



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
Delegate Sandy J. Bartlett, Vice Chair
Judiciary Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: February 27, 2025
RE: HB1222 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement
Agreements – Prohibition

The MLLC supports HB1222 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

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 HB1222.

This bill seeks to prohibit state and local participation in federal immigration enforcement agreements, including the controversial 287(g) program. The 287(g) program allows local law enforcement to act as de facto immigration agents, which can strain local resources, foster mistrust between police and immigrant communities, and lead to racial profiling.¹ Latino communities are disproportionately impacted by these agreements, facing increased risks of detention and family separation.

HB1222 is a priority legislation for the MLLC. It prohibits the State of Maryland, its local governments, county sheriffs, or their agents from entering into immigration enforcement agreements with the federal government, including those under 8 U.S.C. §§ 1103 and 1357 or any related federal law. Mandating the termination of existing agreements by October 1, 2025, this bill effectively ends state and local participation in the enforcement of civil immigration laws. The legislation aims to clarify the separation of federal and state responsibilities concerning immigration enforcement and to focus state resources on public safety priorities.

Maryland has a strong tradition of enacting policies to protect immigrant families and foster trust within its communities. With a new federal administration pushing an aggressive anti-immigrant agenda, this legislation is a proactive step to uphold Maryland's values of inclusion, prioritize public safety, and ensure that law enforcement focuses on protecting, rather than targeting, vulnerable populations.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB1222.

¹ [American Immigration Council. "The 287\(g\) Program: An Overview." American Immigration Council, 21 Jan. 2025.](#)