

STEPHANIE SMITH
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

HOUSE PARLIAMENTARIAN

Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Chair, Education and Economic
Development

Oversight Committee on Pensions

Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families

House Chair
Baltimore City Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB0361: Certificates of Birth - Issuance of New Certificates - Sex
Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)**

Bill Hearing: February 21st, 2023 at 1:00 p.m., Health and Government Operations

**Chairman Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Ariana B. Kelly, and members of the Health and
Government Operations Committee,**

Currently Maryland law does not provide transgender individuals with a consistent application of policies in the process to make necessary and appropriate changes to Maryland birth certificates. This includes gender markers and gender affirming name changes to their own and their children's birth certificates. These inconsistencies in policy lead to inability for Marylanders to access accurate birth certificates for themselves or their children.

HB0361 will make necessary changes to gender markers on birth certificates that will bring policies at Maryland Department of Health Vital Statistic Administration in line with those issued by other state agencies, such as, the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration on driver's licenses/state IDs/permits, and the Maryland Clerks of Court on Marriage Certificates. This bill will also bring Maryland's birth certificate gender marker policies in line with federal agencies, such as, the State Department who permit gender self-select and offer the X gender marker option for US Passports and Consular Records of Birth Abroad.

This bill will not make baroque changes to current policies. The bill will simply provide a clear and accessible path to accurate vital documents. Most substantially, this will enable transgender parents to prove they are related to their own children after they have been granted an order of legal name change through the Maryland Courts.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to give a favorable report on House Bill 415.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie M. Smith".

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