



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

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

Bill Number(s): [SB0626](#)

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

Date: March 30, 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 supports SB 626 with amendment.

The Commission strongly supports the core intent of this legislation, which modernizes Maryland's processes for updating identity documents. Ensuring that Marylanders can obtain accurate birth certificates, licenses, and identification cards is critical for safety, dignity, and full participation in daily life. These updates reduce administrative barriers, improve consistency across state systems, and align Maryland with best practices.

However, we strongly oppose the Senate Floor Amendment [323820/1](#) (Senator McKay) that requires the creation and maintenance of a "birth information history" database.

As amended, the bill would require the Maryland Department of Health to maintain a record that includes an individual's sex designation at birth and other identifying information, accessible under certain circumstances by government entities. While the language states these records are sealed, the creation of such a database raises serious privacy, safety, and civil liberties concerns.

For transgender and nonbinary individuals, this provision effectively creates a government-maintained record of their prior identity. Given the current climate of increased targeting of transgender people, the existence of such a registry introduces real risks, including potential misuse, unauthorized access, or future policy changes that could expand access to this data.

This amendment undermines the core purpose of the bill, which is to allow individuals to update their identity documents without unnecessary barriers or exposure. Maryland has long recognized the importance of protecting the confidentiality of amended birth records. Creating a parallel system that tracks prior information moves in the opposite direction.

Importantly, this registry is not necessary to achieve the administrative goals of the bill. Existing processes already allow for sealed records and limited access under court order. The additional requirement to create and maintain a centralized birth information history database introduces risk without clear benefit.

For these reasons, the Commission respectfully requests that the House remove the Senate amendment establishing the birth information history database.

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs urges a favorable report with amendment on SB626.