



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair  
Delegate Regina T. Boyce, Vice Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: February 28, 2025  
RE: HB1239 – Fair Housing and Housing Discrimination –  
Regulations, Intent, and Discriminatory Effect

### **The MLLC supports HB1239 – Fair Housing and Housing Discrimination – Regulations, Intent, and Discriminatory Effect**

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 HB1239.

HB1239 seeks to strengthen Maryland's fair housing laws by codifying disparate impact claims and enhancing the state's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) framework. The bill empowers the Department of Housing and Community Development to adopt regulations that further fair housing and requires political subdivisions and housing authorities to submit assessments of fair housing as part of their comprehensive plans. It explicitly prohibits housing discrimination based on the discriminatory effect of policies, regardless of intent, and introduces state-level enforcement mechanisms through the Office of the Attorney General and the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights. The proposal addresses persistent segregation and economic disparities in Maryland by ensuring equitable access to housing opportunities and essential resources, combating exclusionary zoning and lending practices, and fostering integrated communities.

This bill directly addresses housing discrimination and systemic barriers that disproportionately affect Latino communities. Many Latino families face challenges in accessing affordable, equitable housing due to discriminatory lending practices, zoning policies, and language barriers that limit their opportunities.<sup>1</sup> This legislation ensures that policies with discriminatory effects, whether intentional or not, are prohibited, providing stronger legal recourse for Latinos facing housing discrimination. Additionally, the bill strengthens Maryland's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) framework, which is crucial in combating segregation and ensuring Latino families have access to safe neighborhoods, quality schools, and economic opportunities.<sup>2</sup>

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB1239.

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<sup>1</sup> [Furthering Fair Housing in Maryland One-Pager, Delegate Taveras' Office](#)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid