



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** House Bill 130 – Commission on LGBTQ Affairs – Established

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Qi

**HEARING DATE:** March 16, 2021

**COMMITTEE:** Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**CONTACT:** Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

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**POSITION:** SUPPORT

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The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 130 – Commission on LGBTQ Affairs – Established**, which establishes the Commission on LGBTQ Affairs in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI). The commission must assess the challenges facing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities; collect data across State agencies on the implementation of LGBTQ-inclusive policies and complaints alleging discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity; study and establish best practices for inclusion of LGBTQ individuals and communities; work with local governments to pass laws that are inclusive of LGBTQ individuals; and publish an annual report, and any other material the commission considers necessary, that includes recommendations on policies for LGBTQ adults and youth that work to end discriminatory practices in the State.

The Prince George's County Human Relations Commission (HRC) encourages growth and development of equal opportunity for all people and discourages discrimination and differential treatment among individuals based on a protected class (which includes sex and sexual orientation). As an agency focused on human rights, this Bill is important to HRC because it gathers pertinent information for the LGBTQ community in terms of policies, practices, and trends in an effort to produce reports and make recommendations on policies. HRC is currently pushing for legislation to include gender identity as a protected class to highlight discriminatory actions that could occur against an individual in an effort to grant additional protections to our citizens.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive strongly **SUPPORTS House Bill 130** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.