Bill No.: HB-5505
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE UPDATING OF STATE FORMS AND APPLICATIONS TO INCLUDE A NONBINARY GENDER OPTION.
Vote Date: 3/29/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 3/13/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
General Administration and Elections Committee

COSPONSORS OF BILL:
Rep. David Michel, 146th Dist.
Rep. Jillian Gilchrest, 18th Dist.
Rep. Quentin W. Phipps, 100th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:
The bill mandates that each executive branch state agency will update all printed and electronic forms and applications used by the public that require the person to indicate a gender to include a nonbinary gender option. The legislation intends to make the declaration of gender identity more inclusive when citizens interact with the state in an administrative capacity.

Substitute Language No. 6710: Each state agency of the Executive Department shall update all printed and electronic forms and applications used by the public that require the person filling out such form or application to indicate a gender to include a nonbinary gender option.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
Josh Geballe, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services (DAS): DAS supports this legislation as a concrete way to show that the state of Connecticut is supportive of non-binary citizens. DAS asks that the legislature be more specific regarding what language they would like to be used so DAS can be more effective in implementing this update.

Kevin Lembo, Comptroller, Office of the State Comptroller: Lembo writes in support of this legislation and the subsequent task of updating the CORE-CT financial system to accommodate the additional option and language if it passes.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Rep. Raven Matherne, 19th Dist.: Matherne, the first openly transgender legislator in the state of Connecticut on the Stamford Board of Representatives, writes in support of the Committee Bill. Matherne reflects on their years of coming to terms with how gender dysphoria has affected their lives as they lost their job shortly after coming out and right before deciding to run for office. Matherne then calls for recognition of the transgender community and says that this legislation will help accomplish this.

Emma Bromley: Bromley supports this legislation. Writing from the perspective of a member of the LGBTQ community, Bromley spoke to the experience of nonbinary or gender fluid individuals who don’t feel represented when filling out forms of formal identification. Bromley brought up the example of what it would be like for someone who identifies as male to not see an option for their identity when getting a driver’s license at the DMV, saying that it might make that Individual feel that who they are is not ok.

Sarah Bromley: Bromley supports this legislation. Writing from the perspective of a resident who has family members and friends that are a part of the LGBTQ community, Bromley says that making people who don’t identify as male or female choose to invalidates their identities. Bromley writes that the addition of an X on these forms would alleviate this stress.

Dianna Lombardi, Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition (CTC) Executive Director (CTCED): Lombardi writes in support of the legislation on behalf of the CTC, saying that having an identification card that doesn’t match a resident’s identity creates barriers in employment, housing, and education. Lombardi also says that without this legislation transgender residents can face discrimination and even hostile environments that can lead to verbal or physical abuse.

Marc Moorash: Moorash submitted a newsletter-style cartoon and piece in support of this legislation.

Urn Pendragon: Pendragon supports this legislation as a way for Connecticut to lead by example and take a step toward having more inclusive means of identity in the state. Pendragon suggests that out of consistency, the legislation ought to be amended to have all official mailings from the state address residents with Mx. rather than Mr., Ms., or Mrs.

Jesse Roberts: Waters writes in support of this bill, saying that as taxpaying citizens, non-binary residents have a right to be represented and affirmed.
NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by:  Emmet Teran
Assistant Clerk

Date: 4/4/19