

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5314

AN ACT CONCERNING AN EVALUATION OF THE UPDATING OF STATE

Title: FORMS AND APPLICATIONS TO INCLUDE A NONBINARY GENDER OPTION.

Vote Date: 3/15/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/4/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration & Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To require that state agencies evaluate the need for and feasibility of including a nonbinary gender option on state forms.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Stephanie Thomas, Connecticut Secretary of The State: Supports this bill because it allows all Connecticut residents to correctly identify their gender on state forms without discriminating based on gender identity.

Scott Gaul, Chief Data Officer, Office of Policy and Management: Supports this bill because it aligns with the goal of state agencies to provide more inclusive applications and forms. States that the bill should include federal guidelines for LGBTQI+ individuals. Also states that the bill should include whether state agencies should be required to identify if resources are needed to implement these changes, as it is important that these resources be included in an agency's yearly budget submission.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Timothy Gabriele, North Haven Pride: Supports this bill because it allows transgender, nonbinary, and other individuals to correctly identify themselves on government forms, thus making them feel safe and comfortable. States that it is important to pass this legislation as some states are trying to pass legislation restricting gender-affirming care and other gender

expressions, and that many transgender people report being harassed or intimidated because their ID did not match their actual gender identity.

Mary Lee Kiernan, President and CEO, YWCA Greenwich: Supports this bill because it addresses the current lack of representation for transgender and nonbinary people. States that the current system of identity can force these individuals to face erasure in official documentation. Also states that this bill would help state agencies understand the needs of these individuals and the services that they may require.

Jess Zaccagnino, Policy Counsel, Connecticut ACLU: Supports this bill because it ensures that IDs are inclusive of gender-neutral identities and that those identifying in this way are not feeling discriminated against. States that suicide rates significantly reduce when transgender or nonbinary individuals have a correct form of identification that they can use.

Tricia George: Supports this bill to include nonbinary gender options on state forms.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Beverly Allen: Opposes this bill and believes that the American family should consist of biological or adopted children between one man and woman only.

C. Marcella Kurowski: Opposes this bill because it is important that an individual is identified as a male or female so that they can receive correct medical treatment.

Reported by: Gabriel Marques, Assistant Clerk Date: 3/19/2024