



Bill No: HB1368  
Title: Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)  
Committee: Health and Government Operations  
Hearing: February 21, 2025  
Position: FAVORABLE

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The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women's groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. MLAW's purpose is to advocate for legislation affecting women and families. To accomplish this goal, MLAW creates an annual legislative agenda with issues voted on by MLAW members and endorsed by organizations and individuals from all over Maryland. **HB1368 - Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)** is a priority on the [2025 MLAW Agenda](#) and we urge your support.

**HB1368** will update the process for changing one's personal name or sex designation on their own birth certificate or their child's birth certificate to align with other identification processes, promote dignity for all unique identities, and reduce opportunities for discrimination.

Currently there is no official process for changing the name or gender marker on your own birth certificate or your child's birth certificate in Maryland. In addition, our current system limits sex designation on a birth certificate to male or female and requires documentation from a physician to change it. While the Maryland ID and the U.S. passport have updated their processes to be more inclusive, the MD birth certificate lags behind which interrupts consistency among legal identification documents. This creates undue barriers for the trans and nonbinary community, including trans women, and prevents them from receiving official documents that affirm their current gender expression and identity. Consequently, members of these communities, and their children, are forcibly outed. Participating in common activities such as enrolling a child in school, traveling, or opening a bank account can expose individuals to discrimination and any consequences that may follow. We know that transgender and nonbinary folk are victimized at higher rates than their cisgendered counterparts. By having their identities haphazardly revealed trans/nonbinary folks and their families' risk violent encounters and dangerous repercussions.

The Birth Certificate Modernization Act will align the procedure for updating one's name or gender marker with the existing procedure for all other identification documents. Individuals will now be permitted to request a sex designation or name change under penalty of perjury rather than requiring a medical intervention. In addition, individuals will be provided three additional sex designations: nonbinary, other, or unspecified. This inclusion allows identity documents to better capture and validate the unique gender experience of all people. Lastly, this bill ensures that properly requested changes result in the creation of a new, rather than amended, birth certificate. An amended birth certificate still highlights the changes made which still infringes an individual's right to privacy and exposes them to prejudice. Dictating that these approved changes result in a new birth certificate is consistent with the ultimate goal of legislation—to provide all people, including transwomen, the right to dignity and privacy.

**For these reasons, MLAW strongly urges the passage of HB1368.**

## **MLAW 2025 Supporting Organizations**

The following organizations have signed on in support of our 2025 Legislative Agenda:

1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East  
AAUW Anne Arundel County  
AAUW Garrett Branch  
AAUW Howard County  
AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch  
AAUW Maryland  
Anne Arundel County NOW  
Bound for Better, advocates for Domestic Violence  
Calvert County Democratic Womens' Club  
Charles County Commission for Women  
Child Justice, Inc.  
City of College Park MD  
Court Watch Montgomery  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority North Arundel County Alumnae Chapter  
FinnCORE, Inc.  
Frederick County Commission for Women  
Interfaith Action for Human Rights  
Kids for Saving Earth  
Maryland Chapter, National Organization for Women  
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence  
Montgomery County Commission for Women  
Montgomery County, MD, NOW  
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Anne Arundel County Chapter  
NCBWSOMD  
Salam Sudan Foundation (SSF)  
ShareBaby, Inc.  
Stella's Girls Incorporated  
SUB&S LLC  
The Rebuild, Overcome, and Rise (ROAR) Center of UMB  
Trans Maryland  
Unrooted Culture  
Women of Honor International  
Women's Equality Day Celebration across Maryland Coalition  
Women's Equity Center and Action Network (WE CAN)  
Women's Law Center of Maryland  
Zonta Club of Annapolis

### **Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women**

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