

SENATE BILL 566

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SB 976/08 – SRU

9lr0464
CF HB 474

By: **Senators Madaleno, Conway, Forehand, Garagiola, Gladden, Harrington, Jones, King, Lenett, McFadden, Pinsky, Pugh, Raskin, and Rosapepe**
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2009
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Human Relations – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity –**
3 **Antidiscrimination**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity with regard to
5 public accommodations, housing, and employment; prohibiting discrimination
6 based on gender identity by certain licensed or regulated persons; prohibiting
7 discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity with regard to the
8 leasing of property for commercial usage or in the provision of certain services
9 or facilities; altering a certain exception for employers that relates to standards
10 concerning dress and grooming; providing that an employer is immune from
11 certain liability for certain acts to verify the gender identity of any employee or
12 applicant in response to a certain charge; making certain remedies and
13 procedures regarding discrimination applicable to discrimination based on
14 sexual orientation and gender identity; requiring certain State personnel
15 actions to be made without regard to gender identity or sexual orientation;
16 defining the term “gender identity”; making certain conforming changes; and
17 generally relating to discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender
18 identity.

19 BY renumbering

20 Article – State Government
21 Section 20–101(e) and (f), respectively
22 to be Section 20–101(f) and (g), respectively
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (As enacted by Chapter ____ (H.B. ____)(9lr0791) of the Acts of the General
25 Assembly of 2009)

26 BY adding to

27 Article – State Government
28 Section 20–101(e)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
 2 (As enacted by Chapter ____ (H.B. ____)(9lr0791) of the Acts of the General
 3 Assembly of 2009)

4 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 5 Article – State Government
 6 Section 20–302, 20–304, 20–401, 20–402, 20–501, 20–602, 20–603, 20–605(a)(2),
 7 20–606(a) through (e), 20–607, 20–702(a), 20–704(a)(2), 20–705,
 8 20–707(b) and (c), and 20–1103(b)
 9 Annotated Code of Maryland
 10 (As enacted by Chapter ____ (H.B. ____)(9lr0791) of the Acts of the General
 11 Assembly of 2009)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 13 Article – State Personnel and Pensions
 14 Section 2–302
 15 Annotated Code of Maryland
 16 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
 18 MARYLAND, That Section(s) 20–101(e) and (f), respectively, of Article – State
 19 Government of the Annotated Code of Maryland (as enacted by Chapter ____ (H.B. ____)
 20 (9lr0791) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2009) be renumbered to be Section(s)
 21 20–101(f) and (g), respectively.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland
 23 read as follows:

24 **Article – State Government**

25 20–101.

26 **(E) “GENDER IDENTITY” MEANS A GENDER-RELATED IDENTITY,**
 27 **APPEARANCE, EXPRESSION, OR BEHAVIOR OF AN INDIVIDUAL REGARDLESS OF**
 28 **THE INDIVIDUAL’S ASSIGNED SEX AT BIRTH.**

29 20–302.

30 This subtitle does not prohibit the proprietor or employees of any establishment
 31 from denying service to any person for failure to conform to the usual and regular
 32 requirements, standards, and regulations of the establishment, provided that the
 33 denial is not based on discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, age, color, creed,
 34 national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or disability.

35 20–304.

1 An owner or operator of a place of public accommodation or an agent or
2 employee of the owner or operator may not refuse, withhold from, or deny to any
3 person any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, or privileges of the place of
4 public accommodation because of the person's race, sex, age, color, creed, national
5 origin, marital status, sexual orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or disability.

6 20-401.

7 This subtitle does not prohibit any person that is licensed or regulated by the
8 Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation from refusing, withholding from, or
9 denying accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, sales, or services to any
10 person for failure to conform to the usual and regular requirements, standards, and
11 regulations of the licensed or regulated person, provided that the denial is not based
12 on discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, color, creed, national origin, marital
13 status, sexual orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or disability.

14 20-402.

15 A person that is licensed or regulated by a unit in the Department of Labor,
16 Licensing, and Regulation listed in § 2-108 of the Business Regulation Article may not
17 refuse, withhold from, or deny any person any of the accommodations, advantages,
18 facilities, privileges, sales, or services of the licensed or regulated person or
19 discriminate against any person because of the person's race, sex, creed, color, national
20 origin, marital status, sexual orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or disability.

21 20-501.

22 An owner or operator of commercial property, an agent or employee of the owner
23 or operator of commercial property, or a person that is licensed or regulated by the
24 State may not discriminate against an individual in the terms, conditions, or
25 privileges of the leasing of property for commercial use, or in the provision of services
26 or facilities in connection with the leasing of property for commercial use, because of
27 the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, marital status, **SEXUAL**
28 **ORIENTATION**, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or national origin.

29 20-602.

30 It is the policy of the State, in the exercise of its police power for the protection
31 of the public safety, public health, and general welfare, for the maintenance of
32 business and good government, and for the promotion of the State's trade, commerce,
33 and manufacturers:

34 (1) to assure all persons equal opportunity in receiving employment
35 and in all labor management-union relations, regardless of race, color, religion,
36 ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, **GENDER**
37 **IDENTITY**, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude
38 the performance of the employment; and

1 (2) to that end, to prohibit discrimination in employment by any
2 person.

3 20–603.

4 This subtitle does not require:

5 (1) an employer, employment agency, labor organization, or joint
6 labor–management committee subject to this subtitle to grant preferential treatment
7 to any individual or group on the basis of the race, color, religion, sex, age, national
8 origin, **GENDER IDENTITY**, sexual orientation, or disability of the individual or group
9 because an imbalance may exist with respect to the total number or percentage of
10 individuals of any race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, **GENDER IDENTITY**,
11 or sexual orientation or individuals with disabilities employed by the employer,
12 referred or classified for employment by the employment agency or labor organization,
13 admitted to membership or classified by the labor organization, or admitted to, or
14 employed in, any apprenticeship or other training program, compared to the total
15 number or percentage of individuals of that race, color, religion, sex, age, national
16 origin, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or sexual orientation or individuals with disabilities in the
17 State or any community, section, or other area, or in the available work force in the
18 State or any community, section, or other area; or

19 (2) an employer to reasonably accommodate an employee’s religion if
20 the accommodation would cause undue hardship on the conduct of the employer’s
21 business.

22 20–605.

23 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, this subtitle does
24 not prohibit:

25 (2) an employer from establishing [standards concerning an
26 employee’s dress and grooming, if the standards are directly related to the nature of
27 the employment of the employee] **AND REQUIRING AN EMPLOYEE TO ADHERE TO
28 REASONABLE WORKPLACE APPEARANCE, GROOMING, AND DRESS STANDARDS
29 THAT ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE NATURE OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE
30 EMPLOYEE AND THAT ARE NOT PRECLUDED BY ANY PROVISION OF STATE OR
31 FEDERAL LAW, AS LONG AS THE EMPLOYER ALLOWS ANY EMPLOYEE TO APPEAR,
32 GROOM, AND DRESS CONSISTENT WITH THE EMPLOYEE’S GENDER IDENTITY;**

33 20–606.

34 (a) An employer may not:

1 (1) fail or refuse to hire, discharge, or otherwise discriminate against
2 any individual with respect to the individual's compensation, terms, conditions, or
3 privileges of employment because of:

4 (i) the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin,
5 marital status, sexual orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, genetic information, or
6 disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance
7 of the employment; or

8 (ii) the individual's refusal to submit to a genetic test or make
9 available the results of a genetic test;

10 (2) limit, segregate, or classify its employees or applicants for
11 employment in any way that would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of
12 employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect the individual's status as an
13 employee because of:

14 (i) the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin,
15 marital status, sexual orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, genetic information, or
16 disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance
17 of the employment; or

18 (ii) the individual's refusal to submit to a genetic test or make
19 available the results of a genetic test; or

20 (3) request or require genetic tests or genetic information as a
21 condition of hiring or determining benefits.

22 (b) An employment agency may not:

23 (1) fail or refuse to refer for employment or otherwise discriminate
24 against any individual because of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age,
25 national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or disability
26 unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the
27 employment; or

28 (2) classify or refer for employment any individual on the basis of the
29 individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual
30 orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to
31 reasonably preclude the performance of the employment.

32 (c) A labor organization may not:

33 (1) exclude or expel from its membership, or otherwise discriminate
34 against, any individual because of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age,
35 national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or disability

1 unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the
2 employment;

3 (2) limit, segregate, or classify its membership, or classify or fail or
4 refuse to refer for employment any individual, in any way that would deprive or tend
5 to deprive the individual of employment opportunities, limit the individual's
6 employment opportunities, or otherwise adversely affect the individual's status as an
7 employee or as an applicant for employment because of the individual's race, color,
8 religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, **GENDER**
9 **IDENTITY**, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude
10 the performance of the employment; or

11 (3) cause or attempt to cause an employer to discriminate against an
12 individual in violation of this section.

13 (d) An employer, labor organization, or joint labor-management committee
14 controlling apprenticeship or other training or retraining programs, including
15 on-the-job training programs, may not discriminate against any individual in
16 admission to, or employment in, any program established to provide apprenticeship or
17 other training or retraining because of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age,
18 national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or disability
19 unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the
20 employment.

21 (e) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an
22 employer, labor organization, or employment agency may not print or cause to be
23 printed or published any notice or advertisement relating to employment by the
24 employer, membership in or any classification or referral for employment by the labor
25 organization, or any classification or referral for employment by the employment
26 agency that indicates any preference, limitation, specification, or discrimination based
27 on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, **GENDER**
28 **IDENTITY**, or disability.

29 (2) A notice or advertisement may indicate a preference, limitation,
30 specification, or discrimination based on religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability
31 if religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability is a bona fide occupational
32 qualification for employment.

33 20-607.

34 An employer shall be immune from liability under this title or under the
35 common law arising out of reasonable acts taken by the employer to verify the sexual
36 orientation **OR GENDER IDENTITY** of any employee or applicant in response to a
37 charge filed against the employer on the basis of sexual orientation **OR GENDER**
38 **IDENTITY**.

39 20-702.

1 (a) It is the policy of the State:

2 (1) to provide for fair housing throughout the State to all, regardless of
3 race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin, marital status, sexual
4 orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or disability; and

5 (2) to that end, to prohibit discriminatory practices with respect to
6 residential housing by any person, in order to protect and insure the peace, health,
7 safety, prosperity, and general welfare of all.

8 20–704.

9 (a) This subtitle does not apply to:

10 (2) with respect to discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual
11 orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or marital status:

12 (i) the rental of rooms in any dwelling, if the owner maintains
13 the dwelling as the owner’s principal residence; or

14 (ii) the rental of any apartment in a dwelling that contains not
15 more than five rental units, if the owner maintains the dwelling as the owner’s
16 principal residence.

17 20–705.

18 Except as provided in §§ 20–703 and 20–704 of this subtitle, a person may not:

19 (1) refuse to sell or rent after the making of a bona fide offer, refuse to
20 negotiate for the sale or rental of, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, a dwelling to
21 any person because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial
22 status, sexual orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or national origin;

23 (2) discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or
24 privileges of the sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services or facilities
25 in connection with the sale or rental of a dwelling, because of race, color, religion, sex,
26 disability, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or
27 national origin;

28 (3) make, print, or publish, or cause to be made, printed, or published,
29 any notice, statement, or advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling
30 that indicates any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color,
31 religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, **GENDER**
32 **IDENTITY**, or national origin, or an intention to make any preference, limitation, or
33 discrimination;

1 (4) represent to any person, because of race, color, religion, sex,
2 disability, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or
3 national origin, that any dwelling is not available for inspection, sale, or rental when
4 the dwelling is available; or

5 (5) for profit, induce or attempt to induce any person to sell or rent
6 any dwelling by representations regarding the entry or prospective entry into the
7 neighborhood of a person of a particular race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital
8 status, familial status, sexual orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or national origin.

9 20-707.

10 (b) (1) A person whose business includes engaging in residential real
11 estate-related transactions may not discriminate against any person in making
12 available a transaction, or in the terms or conditions of a transaction, because of race,
13 color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation,
14 **GENDER IDENTITY**, or national origin.

15 (2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not prohibit a person engaged
16 in the business of furnishing appraisals of real property from taking into consideration
17 factors other than race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial status,
18 sexual orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or national origin.

19 (c) A person may not, because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital
20 status, familial status, sexual orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or national origin:

21 (1) deny a person access to, or membership or participation in, a
22 multiple-listing service, real estate brokers' organization, or other service,
23 organization, or facility relating to the business of selling or renting dwellings; or

24 (2) discriminate against a person in the terms or conditions of
25 membership or participation.

26 20-1103.

27 (b) Whether or not acting under color of law, a person may not, by force or
28 threat of force, willfully injure, intimidate, interfere with, or attempt to injure,
29 intimidate, or interfere with:

30 (1) any person because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital
31 status, familial status, sexual orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or national origin and
32 because the person is or has been:

33 (i) selling, purchasing, renting, financing, occupying, or
34 contracting or negotiating for the sale, purchase, rental, financing, or occupation of
35 any dwelling; or

1 (ii) applying for or participating in any service, organization, or
 2 facility relating to the business of selling or renting dwellings;

3 (2) any person because the person is or has been, or in order to
 4 intimidate the person or any other person or any class of persons from:

5 (i) participating, without discrimination on account of race,
 6 color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation,
 7 **GENDER IDENTITY**, or national origin, in any of the activities, services, organizations,
 8 or facilities described in item (1) of this subsection; or

9 (ii) affording another person or class of persons the opportunity
 10 or protection to participate in any of the activities, services, organizations, or facilities
 11 described in item (1) of this subsection; or

12 (3) any person because the person is or has been, or in order to
 13 discourage the person or any other person from:

14 (i) lawfully aiding or encouraging other persons to participate,
 15 without discrimination on account of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital
 16 status, familial status, sexual orientation, **GENDER IDENTITY**, or national origin, in
 17 any of the activities, services, organizations, or facilities described in item (1) of this
 18 subsection; or

19 (ii) participating lawfully in speech or peaceful assembly
 20 opposing any denial of the opportunity to participate in any of the activities, services,
 21 organizations, or facilities described in item (1) of this subsection.

22 **Article – State Personnel and Pensions**

23 2–302.

24 (a) The State recognizes and honors the value and dignity of every person
 25 and understands the importance of providing employees and applicants for
 26 employment with a fair opportunity to pursue their careers in an environment free of
 27 discrimination or harassment prohibited by law.

28 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection or by other
 29 law, all personnel actions concerning a State employee or applicant for employment in
 30 State government shall be made without regard to:

31 (i) age;

32 (ii) ancestry;

33 (iii) color;

- 1 (iv) creed;
- 2 (v) **GENDER IDENTITY;**
- 3 [(v)] (vi) marital status;
- 4 [(vi)] (vii) mental or physical disability;
- 5 [(vii)] (viii) national origin;
- 6 [(viii)] (ix) race;
- 7 [(ix)] (x) religious affiliation, belief, or opinion; [or]
- 8 [(x)] (xi) sex; **OR**
- 9 (xii) **SEXUAL ORIENTATION.**

10 (2) A personnel action may be taken with regard to age, sex, or
11 disability to the extent that age, sex, or physical or mental qualification is required by
12 law or is a bona fide occupational qualification.

13 (c) (1) Each State employee is expected to assume personal responsibility
14 and leadership in ensuring fair employment practices and equal employment
15 opportunity in Maryland State government.

16 (2) Employment discrimination and harassment by State managers,
17 supervisors, or other employees is prohibited.

18 (3) A State employee who violates this subtitle is subject to
19 disciplinary action by the employee's appointing authority, including the termination
20 of State employment.

21 (d) The Equal Employment Opportunity Program in Title 5, Subtitle 2 of this
22 article governs all employees of any unit in the Executive Branch of State government,
23 including a unit with an independent personnel system.

24 (e) (1) At least annually, the Secretary shall report on the Equal
25 Employment Opportunity Program established in § 5-202 of this article to the
26 Legislative Joint Committee on Fair Practices.

27 (2) The head of a personnel system in the Legislative and Judicial
28 branches may report periodically on equal employment opportunity programs and
29 policies in effect in that personnel system to the Legislative Joint Committee on Fair
30 Practices.

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2009.