



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair
Delegate Debra Davis, Vice Chair
Judiciary Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: 2/4/2026
RE: HB0309 – Judicial Facilities – Stops, Detentions, and Arrests –
Limitations

The MLLC supports HB0309 – Judicial Facilities – Stops, Detentions, and Arrests - Limitations

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 HB0309.

Over the past year, federal law enforcement officers, primarily Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, have been ramping up immigration enforcement under the Trump Administration. Specifically, the Administration has directed ICE agents to ambush immigrants at courthouses across the nation and arrest them. Latino and Hispanic populations account for about 9 of 10 ICE arrests,¹ and these unconstitutional courthouse arrests largely contribute to the current targeting of the Latino and Hispanic populations. As a result of these court house arrests, various states, such as Connecticut and Illinois, have already adopted legislation which seeks to restrict federal law enforcement officers from conducting enforcement actions outside of courthouses.²

Generally, this bill prohibits an individual from being stopped, detained, or arrested while they are in a judicial facility, i.e., a court house, or within a mile of a judicial facility for the purpose of going to the facility for a meeting, hearing, or other official proceeding. Evidence obtained in violation of this bill would be inadmissible and a violator may be subject to civil action. This legislation would ensure that immigrants can safely attend the courthouse without fear of being ambushed and subsequently sprung into removal proceedings. Furthermore, it is a step toward fighting back against unconstitutional federal overreach regarding immigration enforcement.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0309.

¹ [Unseen Latino-Ice-Arrests-Surge-Under-Trump 20251027.pdf](#)

² [ICE courthouse arrests meet resistance from Democratic states • Stateline](#)