



## 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: 03/05/2026  
RE: HB1309 - Commission to Review and Assess Racial  
Disparities in the State Criminal Justice System

### **The MLLC supports HB1309 - Commission to Review and Assess Racial Disparities in the Same Criminal Justice System**

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 HB1309.

Throughout the history of the United States, systemic racism has plagued minority communities. This history of systemic racism is particularly pertinent to the Latino/Hispanic community who have long been victim to the prejudicial practices inherent in the criminal justice system. Specifically, studies show that over the last several years Hispanic males have received sentences 11.2% longer than White males and Hispanic women have received sentences almost 30% longer than white females.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, in Maryland particularly, Latino youth are more than twice as likely to be held in custody than White youth.<sup>2</sup>

The establishment of this Commission would help to recognize the disparities that minority communities face in regard to the Maryland criminal justice system. Further, by including various members from the public and state government, the Commission would be able to obtain concrete data that can later be used to implement more equitable criminal justice procedures. In sum, this legislation would help combat systemic racism prevalent throughout the criminal justice system and in doing so, would vastly benefit all minority communities in Maryland, particularly the Latino community.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB1309.

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<sup>1</sup> [2023 Demographic Differences in Federal Sentencing | United States Sentencing Commission](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Latino Disparities in Youth Incarceration – The Sentencing Project](#)