



January 24, 2025

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BILL: House Bill 0013 Real Property - Residential Contracts of Sale - Buyer Privacy Rights

DATE: January 28, 2024

POSITION: FAVORABLE

COMMITTEE: Finance

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Annapolis Pride's mission is to advocate for, empower, and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community in Anne Arundel County to live fully and authentically. Our vision is a safe, equitable, and anti-racist community where people of all identities thrive.

As such, Annapolis Pride enthusiastically supports House Bill 0013, prohibiting the listing of the name of a buyer on the contract of sale for residences until after the seller has accepted the contract. This is essential for enhancing housing equity in Maryland.

The legislation acknowledges that the readily available information about individuals on the internet could be used to discriminate against an individual in a protected class. Even prior to the internet, it had been demonstrated that people could be discriminated against in hiring, home purchases, services, etc. because of their presumed membership in a protected class. For example, having a name that is presumed to be female, a surname that is clearly in a particular ethnic group, or co-purchasers who are presumed to be of the same gender could influence the seller's decision as to who they would contract with on the sale of their home.

Presently, the internet makes it discriminate against the person submitting a contract to purchase your home if you choose to do so. The elimination of the names of the buyers submitting the contract removes that opportunity for discrimination for any reason. It creates an equal opportunity for home purchases based solely on the strength of the offer, not who the person is.

Accordingly, Annapolis Pride respectfully requests a **favorable** committee report on House Bill 0013.