

2020 SESSION

INTRODUCED

20104504D

HOUSE BILL NO. 696

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled January 6, 2020

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-965 of the Code of Virginia, relating to local human rights ordinances.*

Patrons—Roem, Levine, Convirs-Fowler, Hope, Kory, Rasoul, Samirah and Sickles

Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 15.2-965 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 15.2-965. Human rights ordinances and commissions.

A. Any locality may enact an ordinance, not inconsistent with nor more stringent than any applicable state law, prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations, credit, and education on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, national origin, age, marital status, ~~or~~ disability, *sexual orientation, or gender identity*.

B. The locality may enact an ordinance establishing a local commission on human rights which shall have the powers and duties granted by the Virginia Human Rights Act (§ 2.2-3900 et seq.).

C. As used in this section:

"Gender identity" means the gender-related identity, appearance, or other gender-related characteristics of an individual, without regard to the individual's designated sex at birth.

"Sexual orientation" means a person's actual or perceived heterosexuality, bisexuality, or homosexuality.

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