



# LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
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Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

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**The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers its strong and favorable support for House Bill 743 (HB743) –Private Home Detention Monitoring Agencies – Notification of Violation.** This legislation removes the requirement that private home detention monitoring companies notify law enforcement every time certain home detention rules are violated. HB 835 changes how violations are handled by these private monitoring agencies and revises the rules around home detention monitoring overall. By enforcing this bill, the initiative will reduce unnecessary police involvement for minor technical violations and prevent over-criminalization for minor mistakes.

Black individuals are overrepresented in Maryland's correctional and community supervisor population including probation and parole, which often involves electronic monitoring or home detention. HB835 will prevent minor issues from escalating, such as when an individual misses a bus, resulting in their monitoring device not being in the designated location by a certain time, which would otherwise result in law enforcement being notified. This bill ensures that Black Marylanders are not continuously targeted for unavoidable situations, as unexpected circumstances occur.

This critical issue also highlights why this legislation is a necessary step toward reducing over criminalization toward Black individuals as people face serious legal consequences for minor mistakes, including losing a signal or misunderstanding a rule, both of which can trigger police notification. HB 743 helps prevent arrest, criminal charges or being sent back to incarceration for minor technical errors, rather than for intentionally disobeying the rules.

For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland strongly supports HB743.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland