

Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys' Association



MD Senate – Judicial Proceedings Committee

Friday, February 26, 2021 1:30pm

Hearing on SB 625

Courts – Jury Service - Disqualification

“Juror Enfranchisement Act of 2021”

MCDAA POSITION: SUPPORT

Brief bill explanation: This bill reverses the disenfranchisement of individuals convicted of crimes by tracking and adopting the standards used in recent years in Maryland’s voter enfranchisement legislation, which are now law.

All Marylanders who have completed their criminal sentence may vote in elections. Under this legislation, those same individuals will have their rights to serve on juries restored also. See Md. Code Elections, Section 3-102.

This bill alters the circumstances under which an individual may be disqualified for jury service by repealing provisions that disqualify individuals who received a sentence of imprisonment for more than one year or have pending charges for crimes punishable by imprisonment for more than one year. Instead, an individual is not qualified for jury service if the individual has been convicted of a felony and is currently serving the sentence imposed for the conviction, including any term of probation.

For additional information or questions regarding this legislation, please contact MCDAA Government Relations Contact John Giannetti 410.300.6393, JohnGiannetti.mcdaa@gmail.com