



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQ Affairs**

**TESTIMONY OF JEREMY BROWNING
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR, MARYLAND COMMISSION ON LGBTQ AFFAIRS
INFORMATION STATEMENT ON SB0251
COMMISSION ON LGBTQIA+ AFFAIRS - ALTERATIONS**

FEBRUARY 7, 2023

SENATE - Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

The Hon. Brian J. Feldman, Chair
The Hon. Cheryl C Kagan Vice Chair

Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide informational testimony on SB 0251 on behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs. My name is Jeremy Browning, I am the Administrative Director of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs.

I would like to commend the members of the General Assembly for their work on behalf of our LGBTQIA+ community and their families. The efforts to create a Commission and Office to address the needs and issues of the communities are laudable.

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs was created by the 2021 Maryland General Assembly to assess challenges facing our LGBTQ community, collect data across state agencies, study and establish best practices for LGBTQ inclusion, and offer testimony on issues concerning LGBTQ persons before legislative and administrative bodies.

Senate bill 251 aims to make the commission more inclusive and representative of the diverse LGBTQIA+ communities in Maryland.

The bill would rename the commission to be the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs, reflecting the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, agender, asexual, aromantic, and additional identities.

The bill would increase the number of commissioners from 15 members to 21 members which is consistent with the size of many other commissions in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. The bill also proposes changes to the membership of the commission by using more

Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032



Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs

specific language and in addition to the previous requirements that members reflect the age, gender, sexual orientation, racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic diversity of the state.

Additionally, the bill removes the unnecessary use of “women and LGBTQIA+ persons,” since women are already included in the LGBTQIA+ acronym.

With this information, Mr. Chair and members of the committee, I conclude my testimony. I am optimistic that the Commission will work hard and have tremendous success in improving the lives of our LGBTQIA+ communities and their families. I look forward to furthering those activities and I would be happy to answer any questions.