



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 Luke Clippinger, Chair
Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Vice Chair
Judiciary Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: March 5, 2024
RE: HB1037 - Task Force on the Creation of a Division of
Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services –
Establishment

The MLLC supports HB1037 - Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services – Establishment, 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 HB1037.

For every 100,000 Latino Marylanders, 200 are incarcerated. Considering our Latino population has reached 12% according to the 2020 Census, our reentry services must prioritize accessibility to accommodate our changing constituencies. As Maryland releases more than 7,000 people from our jails and prisons annually, we must maintain a correctional system that is fortified against recidivism: in 2019, 40% of the State's released individuals returned within 3 years. We hope that the Task Force's recommendations can further work to uplift Latino Marylanders in intergenerational households, low-income households, and multilingual communities.¹

HB1037 will establish the Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services. The Task Force shall:

- Identify and assess the reentry services that exist in the State;
- Identify gaps in services currently in the State;
- Assess the markers of successful reentry;
- Ensure that the recommendations of the Task Force equally consider returning citizens regardless of gender;
- Develop a plan to establish a Division of Returning Citizens within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; and
- Develop a plan to expand services for individuals in the State after release from incarceration.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB1037.

¹ [Background provided by Delegate Taylor's office](#)