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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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### AB 1084 (Zbur) - Change of name and gender and sex identifier

**Version:** May 23, 2025

**Urgency:** Yes

**Hearing Date:** August 18, 2025

**Policy Vote:** JUD. 11 - 1, HEALTH 9 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Liah Burnley

**Bill Summary:** AB 1084 streamlines the legal process for changing a person's name.

**Fiscal Impact:** Unknown, potentially significant costs to the state funded trial court system (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) to fast track petitions to change a person's name. The fiscal impact of this bill to the courts will depend on many unknowns, including the number of petitions filed and the factors unique to each case. However, there could be cost savings to the extent that the court is not required to hold hearings on certain petitions. An eight-hour court day costs approximately \$10,500 in staff in workload. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources and to increase the amount appropriated to backfill for trial court operations.

**Background:** According to the author:

Transgender and nonbinary people across the country are facing relentless attacks that are part of a coordinated effort to both make it more difficult for them to live safely and openly as their authentic selves and to erase transgender people from public life entirely. AB 1084 will help to ensure that transgender and nonbinary people do not experience unnecessary delays in obtaining accurate identification documents in California so that they can better protect themselves from growing legal threats to their safety and wellbeing and reduce their vulnerability to discrimination and harassment.

Indeed, the current Trump administration has spearheaded a vicious anti-transgender crusade. Examples of the administration's push to exclude transgendered people from public life include executive orders that mandate federal departments define gender as an unchangeable male-female binary determined by sex assigned at conception; require the replacement of "gender" with "sex" in all materials; prohibit gender self-identification on federal documents and the use of federally funded facilities congruent with one's gender identity; and, to potentially remove Title VII protection based on gender identity in federal activities.<sup>1</sup> Executive orders also limit federal funding for K-12 schools that promote what the order defines as "gender ideology" and "discriminatory

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<sup>1</sup> Executive Order 14168, "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government"

equity ideology”;<sup>2</sup> prohibit transgender female athletes of all ages from participating in girls’ and women’s sports teams;<sup>3</sup> ban transgender individuals from serving in the armed forces;<sup>4</sup> and, prevent gender-affirming care for Americans under nineteen.<sup>5</sup>

**Proposed Law:**

- Provides that, if a proceeding for a change of name to conform an adult petitioner’s name to their gender identity is commenced by the filing of a petition, the court shall, without hearing and within six weeks of the petition’s filing, enter an order that the change of name is granted.
- Provides that, if a proceeding for a change of name to conform a minor petitioner’s name to their gender identity is commenced by the filing of a petition, and that petition includes the signatures of all of the minor’s living parents, the court shall, without hearing and within six weeks of the filing of the petition, enter an order that the change of name is granted.
- Provides that, if a proceeding for change of name to conform a minor petitioner’s name to their gender identity is commenced by the filing of a petition, and that petition does not include the signatures of all of the minor’s living parents, all of the following apply:
  - The court shall make an order reciting the filing of the petition, the name of the person by whom it is filed, and the name proposed;
  - The order shall direct all persons interested in the matter to make known any objection to the change of name by filing a written objection, which includes any reasons for the objection, within six weeks of the making of the order, and shall state that if no objection showing good cause to oppose the name change is filed, the court shall, without hearing, enter the order that the change of name is granted as soon as possible after the completion of the six weeks;
  - The petition and the order shall be served on any parent who did not sign the petition, within 30 days from the date on which the order is made by the court, as specified;
  - A hearing date shall not be set in the proceeding unless an objection is timely filed and shows good cause for opposing the name change;
  - Objections based solely on concerns that the proposed change is not the petitioner’s actual gender identity or gender assigned at birth shall not constitute good cause; and,

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<sup>2</sup> Executive Order 14190, “Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling”

<sup>3</sup> Executive Order 14201, “Keeping Men Out of Women’s Sports”

<sup>4</sup> Executive Order 14183, “Prioritizing Military Excellence and Readiness”

<sup>5</sup> Executive Order 14187, “Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation”

- At the hearing, the court may examine under oath any of the petitioners, remonstrants, or other persons touching the petition or application, and may make an order changing the name or dismissing the petition or application as the court may deem right and proper.
- Provides that the proceeding for a change of name to conform the petitioner's name to the petitioner's gender identity is exempt from any requirement for publication.
- Eliminates the 30-day deadline requirement for the petitioner file a judgment ordering a new birth certificate or marriage license and certificate to be filed with the State Registrar or county clerk.

**Related Legislation:** AB 59 (Weiner) extends the existing confidentiality provisions regarding court documents related to a minor's change of name, gender, and sex identifier to all Californians. AB 59 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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