

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6847

AN ACT CONCERNING AN EVALUATION OF THE UPDATING OF STATE

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

Vote Date: 2/28/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/7/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

There are an increasing number of individuals who identify outside the traditional gender binary system. This bill would require state agencies to perform an evaluation of the changes necessary to update forms to include a nonbinary gender option and to evaluate what resources would be necessary to make such changes. This is a step towards updating state forms to be more inclusive, so as to better and more accurately represent the people of the state of Connecticut.

JFS Language:

The substitute language allows agencies to broaden the scope of their evaluations.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Stephanie Thomas, Secretary of the State, Office of the Secretary of the State:

Strongly supports the merits of the Bill and believes that all residents of Connecticut, regardless of gender identity, should be able to identify correctly with the State Government. Voter Registration forms have already been redesigned so that, as of this summer, they will include a nonbinary gender option.

Scott Gaul, Chief Data Officer, Office of Policy and Management:

This change aligns with state agencies interests in providing more inclusive forms and applications and supports the goals of the State Data Plan and the 2021 LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment. Recommends factors for consideration in the Section 1.b

evaluations. Many state agency programs already either collect additional categories for gender data or are in the process of revising forms and applications to do so.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Alison Correia:

Notes that Connecticut already allows the use of "X" on driver's licenses, it only aligns with this to incorporate another option onto state forms.

Support because the addition of a "nonbinary" option allows for state forms to be more accurate comes from:

- **Daria Corria**
- **Jennifer Ford**
- **Henry Garlock**
- **Brianna Costello**
- **Janina Howard**

Seventy-three individuals, of whom twenty-four testified anonymously, testified in support because this bill serves to aid the LGBTQ+ community within Connecticut.

Eleven individuals, of whom three testified anonymously, offered uncharacterized support for this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Nancy Downes:

Offered opposition because they do not want transgender athletes to compete in women's sports.

Nine individuals, one anonymous, testified in opposition to this bill because of their belief in only two genders.

Five individuals, one anonymous, offered uncharacterized opposition to this bill.

Reported by: Aston Foley

Date: 03/06/2025