



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair  
Delegate Brian M. Crosby, Vice Chair  
Economic Matters, Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: 2/1/24  
RE: HB124 Alcoholic Beverages – License Applications –  
Residency Requirements

### **The MLLC supports HB124 Alcoholic Beverages – License Applications – Residency Requirements, 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 HB124.

As of 2015, Baltimore, Howard, and Prince George’s counties did not require alcohol license applicants to be citizens.<sup>1</sup> Yet most Maryland jurisdictions have a citizenship requirement for licensees. This bill intends to eliminate barriers for small business owners and Latino and immigrant entrepreneurs by increasing economic empowerment, business opportunities, and community belongingness.

Although Maryland was ranked the second-best state for minority entrepreneurs by a recent Lendio study, researchers found that minority entrepreneurs, regardless of state, disproportionately face barriers when starting and growing their businesses.<sup>2</sup> The Census Bureau’s 2021 Annual Business Survey showed that Hispanic-owned businesses grew 8.2% since 2010, yielded \$472.3 billion in annual receipts, and employed 2.9 million employees.<sup>3</sup> However, food service is not among the top sectors for Hispanic ownership.

The purpose of this bill is to repeal and reenact Article - Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis, Section 4-109(a) with the aim of broadening eligibility for applying for an alcoholic beverage license to include legal permanent residents of the United States.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB124.

<sup>1</sup> [Jacobs, Danny. 2015. Noncitizenship alone not enough to deny liquor license, judge rules. The Daily Record.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Lendio. 2023. Best and Worst States for Minority Entrepreneurs.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Lee, Lynda. 2023. Minority Business Ownership Differs by Sector. United States Census Bureau.](#)