



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 200 · Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
Phone 410-841-3374 | 301-858-3374 · 800-492-7122 Ext. 3374 · Fax 410-841-3342 | 301-858-3342  
latino.caucus@house.state.md.us · www.mdlatinocaucus.org

ASHANTI MARTINEZ, CHAIR  
GABRIEL ACEVERO, VICE-CHAIR  
DENI TAVERAS, TREASURER  
JOE VOGEL, SECRETARY  
JASON A. AVILA GARCIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Delegate Kriselda Valderrama, Chair  
Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, Vice Chair  
Economic Matters Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: 2/18/2026  
RE: HB798 - Small Business Increased Access to Capital Act

### **The MLLC supports - HB798 - Small Business Increased Access to Capital Act**

The Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The Caucus serves as a critical voice in advancing public policy that uplifts Latino families, entrepreneurs, and workers while strengthening Maryland's broader economy. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for HB798 – Small Business Increased Access to Capital Act.

Small, minority, and women-owned businesses are vital drivers of economic growth in Maryland. Through the Small, Minority and Women-Owned Business Account – Video Lottery Terminal Fund, the Maryland Department of Commerce provides critical financing to entrepreneurs who often face barriers to traditional lending. Latino-owned businesses alone number more than 58,000 across the State and represent a growing and dynamic segment of Maryland's economy. Yet access to capital remains one of the most significant challenges these businesses encounter.

HB798 strengthens this program by authorizing reasonable management fees for eligible fund managers and establishing an annual cap to ensure accountability. By permitting a 1.5 percent to 3.5 percent management fee on each loan's principal, this bill incentivizes greater participation by fund managers, increases program utilization, and ensures more funds are disbursed to the businesses the program was created to support.<sup>1</sup>

By improving the sustainability and effectiveness of this capital access program, HB798 expands economic opportunity for Latino entrepreneurs and other small business owners statewide, particularly in targeted casino areas and underserved communities. Increasing access to capital fosters job creation, promotes local investment, and strengthens Maryland's economic competitiveness.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0759B.

---

<sup>1</sup> [Maryland. The impact of Hispanic businesses in Maryland. 18 Sept. 2023.](#)