



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Luke Clippinger, Chair
Sandy J. Bartlett, Vice Chair
Judiciary Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: 2/1/24
RE: HB0008 Maryland Police Training and Standards
Commission - Police Officer Certification - Eligibility

The MLLC Supports HB008 Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission - Police Officer Certification - Eligibility, 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 HB0008.

Currently there are approximately 45,000 immigrants serving the U.S. armed forces.¹ Serving on active duty or in a reserve component has been a path to secure U.S. citizenship for immigrants, but the pathway to secure U.S. Citizenship through service has been made more difficult, resulting in 58% fewer naturalizations in 2019.² According to the Migration Policy Institute, as of 2019, approximately 530,000 veterans are foreign-born.³

HB0008 would amend the U.S. citizenship eligibility requirement for individuals seeking police officer certification by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission and allow permanent legal residents of the U.S. who have been honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces as well as the Army National Guard, the Air National Guard, or a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces or those who are a current member of the Army National Guard, the Air National Guard or a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces to seek police officer certification. All other requirements and standards for police officer certification by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission in Article - Public Safety Section 3-209 would remain unchanged.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0008.

¹ <https://www.fwd.us/news/immigrants-in-the-military/>

² <https://www.fwd.us/news/immigrants-in-the-military/>

³ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/immigrant-veterans-united-states>