



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Bill Title: Health – Abortion – Ultrasound and Wait Time

Bill Number(s): HB1281

Position: UNFAVORABLE

Date: March 16, 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 opposes House Bill 1281.

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs was established by the Maryland General Assembly to assess the challenges facing LGBTQIA+ Marylanders and to provide recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly, and state agencies on policies that promote equity, safety, and inclusion.

House Bill 1281 would require individuals seeking abortion care to undergo ultrasound imaging and wait a specified period of time before a procedure may be performed. These requirements introduce additional procedural barriers that may delay access to time-sensitive medical care.

Mandatory waiting periods can create significant logistical and financial burdens for patients, particularly for individuals who must travel long distances, take time off work, arrange transportation, or secure childcare in order to access care. These barriers can disproportionately affect people who already face obstacles within the health care system.

These barriers are particularly concerning given the **Commission's recent statewide [LGBTQIA+ Community Needs Assessment](#)**, in which over **47% of LGBTQIA+ respondents reported obstacles or delays in receiving health care** and **49% reported sometimes or always avoiding medical care due to anticipated discrimination**.

For LGBTQIA+ Marylanders, including transgender men and nonbinary individuals who may seek reproductive health care, additional requirements such as mandatory waiting periods and prescribed procedures may further complicate access to timely and affirming medical care.

Policies that create additional steps or delays can increase stigma and discourage individuals from seeking the care they need.

Health care decisions are best made between patients and their medical providers based on individual medical circumstances and established clinical standards. Statutory mandates that impose uniform procedures or waiting periods risk interfering with the patient–provider relationship without demonstrating clear public health benefit.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs respectfully urges an **unfavorable report on House Bill 1281**.

Reference:

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