



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: 2/17/2026
RE: HB0759 - Criminal Procedure - Motion to Reduce Duration of Sentence - Repeal of Sentencing Date Limitation

The MLLC supports - HB0759 - Criminal Procedure - Motion to Reduce Duration of Sentence - Repeal of Sentencing Date Limitation

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 HB0759.

Minority children are often subject to disproportionately charging and sentencing decisions. Nationwide, youths of color are generally more likely to be held in juvenile facilities than white youths.¹ Latino youth specifically are twice as likely to be incarcerated than White youth.² Moreover, data shows that in Maryland in particular this ethnic incarceration disparity between Latino and White youths has been on the rise, growing by 15% from 2013 to 2023.³ So, as the disproportionate number of Latino youths being incarcerated rises, youths currently charged as adults would not be able to seek reduced sentences as the Juvenile Restoration Act requires the minor was sentenced before October 1, 2025.

This bill would ensure that Latino youths currently charged as adults are not subsequently restricted from filing a motion to reduce their sentence. By doing so, this technical fix would help remedy the disproportionate incarceration rates of Latino youths. Moreover, by repealing this date limitation, this legislation would allow all youths charged as adults, especially minority youths who often face harsher sentences than white youths, to receive due process and equal protection of the law which are fundamental rights that all criminal defendants are entitled to under the U.S. Constitution.

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

¹ [New Data Exposes Deepening Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Youth Justice System Nationwide – The Sentencing Project](#)

² Ibid

³ [Latino-Disparities-in-Youth-Incarceration.pdf](#)