

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1152**TITLE: Resolution in Support of Gender Recognition and Inclusivity on Florida Drivers' Licenses****AUTHOR(S): Majority Party Leader Julia Seifer****SPONSOR(S):**

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2024, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles released a memo that limits the ability of Floridians to update or change their ID or drivers' license to accurately represent their gender identity; and,

WHEREAS, this marks the end to previous policy, which had "mirrored the World Professional Association for Transgender Health's recommendations and allowed a transgender person to take a certified doctor's note to the DMV and update their license" to accurately reflect their gender identity [1]; and,

WHEREAS, a 2023 Florida statute, Title XXII: Motor Vehicles, Chapter 322: Driver Licenses [2], does not list "a doctor's note as an approved document for a driver's license application and only mentions gender once without providing a definition" [1]; and,

WHEREAS, according to the memo from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, "the term 'gender'... does not refer to a person's internal sense of his or her gender role or identification, but has historically and commonly been understood as a synonym for 'sex,' which is determined by innate and immutable biological and genetic characteristics.... Permitting an individual to alter his or her license to reflect an internal sense of gender role or identity, which is neither immutable nor objectively verifiable, undermines the purpose of an identification record and can frustrate the state's ability to enforce its laws" [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the memo specifically notes that "misrepresenting one's gender, understood as sex, on a driver license constitutes fraud... and subjects an offender to criminal and civil penalties, including cancellation, suspension, or revocation of his or her driver license" [3]; and,

WHEREAS, as the department is still able to issue a replacement license when a "permit is lost or stolen, or when there is a subsequent change in the licensee's name, address, or restrictions" [3], this policy currently allows for name changes but not gender marker changes. This will not impact transgender Floridians who have already changed their gender marker until they renew their license, which would effectively erase the progress that has been made; and,

WHEREAS, Adrianna Tender, a member of the Board of Governors for the Human Rights Campaign, spoke on this progress by stating that “the ability to change gender markers on official documents has been a crucial step towards inclusivity and understanding for transgender individuals.... The recognition of one’s gender through a simple change on a driver’s license serves as a powerful affirmation and can significantly reduce the negative emotional responses to gender-based mistreatment” [4]; and,

WHEREAS, this new policy through the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles corresponds to CS/HB 1639: Gender and Biological Sex, legislation that seeks to legally define the difference between the words “sex” and “gender” in Florida, and would require driver’s licenses to reflect a person’s sex assigned at birth [5]; and,

WHEREAS, this change in Florida driver’s license policy adds another layer to recent targeted anti-transgender Florida policy, such as restrictions on gender-affirming treatments and bathrooms, which infringes upon the rights and recognition of transgender individuals.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of respecting individuals’ gender identities and supports policies that promote inclusivity of transgender individuals; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages all students and faculty to engage in dialogue, initiatives, and action to uplift the voices of, and provide safety and support to, the transgender community at the University of Florida.

PROVISO: *A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Interim Provost J. Scott Angle, Chief Diversity Officer Marsha McGriff, Vice President for Student Life Dr. Heather White, Deputy Executive Director of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Robert Kynoch, the Presidential LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee, the Office for Accessibility and Gender Identity, Director of LGBTQ+ Cabinet Affairs Riley Towbin, Pride Student Union President Jonathan Stephens, LGBTQ+ Honors Affinity Group Advisor TehQuin D. Forbes, and LGBTQ+ Affairs Programming Director Jamir Wright.*

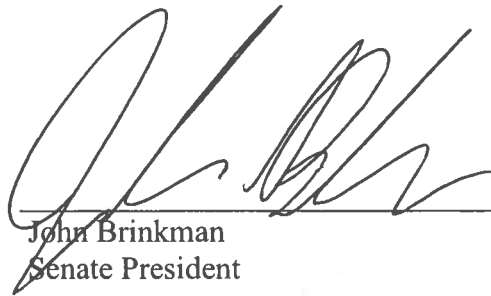
[1] <https://www.abcactionnews.com/news/state/florida-residents-can-no-longer-elect-to-change-their-gender-on-their-drivers-license>

[2] <https://m.flsenate.gov/statutes/322.08>

[3] <https://www.firstcoastnews.com/video/news/regional/florida/transgender-floridians-cannot-change-their-genders-on-their-drivers-licenses-memo-states/77-9cb232ce-ef5c-44f7-ad05-8512530b3241>

[4] <https://www.cnn.com/2024/01/31/us/florida-transgender-drivers-license-reaj/index.html>

[5] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/1639>



John Brinkman
Senate President

3/1/2024

Date