



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: 2/24/2026
RE: HB0794 - Public Safety - Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission - Prohibition Against Certain Affiliation or Support by Police Officers

The MLLC supports HB0794 - Public Safety - Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission - Prohibition Against Certain Affiliation or Support by Police Officers

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 HB0794.

A common defect of the American criminal justice system is that it disproportionately impacts minority communities. One of the ways the system disproportionately impacts minorities, specifically the Latino community, is through discriminatory policing tactics based in racial profiling and xenophobic ideologies. Estimates show that a staggering 56% of Latinos have themselves had contact with the criminal justice system or have a close family member who has.¹ Additionally, Latino immigrants encountered by law enforcement may fall in the intersection of the criminal justice system and the immigration system, ultimately subjecting them to discriminatory practices prevalent in both systems.²

This bill would better protect Maryland's Latino community from discriminatory policing practices by codifying the prohibition of Maryland police officers from engaging with or supporting racist or extremist groups in any way. By requiring the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to ensure that police officers do not engage in such activities, this legislation would help build public trust toward the police. Ultimately, this bill would help to protect all communities of color from hate-based policing.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0794.

¹ [Criminal Justice Reform](#)

² [Penn Law Professor Finds "Crimmigration" Disproportionately Impacts Latinos • News & Events • Penn Carey Law](#)