



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee Members
FROM: March 5, 2024
RE: HB122 - General Provisions – Commemorative Month –
Small Business Month

The MLLC supports HB122 - General Provisions – Commemorative Month – Small Business Month, 2024

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB122.

According to the latest Census Bureau data, Latinos are nearly 12 percent of the state's population, with an estimated 730,000 residents, and operate more than 58,000 Hispanic-owned businesses in Maryland.¹ In Maryland, 99.5 percent of the businesses are small businesses and they employ more than 49 percent of employees.² Proclaiming May Small Business is a national movement modeled after Small Business Saturday that takes place between Black Friday and Cyber Monday in November. In 2022, Small Business Saturday was estimated that \$17.9 billion was spent by U.S. consumers with small businesses.³ States, including California, Colorado, Massachusetts and New York, have issued proclamations naming May Small Business Month.

In requiring the Governor to annually proclaim the month of May as Small Business Month, HB122 will recognize the contributions small businesses have and continue to make to the state. Citizens will be encouraged to observe Small Business Month through the promotion of small businesses through various programs, ceremonies, and activities.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB122.

¹ [Cool](#)

² [SBA's Office of Advocacy](#)

³ [Layton Turner](#)