



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 200 · Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone 410-841-3374 | 301-858-3374 · 800-492-7122 Ext. 3374 · Fax 410-841-3342 | 301-858-3342
latino.caucus@house.state.md.us · www.mdlatinocaucus.org

ASHANTI MARTINEZ, CHAIR
GABRIEL ACEVERO, VICE-CHAIR
DENI TAVERAS, TREASURER
JOE VOGEL, SECRETARY
JASON A. AVILA GARCIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, Chair
Jessica Feldmark, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus

DATE: 1/29/2026

RE: HB0014 - County Boards of Education - Bullying,
Harassment, or Intimidation - Information Collecting and
Reporting Requirements

The MLLC supports HB0014 - County Boards of Education - Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation - Information Collecting and Reporting Requirements

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 HB0014.

Hate-bias incidents in schools across the nation continue to increase. As a result, it is important that Maryland has the necessary data required to track and understand the landscape. In 2024, about 10% of nationwide reported hate crime offenses occurred in school. 15% of nationwide hate crime offenses motivated by race, ethnicity, or ancestry targeted Hispanic or Latino individuals.

Currently, data from schools is collected via hate-bias reporting forms, but is not then disaggregated by the targeted victim group. This makes it difficult to understand the actual raw number of incidents reported. Under this legislation, school systems will be required to categorize and publish hate-bias incident data by the targeted victim group on the school system's website. The bill ties neatly into existing law to ensure it is nonburdensome to school systems by using readily available information that is already being collected, but not sufficiently reported.

This legislation is a crucial step toward addressing hate-bias incidents targeting Latino and Hispanic students across Maryland. By making this data publicly accessible, all stakeholders can ensure that all students are learning in safe and supportive environments.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0014.