



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

Senate Bill 626 - Data Privacy - Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)

Finance Committee, February 25, 2026

Support

The City of Takoma Park supports SB 626, otherwise known as the Birth Certificate Modernization Act. This bill makes it easier for parents to update information on their children's state birth certificates and streamlines and modernizes the process for updating gender markers on one's own birth certificate.

The City of Takoma Park is committed to being a welcoming and inclusive community where all residents experience a sense of safety and belonging. A current priority for our City Council is to support and affirm LGBTQ+ individuals and families, particularly transgender and gender diverse people.

Right now, Maryland does not have a consistent system for changing a parent's name on their child's birth certificate. This issue doesn't just affect transgender parents—it can also create difficulties for anyone who needs to change their name for important reasons, such as people seeking to protect themselves after surviving abuse. If implemented, this bill will enable parents who have legally changed their names to prove that they are related to their children.

This bill will also ensure that all state agencies follow the same process for updating the gender marker on a person's identification documents. Gender identity is treated as a protected class through our State's nondiscrimination laws. In Montgomery County's LGBTQ+ Community Survey in 2022, over half of the respondents who tried to change their name and/or gender marker on a birth certificate found it difficult.

Making our systems work better and more easily for our most vulnerable residents just makes sense. This legislation makes our administrative processes simpler for our residents as well as our governmental agencies. The City of Takoma Park supports common sense changes that ease burdens on our transgender and gender diverse community members. We support the enactment of this bill into law and urge a favorable vote.

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