

Historic LGBT Legislation on the Horizon for MA

- Sophie Mae-Berman

With recent revisions and clarifications about implementation made by the House, the Transgender Antidiscrimination/Public Accommodations bill may finally become law in Massachusetts, protecting transgender people from discrimination in public places, such as malls and restaurants, by confirming their right to use a public restroom that aligns with their gender identity. Opposition to the bill has been centered on the premise that sexual predators could enter restrooms under the pretense of being transgender, but the current revision of the bill addresses those concerns and legal ramifications for people claiming gender identity for “improper purpose.”

Governor Charlie Baker’s support of this law is in alignment with his numerous initiatives for equal opportunity and non-discrimination for all individuals in the Commonwealth. One important example is his elevating the Office for Access and Opportunity directly to the Governor’s Office in order to increase diversity and inclusion within state government and to expand economic opportunity for small businesses owned by LGBTI, veterans, women, minorities and people with disabilities through the Commonwealth’s Supplier Diversity Program.