



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Clippinger, Chair
Delegate Bartlett, Vice Chair
Judiciary Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: N/A
RE: HB1420: Registers of Wills – Identity Verification Without
Government–Issued Identification

The MLLC supports HB1420: Registers of Wills – Identity Verification Without Government–Issued Identification, 2025

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 HB1420.

The following bill requires the register of wills for each county and Baltimore City, in consultation with the Maryland Registers of Wills Association, to offer a method by which an individual without a government-issued identification may prove their identity as an heir or beneficiary of a will.

Immigrant communities face significant barriers when it comes to obtaining a government-issued ID. Such obstacles include burdensome documentation requirements, financial costs, and discrimination. Lacking a government-issued ID limits access to basic needs and other essential services. Latino/Hispanic individuals make up a large majority of the immigrant community both nationwide and statewide and are therefore disproportionately impacted by obstacles created by ID access. Due to the need for a government-issued ID to obtain a bank account, 12.2% of Hispanic Households lacked any bank account. Easing the identification process for immigrant communities is essential to expanding access to basic needs and other essential services.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB1420.