



## 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: 2/3/2026  
RE: HB0432 - Municipalities - Vagrancy - Repeal of Authority to Prohibit

### **The MLLC supports HB0432 - Municipalities - Vagrancy - Repeal of Authority to Prohibit**

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 HB0432.

The Latino community is increasingly burdened by homelessness and since 2015, the number of Latino individuals experiencing homelessness has increased by about 59%.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, while all Maryland renters are cost-burdened (meaning an individual spends more than 30% of their income on housing costs), research demonstrates that a staggering 81% of Latino and Hispanic renters are cost-burdened.<sup>2</sup> Low wages and a lack of affordable housing are additional factors contributing to high rates of cost-burdened minority communities in Maryland.<sup>3</sup> Taken together, these factors lead to a disproportionate and persistent issue of homelessness which plagues the Latino community.

By repealing the authority of a municipality to prohibit vagrancy, which is an outdated term for homelessness, this legislation would help protect homeless Latino individuals from running facing additional challenges. In general, as a result of these high rates of homelessness for Latino individuals, there are also high rates of incarceration due to vagrancy prohibitions. By repealing the authority of municipalities to charge individuals for vagrancy, this legislation would benefit homeless Latino individuals by ensuring they are not subject to incarceration simply due to their unhoused status.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0432.

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<sup>1</sup> [Examining Latino Homelessness - National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

<sup>2</sup> [dhcd.maryland.gov/Documents/Research/Compiled-Report-SHNA-2025.pdf](https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Documents/Research/Compiled-Report-SHNA-2025.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid