § 10–306, § 10–308.1, § 10–413(e)(1), § 10–418, §
20 10–502, § 10–611, or § 10–907(a) of the Natural Resources Article;
- 21 (xxiii) § 5–307, § 5–308, § 6–602, § 7–402, or § 14–114 of the Public
22 Safety Article;
- 23 (xxiv) § 7–318.1, § 7–509, or § 10–507 of the Real Property Article;
- 24 (xxv) § 9–124 of the State Government Article;
- 25 (xxvi) § 13–1001, § 13–1004, § 13–1007, or § 13–1024 of the Tax –
26 General Article;
- 27 (xxvii) § 16–303 of the Transportation Article; or
- 28 (xxviii) the common law offenses of affray, rioting, criminal
29 contempt, battery, or hindering;

1 (2) a felony that is a violation of:

2 (i) § 7–104 of the Criminal Law Article;

3 (ii) the prohibition against possession with intent to distribute a
4 controlled dangerous substance under § 5–602 of the Criminal Law Article; or

5 (iii) § 6–202(a), § 6–203, or § 6–204 of the Criminal Law Article; or

6 (3) an attempt, a conspiracy, or a solicitation of any offense listed in item
7 (1) or (2) of this subsection.

8 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, a person
9 shall file a petition for expungement in the court in which the proceeding began.

10 (2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, if the
11 proceeding began in one court and was transferred to another court, the person shall file
12 the petition in the court to which the proceeding was transferred.

13 (ii) If the proceeding began in one court and was transferred to the
14 juvenile court under § 4–202 or § 4–202.2 of this article, the person shall file the petition in
15 the court of original jurisdiction from which the order of transfer was entered.

16 (3) (i) If the proceeding in a court of original jurisdiction was appealed
17 to a court exercising appellate jurisdiction, the person shall file the petition in the appellate
18 court.

19 (ii) The appellate court may remand the matter to the court of
20 original jurisdiction.

21 (c) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a petition for
22 expungement under this section may not be filed earlier than 5 years after the person
23 satisfies the sentence or sentences imposed for all convictions for which expungement is
24 requested, including parole, probation, or mandatory supervision.

25 (2) A petition for expungement for a violation of § 3–203 of the Criminal
26 Law Article or common law battery may not be filed earlier than 7 years after the person
27 satisfies the sentence or sentences imposed for all convictions for which expungement is
28 requested, including parole, probation, or mandatory supervision.

29 (3) A petition for expungement for an offense classified as a domestically
30 related crime under § 6–233 of this article may not be filed earlier than 15 years after the
31 person satisfies the sentence or sentences imposed for all convictions for which
32 expungement is requested, including parole, probation, or mandatory supervision.

1 (4) Except as provided in paragraphs (5) and (6) of this subsection, a
2 petition for expungement of a felony may not be filed earlier than 7 years after the person
3 satisfies the sentence or sentences imposed for all convictions for which expungement is
4 requested, including parole, probation, or mandatory supervision.

5 (5) A petition for expungement of a conviction of possession with intent to
6 distribute cannabis under § 5–602 of the Criminal Law Article may not be filed earlier than
7 3 years after the person satisfies the sentence or sentences imposed for all convictions for
8 which expungement is requested, including parole, probation, or mandatory supervision.

9 (6) A petition for expungement of a conviction for § 6–202(a), § 6–203, or a
10 felony that is a violation of § 7–104 of the Criminal Law Article may not be filed earlier
11 than 10 years after the person satisfies the sentence or sentences imposed for all convictions
12 for which expungement is requested, including parole, probation, or mandatory
13 supervision.

14 (d) **WHEN TWO OR MORE CONVICTIONS ARISE FROM THE SAME INCIDENT,
15 TRANSACTION, OR SET OF FACTS, AND ONE OR MORE OF THE CONVICTIONS ARE NOT
16 ELIGIBLE FOR EXPUNGEMENT UNDER THIS SECTION, A PERSON MAY FILE A
17 PETITION FOR PARTIAL EXPUNGEMENT FOR THE CONVICTIONS ELIGIBLE FOR
18 EXPUNGEMENT UNDER THIS SECTION.**

19 (E) (1) If the person is convicted of a new crime during the applicable time
20 period set forth in subsection (c) of this section, the original conviction or convictions are
21 not eligible for expungement unless the new conviction becomes eligible for expungement.

22 (2) A person is not eligible for expungement if the person is a defendant in
23 a pending criminal proceeding.

24 [(3) If a person is not eligible for expungement of one conviction in a unit,
25 the person is not eligible for expungement of any other conviction in the unit.]

26 [(e)] (F) (1) The court shall have a copy of a petition for expungement served
27 on the State's Attorney.

28 (2) The court shall send written notice of the expungement request to each
29 listed victim in the case in which the petitioner is seeking expungement at the address
30 listed in the court file, advising the victim of the right to offer additional information
31 relevant to the expungement petition to the court.

32 (3) Unless the State's Attorney or a victim files an objection to the petition
33 for expungement within 30 days after the petition is served, the court shall pass an order
34 requiring the expungement of all police records and court records about the charge.

35 [(f)] (G) (1) If the State's Attorney or a victim files a timely objection to the
36 petition, the court shall hold a hearing.

1 (2) The court shall order the expungement of all police records and court
2 records about the charge after a hearing, if the court finds and states on the record:

3 (i) that the conviction is eligible for expungement under
4 **[subsection] SUBSECTIONS (a) AND (D)** of this section;

5 (ii) that the person is eligible for expungement under subsection
6 **[(d)] (E)** of this section;

7 (iii) that giving due regard to the nature of the crime, the history and
8 character of the person, and the person's success at rehabilitation, the person is not a risk
9 to public safety; and

10 (iv) that an expungement would be in the interest of justice.

11 **[(g)] (H)** If at a hearing the court finds that a person is not entitled to
12 expungement, the court shall deny the petition.

13 **[(h)] (I)** Unless an order is stayed pending appeal, within 60 days after entry of
14 the order, every custodian of the police records and court records that are subject to the
15 order of expungement shall advise in writing the court and the person who is seeking
16 expungement of compliance with the order.

17 **[(i)] (J)** (1) The State's Attorney is a party to the proceeding.

18 (2) A party aggrieved by the decision of the court is entitled to the appellate
19 review as provided in the Courts Article.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2024.