



End Housing Discrimination - Support SB 822

All Virginians deserve the same access to housing, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity

WHAT THE BILL DOES:

- SB 67 adds discrimination on the basis of an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity as an unlawful housing practice.
- The bill also defines sexual orientation and gender identity.

THE FACTS:

- It is currently the policy of the Commonwealth of Virginia to provide fair housing throughout the Commonwealth to all of its citizens, regardless, of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, elderliness, familial status, or handicap. However, *LGBT* people are not protected under these laws.
- According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), same-sex couples seeking rental housing experience discrimination 16% of the time in a nationwide study.¹
- The National Center for Transgender equality states one in five transgender people in the United States have been refused a home or apartment, and more than one in ten have been evicted because of their gender identity.²
- Preliminary research of Housing Opportunities Made Equal has shown that same-sex couples using internet to seek rental housing in the Richmond MSA experience adverse, differential treatment 31% of the time when compared to treatment of different-sex couples.
- As of December 23, 2015, 18 states and the District of Columbia have housing non-discrimination laws that cover sexual orientation and gender identity.³

WHY WE SUPPORT IT:

- Nearly 3% of Virginia's adult population identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT). There are LGBT couples and individual's living in every city and county in Virginia, and 16% of them are raising children.⁴
- Under current laws, LGBT Virginians can be refused housing because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Discrimination against LGBT Virginians is wrong.
- **Housing is a basic right that must be protected for all Virginians.**

¹ http://www.huduser.org/portal/publications/fairhsg/discrim_samesex.html

² <http://transequality.org/Issues/homelessness.html>

³ http://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/non_discrimination_laws

⁴ http://www.lgbtmap.org/equality_maps/profile_state/46

Equality Virginia is a statewide, non-partisan advocacy, outreach, and education organization leading the Commonwealth toward equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Virginians.