



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Bill Title: Health Insurance – Prescriptions for Gender-Affirming Care and Hormone Therapy – Coverage and Dispensing Requirements

Bill Number(s): HB1380

Position: FAVORABLE

Date: March 11, 2026

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

To:

House Health Committee

The Hon. Heather Bagnall, Chair
The Hon. Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair

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

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs respectfully submits this testimony in **strong support of House Bill 1380**, which would require insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for up to a 12-month supply of certain prescriptions used for hormone therapy and gender-affirming care when medically appropriate.

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs was established by the General Assembly to assess the challenges facing LGBTQIA+ Marylanders, collect data, and provide recommendations to the Executive and Legislative branches of State government to advance equity and inclusion.

Hormone therapy is a medically necessary treatment used for a variety of health conditions, including gender-affirming care, menopause management, endocrine disorders, and other hormone-related medical needs. For many patients, consistent access to these medications is essential for maintaining physical health, emotional well-being, and overall quality of life.

The Commission's [Maryland LGBTQIA+ Community Needs Assessment Preliminary Findings Report](#), based on responses from more than 1,200 LGBTQIA+ Marylanders across all 24 jurisdictions, found that **over 47% of respondents reported experiencing obstacles or delays in receiving health care**, with barriers particularly pronounced in gender-affirming care and specialty services.

These findings highlight that, even in states with strong legal protections, barriers to accessing care can still occur in practice. Insurance requirements, frequent refill limitations, and logistical challenges can create unnecessary disruptions for patients who rely on ongoing medications.

HB1380 addresses one of those barriers by allowing coverage for a longer dispensing period when it is clinically appropriate. The bill preserves important safeguards by allowing insurers to limit dispensing when necessary due to shortages, federal restrictions on controlled substances, or when a prescriber determines that a smaller supply is medically appropriate.

Allowing a longer dispensing period can reduce administrative burdens for patients and providers, limit unnecessary pharmacy visits, and help ensure continuity of care. For individuals who rely on hormone therapy as part of long-term treatment, uninterrupted access to medication is critical.

Importantly, **HB1380 does not change the clinical standards required to access hormone therapy**. Patients must still receive prescriptions from licensed providers and meet the same medical criteria for treatment. The bill simply ensures that insurance coverage aligns with clinical judgment and supports continuity of care when a provider determines that a longer supply is appropriate.

HB1380 represents a thoughtful and patient-centered step that reduces administrative barriers while maintaining clinical oversight and safeguards.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs respectfully urges a **favorable report on House Bill 1380**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Reference:

Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs. (2026). *Maryland LGBTQIA+ Community Needs Assessment: Preliminary Findings Report* (in partnership with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore).

[Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs](https://www.maryland.gov/commission-on-lgbtqia-affairs/)

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