



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Policy Committee Minutes
February 20, 2026 12:00pm-1:00pm
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Josie Caballero, Committee Chair
M Pease, Committee Vice Chair
Joan Bryan
Nicole Hollywood
Tica Torres Bolivar
Ly Xīnzhèn Zhǎngsūn
Ex-Officio: Lee Blinder

Staff and Guests Present:

Jeremy Browning, Director
Taylor Harer, Special Assistant
Charlotte Persephone Hoffman, Policy Committee Advisor

- I. Committee Chair Caballero called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.
- II. Committee Chair Caballero acknowledged housekeeping and meeting guidelines.
- III. Roll call was conducted by Committee Chair Caballero.
- IV. Approval of the Agenda: A discussion on survey graphics was added to the agenda. There were no other additions or corrections to the agenda and it was approved via unanimous consent.
- V. Approval of 2.6.2026 Minutes: There were no additions or corrections. The minutes were approved via unanimous consent.
- VI. Discussion: Survey Graphics - Chair Blinder presented draft graphics created for the Community Needs Assessment preliminary findings report. Commissioners provided feedback in real time, and the graphics were edited live to reflect their suggestions.
- VII. Discussion: Upcoming Priority Bill Hearings - Director Browning provided an overview of additional bills that have been added to the tracking document. Members discussed

presenting the bills as a package to the full Commission and amending the policy document to include them prior to an in depth discussion.

Commissioner Torres Bolivar made a motion to add the identified bills for consideration at the March 9 Commission meeting. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed with one abstention from Commissioner Zhāngsūn.

Advisor Hoffman provided information on upcoming priority bill hearings, noting that the Birth Certificate Modernization Act hearing is scheduled for next week. The Committee discussed testimony limits for the bill, which allow two favorable and two unfavorable to testify in person, with unlimited written testimony. Vice Chair Pease shared information about hearings related to bereavement leave and prescribing privileges for psychologists.

- VIII. Discussion: Additional Policy Issues - Advisor Hoffman and Director Browning shared their intent to cross-reference bill tracking lists with the Commission's tracker to ensure no newly filed bills have been missed. There was a discussion regarding the upcoming LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Day tentatively scheduled for March 16th in partnership with the LGBTQ+ Caucus and the Maryland LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce.
- IX. Meeting adjourned by Committee Chair Caballero at 1:00pm.

Minutes submitted by: Taylor Harer, Special Assistant