



## 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.mlatinocaucus.org

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TO: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair  
Delegate Michele Guyton, Vice Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: 2/19/26  
RE: HB0777 - Maryland Vehicles - Required Equipment - Rear  
Occupant Alert Systems (Hot Cars Act)

### **The MLLC supports HB0777 - Maryland Vehicles - Required Equipment - Rear Occupant Alert Systems (Hot Cars Act)**

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 HB0777.

Over the past 25 years, more than 1,010 children have died of heatstroke by being left in a hot car.<sup>1</sup> As of 2021, there were about 220,000 Latino children in Maryland, half of whom were under the age of 12.<sup>2</sup> This large population of Latino children may be particularly subject to the threat of being left in a hot car as research shows that Latino and Hispanic families disproportionately face stressful working conditions.<sup>3</sup> Stressful working conditions and taking on multiple jobs often may lead to a lapse of focus and as a result, an increased likelihood of a child being left in the car. Moreover, as the total Maryland Latino population grows,<sup>4</sup> the risk of tragedy due to being left in a hot car also grows.

By requiring all vehicles sold after October 1, 2029, this bill would help ensure that Latino children and families would not be subject to avoidable tragedy. In addition, the fiscal impact of the bill would be minimal as many cars already have rear occupant alert systems and for those that don't, estimates show that the systems only cost about \$20 per vehicle.<sup>5</sup> All in all, this bill would benefit all Maryland families by ensuring that the avoidable instance of leaving a child in the car does not lead to tragedy.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0777.

<sup>1</sup> [Child Heatstroke Prevention: Prevent Hot Car Deaths | NHTSA](#)

<sup>2</sup> [HC-datapoint-table-9.15-v2-002-e1694802486352.png \(2247x3904\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [The Job Characteristics of Low-Income Hispanic Parents - Hispanic Research Center](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Census Updates 2024: Latino Population Growth and What It Means for Maryland - Cool & Associates LLC](#)

<sup>5</sup> [COST, WEIGHT, AND ANALYSIS OF PEDIATRIC VEHICULAR HEAT STROKE](#)