



**BILL:** House Bill 875 - Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education

**DATE:** February 20, 2025

**POSITION:** FAVORABLE

**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means

**CONTACT:** Sandy Gold Raynes, [sandy@md.glsen.org](mailto:sandy@md.glsen.org), (410) 456-5280

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As the leading organization centered on creating and sustaining inclusive K-12 education for LGBTQ+ students, GLSEN Maryland supports House Bill 875. The establishment of the Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education holds significant potential to inform standards and programs to ensure that PK-12 standards, curriculum, and supporting resources reflect the rich tapestry of Maryland, and the United States, including the experiences of LGBTQIA+ individuals and the causes supporting them.

Along with reflecting the rich tapestry of our state and country, incorporating the voices of historically and presently underrepresented groups, including the LGBTQIA+ community, has demonstrated tangible benefits for **all** students. As research by our parent organization, GLSEN National confirms, inclusive curriculum goes hand-in-hand with supportive teachers and accepting peers, creating environments where LGBTQIA+ students feel more connected to their school community. Additionally, in these affirming environments, LGBTQIA+ students also experience increased engagement in the classroom, academic motivation, and higher academic achievement. (Kosciw, J. G., Clark, C. M., & Menard, L. (2022). *The 2021 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of LGBTQ+ Youth in Our Nation's Schools*. New York: GLSEN.)

Accordingly, GLSEN Maryland respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on House Bill 875.



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[chapter@md.glsen.org](mailto:chapter@md.glsen.org)