



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair  
Delegate Debra Davis, Vice Chair  
Judiciary Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: 2/25/2026  
RE: HB0963 - Register of Wills - Appointment of Personal Representatives

### **The MLLC support HB0963 - Register of Wills - Appointment of Personal Representatives**

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 HB0963.

Across the nation and within Maryland, immigrant communities are often disproportionately impacted by stringent and outdated citizenship requirements. Under current Maryland law, non-citizens are also generally prohibited from serving as personal representatives unless they are permanent residents and are closely related to the decedent. This restriction may prevent trusted individuals, such as long-time partners, extended family, or close friends, from administering estates, even when named in a will. For the Latino community in particular, it is vital that individuals have the ability to choose a personal representative they trust as Latino families may be more unfamiliar with the estate process.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, surrounding states, e.g., Virginia and Delaware, do not have similar citizenship requirements for being a personal representative.

This priority bill would repeal the part of Maryland Estates and Trusts § 5-105, that restricts the appointment of personal representatives based on U.S. citizenship or permanent residency status. By removing this prohibition, this bill would allow qualified non-citizens to be appointed as personal representatives of an estate. For the Latino and Hispanic community, this bill would allow families to choose a trusted personal representative who may better understand their needs, language, and culture, regardless of the personal representative's immigration status. Ultimately helping to expand access to basic needs and services, such as being a personal representative.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0963.

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<sup>1</sup> [Wills, Wealth, and Race – Center for Retirement Research](#)