



March 5, 2012

The Honorable Joseph F. Vallario, Jr.
Judiciary Committee
Room 101, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1912

Re: HB 652 – Criminal Records - Shielding - Nonviolent Convictions - **Oppose**

Dear Delegate Vallario:

This bill would deny businesses the ability to conduct efficient background checks on employees or prospective employees that could impact their work functions. It is often necessary and appropriate for a business to consider non-violent crimes during recruitment and hiring if a crime is related to a particular job or job task, such as drug offenses or alcohol related traffic offenses. In addition, both federal and state government regulations prohibit by law certain businesses and industries from employing persons convicted of felonies. Denying employers such information prevents them from doing due diligence for employment purposes, and puts both the business and the public at risk. This bill would be particularly problematic for companies and institutions that focus on education, finance and health care.

For the above reasons the Legislative Committee of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce opposes HB 652. We therefore ask that your committee give this bill an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael McMullin'.

Michael McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Senator Joseph M. Getty
Delegate Susan W. Krebs