



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair  
Judicial Proceedings Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: March 13, 2023  
RE: SB0771 Maryland Second Look Act

### **The MLLC supports SB0771 Maryland Second Look Act**

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 SB0771.

Poor individuals of color disproportionately carry the weight of a criminal record.<sup>1</sup> In a state of just over 6 million, 1.5 million Marylanders have a criminal record, and across America, one in three African-American males and one in six Latino males, compared to one in seventeen white males, are expected to spend time in prison at some point in their lives.<sup>2</sup> Maryland currently leads the nation in incarcerating young Black men, incarcerating the highest percentage of people who are Black in the U.S., more than twice the national average,<sup>3</sup> and as of 2019, Maryland incarcerated more than 18,500 Latinx individuals.<sup>4</sup> This bill also addresses the issue of juvenile offenders who were young at the time of their incarceration and have a greater possibility of reform, as well as older offenders who have been rehabilitated and pose less of a threat to public safety. Research also shows that rates of recidivism drop with longer terms of confinement.<sup>5</sup>

SB0771 authorizes a person who is serving a term of confinement to petition a court to modify or reduce the sentence if they have served 20 years of the term of their confinement without application of diminution credits, or the equivalent of 25 of the term of confinement with the application of diminution credits, and at least five years have passed since the court decided any petition previously filed by the petitioner. This will enable incarcerated individuals who have served a bulk of their time and have been rehabilitated to reenter society and become productive community members.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on SB0771.

<sup>1</sup> Pinard, M. (n.d.). *Criminal Records, Race, and Redemption*. *Legislation and Public Policy*, 16.

<sup>2</sup> [THOMAS P. BONCZAR, BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS, PREVALENCE OF IMPRISONMENT IN THE U.S. POPULATION, 1974-2001](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Rethinking Approaches to Over Incarceration of Black Young Adults in Maryland. \(2019, November 6\). Justice Policy Institute.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Nellis, A. \(2021\). The Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparity in State Prisons. The Sentencing Project.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 30 States in 2005: Patterns from 2005 to 2010 - Update. \(n.d.\). Bureau of Justice Statistics.](#)