

Transgender Rights Bill

S.2407 An Act relative to Transgender Anti-Discrimination

Summary

- 1 This bill provides equal access to public places for every resident of the Commonwealth, regardless of gender identity. Public accommodations include but are not limited to restaurants, nursing homes, coffee shops, grocery stores, and sports arenas.
- 2 This bill builds on the Transgender Equal Rights Bill, passed in 2011, which prohibited discrimination on the basis of gender identity in housing, education, employment and credit. Where the final bill in 2011 did not include public accommodations protections, this legislation completes a near decade of advocacy around full inclusion of transgender residents in communities across the Commonwealth.
- 3 More than 200 businesses across the Commonwealth and members of all five New England sports teams came out in support of this bill as central to promoting equal access rights for everyone in Massachusetts.



The bill passed in its original form with a 33-4 vote, all but one amendment was rejected



Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz

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Chair of the Joint Committee on Education



Senator Bruce E. Tarr

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Senate Minority Leader
Conference Committee Member



Senator William N. Brownsberger

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Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary



This legislation was passed on
May 12, 2016

STATUS



Signed into Law

14 cities and towns in Massachusetts and over 200 cities and towns across the country have these protections in place. Massachusetts has become the 18th state in the country to offer public accommodations protections for transgender residents.

RESPONSE

**The
Boston
Globe**

"Advocates for the Senate bill make some valid points: Since public accommodation is a civil rights issue, any delay in its implementation is unnecessary. The bill does not require the creation of special bathrooms or locker rooms, only that transgender people be allowed access based on their gender identity."

Boston Globe, Editorial

"By passing legislation that will ensure that transgender men and women are protected against unwarranted discrimination in public, Massachusetts continues to make strides on LGBTQ issues."

*Sylvain Bruni, President of Boston Pride
- Advocate*

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INFOGRAPHICS

**MASSACHUSETTS
SENATE**

PASSES

Transgender Anti-discrimination
Law - S.735

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