



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 200 · Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone 410-841-3374 | 301-858-3374 · 800-492-7122 Ext. 3374 · Fax 410-841-3342 | 301-858-3342
latino.caucus@house.state.md.us · www.mdlatinocaucus.org

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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 (MLLC)
DATE: January 31, 2022
RE: HB0053 Vehicle Laws - Dedicated Bus Lanes - Prohibition
and Monitoring Systems

The MLLC supports HB0053 Vehicle Laws - Dedicated Bus Lanes - Prohibition and Monitoring Systems

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 HB0053.

One in three Baltimore residents don't own a vehicle and rely on public transportation to get around. The majority of these residents are Black and Latino community members. Poor bus service is a barrier to employment. According to the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development, only about 5% of jobs in the Baltimore region are reachable by transit trips of less than 90 minutes. Poor bus service is a barrier to healthcare access. Many patients who have chronic illnesses fail to get well because inaccessible or poor transit service makes it hard to travel to the pharmacy for their medicines. Poor bus service is a barrier to education. 30,000 Baltimore City Public School students depend on the city's public bus service to get to and from school every day. Many children spend 90 minutes or more each way, every day, to get to school. Evidence suggests that these long bus commutes contribute to lateness, absenteeism and even truancy.

This bill will allow Baltimore City to implement and administer an electronic bus lane monitoring system to enforce existing dedicated bus lane traffic laws and will authorize the Motor Vehicle Administration to refuse to register or re-register a motor vehicle if a civil penalty for a recorded violation is not paid and the violation is not contested. The funds collected will be used by Baltimore City to recover the costs of implementing and administering the bus lane monitoring system, and any remaining revenue balances must be spent for public safety purposes, including pedestrian safety programs. This bill seeks to improve the efficiency and reliability of bus public transit systems.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0053.