



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 626

DATE: February 25, 2026

SPONSOR: Senator Lam

ASSIGNED TO: Finance & Judicial Proceedings

CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey (leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT (Montgomery County Council)

Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)

Senate Bill 626 repeals the requirement that a licensed health care practitioner determine that an individual's sex designation should be changed for the purposes of issuing a new birth certificate. Instead, an individual (or their parent, guardian, or legal representative) must make a written request, under penalty of perjury, to the Maryland Department of Health for a new birth certificate with a sex designation that differs from the original birth certificate. When issuing a new birth certificate, the Secretary of Health must allow an individual to designate the sex of the individual as female, male, or unspecified or another. If an individual indicates unspecified or another, the Secretary must ensure that the new birth certificate displays an "X" in the location that indicates the individual's sex. The bill alters the sex designation option of "other" to "another" on an application for a license, identification card, or moped operator's permit. Furthermore, the bill alters provisions regarding a new birth certificate issued due to a name change of a parent listed on a birth certificate and makes other technical changes related to gendered language.

Senate Bill 626 would enable transgender parents to prove they are related to their own children after they have been granted an order of legal name change through the Maryland Courts, ensure the validity of existing birth certificates, and ease the administrative burden of accessing accurate documents for the transgender community, resulting in increased accessibility to necessary services, healthcare, and public accommodations that align with their gender identity. Given the current national political climate, legislation such as this is essential to pass at the State level to protect members of our LGBTQ+ community, especially transgender and gender nonconforming individuals.

Senate Bill 626 will aid in solidifying individuals' lived experiences and personal dignity by ensuring their legal documents properly reflect their gender identity. For the foregoing reasons, Montgomery County respectfully requests a favorable Committee report on Senate Bill 626.