



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Delegate Dana Stein, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee Members

From: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus

RE: HB38 - Vehicle Laws – Failure to Pay Video Toll – Reform of Penalties

The MLLC supports HB38 - Vehicle Laws – Failure to Pay Video Toll – Reform of Penalties

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation which improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a voice in the development of public policy affecting the Latino community and the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB38.

While most Marylanders are familiar with paying their Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) toll violation fees, it is the vulnerable and low income families that are drastically affected by late toll fees and penalties. Latino and other minorities are among those low income families being indebted by toll fees. The current \$50 per-transaction late fee allows the MDTA to receive additional revenue but this high late fee also results in an increase in bankruptcy among lower income communities and causes unnecessary congestion in the courts. We are calling on our State to aid Marylanders by limiting video toll late fees to not exceed \$5 per transaction.

HB38 would provide relief to Marylanders from a high priced video toll late fee by limiting the penalties to a more affordable amount. The legislation also ends the policy of suspending vehicle tags for toll debt. For many families in Maryland, there are other payments due that hold higher priority over a toll violation fee, resulting in the millions of dollars due in unpaid tolls and late fees and suspended licenses. By lowering the current late fee, HB38 attempts to increase the amount of Marylanders able to pay the toll and late fees they may owe and decrease the number of individuals who have their license suspended for unpaid fees.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges your favorable report of HB38.