



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Bill Title: Commission on Nondiscrimination - Establishment

Bill Number(s): [HB1055](#)

Position: FAVORABLE

Date: March 3, 2025

Submitted by: Jeremy Browning, Director of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

To:

House Health and Government Operations Committee

The Hon. Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
The Hon. Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair

Testimony on behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs:

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs, created by the Maryland General Assembly, works to serve LGBTQIA+ Marylanders by galvanizing community voices, researching and addressing challenges, and advocating for policies that advance equity and inclusion. The Commission envisions a Maryland where all LGBTQIA+ people can live full and authentic lives. As a vital resource, the Commission collaborates with public officials, agencies, and community partners to ensure the rights and dignity of LGBTQIA+ Marylanders are protected and respected.

The Commission strongly supports House Bill 1055, which would establish the Commission on Nondiscrimination to study, monitor, and strengthen nondiscrimination protections in Maryland.

As a state entity dedicated to assessing challenges facing LGBTQIA+ Marylanders, we know that discrimination remains a persistent barrier to affirming access to housing, healthcare, education, and employment. HB1055 provides a critical framework for identifying and addressing gaps, inconsistencies, and deficiencies in Maryland's civil rights protections and ensures that all individuals, regardless of race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or other protected characteristics are treated fairly under the law.

The proposed Commission on Nondiscrimination would:

- Monitor and study federal actions impacting civil rights at the state and local levels.
- Identify gaps in current nondiscrimination laws and enforcement mechanisms.
- Recommend legislation to strengthen protections and ensure effective remedies for discrimination.
- Convene public meetings and stakeholder workgroups to ensure community voices are heard.

The Commission is particularly encouraged by HB1055's commitment to eliminating inconsistent protections and addressing barriers to enforcement that leave marginalized communities vulnerable to discrimination. This initiative aligns with the Commission's work to ensure that LGBTQIA+ Marylanders, especially those facing intersecting forms of discrimination, can access the full protections of state law.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 1055 to establish a Commission on Nondiscrimination.