



Transgender Civil Rights

An Act Relative to Gender-Based Discrimination and Hate Crimes

(HB.1728 - Rep. Carl Sciortino, Rep. Byron Rushing; SB.1687 - Sen. Ben Downing)

Massachusetts civil rights laws explicitly protect people from discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

***An Act Relative to Gender-Based Discrimination and Hate Crimes* would outlaw discrimination based on an individual's "gender identity or expression"* as well.**

- Transgender students will be protected from discrimination in public schools.
- The Massachusetts laws forbidding discrimination in employment, housing, credit, and in places of public accommodation will explicitly apply to transgender individuals.
- Transgender people will have the same rights as others to bring complaints to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD), to have that agency evaluate and hear their claims, and to bring their claims to court.
- The MCAD's advisory boards will be encouraged to include transgender members, just as diverse representation from various communities and businesses is encouraged under current law.
- The Massachusetts Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth will become a more inclusive Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth.
- Assaults and property damage crimes intended to intimidate individuals because of their race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability will be punished in a like manner when they are committed with the intent to intimidate an individual because of gender identity or expression. The State Police, who have responsibility now for keeping records and making reports concerning crimes motivated by bigotry or bias, will add crimes because of gender identity or expression to those records and reports.
- Sex-segregated accommodations will continue to be available, as they are now, consistent with a person's own gender identity or expression.

*"Gender identity or expression" is defined as "a gender-related identity, appearance, expression, or behavior of an individual regardless of the individual's assigned sex at birth."

13 other states already protect people against discrimination based on gender identity and expression. So do Washington D.C. and 102 counties and cities across the country, including Boston, Cambridge, and Northampton.

It's Time, Massachusetts! Support Transgender Civil Rights