



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair  
Delegate Regina T. Boyce, Vice Chair  
Environmental and Transportation Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: February 29, 2024  
RE: HB344 - Transportation - Vision Zero Advisory Commission - Establishment

### **The MLLC supports HB344 - Transportation - Vision Zero Advisory Commission - 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 HB344.

According to the CDC, the pedestrian death rate increased from 1.7 per 100,000 in 2009 to 2.2 in 2018.<sup>1</sup> This increase was seen in each racial/ethnic group, but is particularly pronounced among Latinos, increasing from 2.4 to 2.9.<sup>2</sup> The 2018 death rate among Latinos, 2.9, is significantly higher than the death rate for whites, 1.8. Pedestrian fatalities exacerbate for Latinos during the night.<sup>3</sup> A 2022 study from the American Journal of Preventive Medicine found that Latinos are victims of pedestrian fatalities at a rate 84% higher than non-Hispanic white individuals.<sup>4</sup> Oftentimes, victims are immigrants who lack cars and live in neighborhoods on heavily traveled roads.<sup>5</sup> Specifically to Montgomery and Prince George's counties, Hispanics account for 21% of pedestrian deaths since 1995.<sup>6</sup>

HB344 establishes the Vision Zero Advisory Commission to advise the Governor and state agencies on best practices intended to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on roadways in all modes of ground transportation using data-driven prevention strategies. The Commission will identify state and local laws, policies, and regulations that hinder the development and implementation of Vision Zero; and review safety deficiencies at crash sites where there have been three or more fatalities within the last 12 months. The Commission will be comprised of:

- Designees from the Departments of Transportation, Health, Planning, Aging, Disabilities, and Education as well as the State Police;
- Members from each MDOT branch, including the Motor Vehicle Administration's Maryland

<sup>1</sup> [QuickStats: Age-Adjusted Pedestrian\\* Death Rates,† by Race/Ethnicity — National Vital Statistics System, United States, 2009 and 2018](#)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> [GHSA - Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State, 2022 Preliminary Data \(January-December\).pdf](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Fatalities Higher for Latino Pedestrians](#)

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

- Highway Safety Office, which coordinates Vision Zero; and
- Members appointed by the Governor, including representatives from local government, law enforcement agencies, higher education, transportation planning organizations, pedestrian and bicyclist advocacy groups, and the trucking industry.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on H344.