

## SB 251

### Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs - Alterations

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**Position: Favorable**

**Testimony by Isabella Shycoff**

SB 251 and the cross-filed version, HB 141 strengthens and improves upon this relatively new but important State Commission. It broadens the name of the Commission, and includes Marylanders who identify as questioning, intersex, asexual, agender and others. In addition, it increases the number of Commissioners, staggers terms and seeks to expand the diversity among Commissioners.

These updates and clarifications will more accurately reflect the truly diverse and evolving nature of our community. By expanding the numbers of Commissioners and renaming, it sends a clear and unequivocal signal to the LGBTQIA+ community that this Commission is of, by and for them.

**I urge a favorable report by the Committee.**