



Modernize the gender change policy for Virginia birth certificates: Support HB 407

WHAT THE BILL DOES:

- The bill removes a surgical requirement and a court order requirement when requesting a gender marker change for VA birth certificates.

THE FACTS:

- 66% of transgender Virginians do not have an ID with the name and gender they prefer. One quarter (25%) of those who showed ID that did not match their gender presentation were verbally harassed, denied benefits or services, asked to leave, or assaulted.¹
- Court orders are expensive and complicated to obtain, and judges and state courts do not consistently grant orders for gender change across the country.
- Appropriate treatment for gender transition is determined on an individual case-by-case basis, and is private information between a doctor and patient.
- A birth certificate with an incorrect gender “outs” a transgender person in any situation where they need to show the birth certificate – when enrolling in school, applying for jobs, and obtaining other identity documents.

WHY WE SUPPORT IT:

- **Modern policies make our government efficient** – The bill modernizes an outdated statute, helping to streamline and standardize this policy. It makes VA birth certificate policy consistent with VA driver’s license policy and federal government policy in many forms of documentation. A birth certificate is more than just an identity document – it’s a gateway document to securing others (driver’s license, U.S. passports, etc.).
- **Updated birth certificates make happier, healthier Virginians** – This bill follows policy recommended for transgender individuals by health experts worldwide, including the American Medical Association and American Psychological Association. Accurate identity documents protect transgender people from denial of employment, housing, health and public benefits, verbal harassment, and even physical violence.

Equality Virginia is the statewide advocacy organization seeking equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Virginians. Together we will create a Virginia that is a safe, welcoming, and equal place for LGBT individuals and their families to live, work, and play. More information is online at EqualityVirginia.org. Connect on [Facebook.com/EqualityVA](https://www.facebook.com/EqualityVA) or [Twitter @EqualityVA](https://twitter.com/EqualityVA).

¹ <https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS-Full-Report-Dec17.pdf>