



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair  
Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair  
Health and Government Operations Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus

DATE: February 25, 2025

RE: HB696 – State Boards, Committee, Commissions, Tasks Forces, and Workgroups – Elimination of Citizenship Requirements and Establishment of Diversity Requirements

**The MLLC supports HB696 – State Boards, Committee, Commissions, Tasks Forces, and Workgroups-Elimination of Citizenship Requirements and Establishment of Diversity Requirements.**

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 HB696.

HB696 eliminates citizenship requirements for certain boards and commissions, requiring that members of certain boards, committees, commissions, task forces, and workgroups reflect the full diversity of the State to the extent practicable.

This bill ensures that residents of the State of Maryland, who work, pay taxes and are impacted by any decisions affecting Maryland residents, are included in the actions leading to these decisions, regardless of their citizenship status. Because of their contributions to our society as tax-paying, law-abiding residents of Maryland, their valuable input should be taken into consideration. Additionally, this bill will also help to assure diversity efforts are successfully established for state boards, committees, commissions, task forces and workgroups.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB696.