
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1084
Author: Zbur (D), et al.
Amended: 9/5/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-1, 7/1/25

AYES: Umberg, Allen, Arreguín, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Stern, Wahab,
Weber Pierson, Wiener

NOES: Niello

NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 9-0, 7/16/25

AYES: Menjivar, Durazo, Gonzalez, Limón, Padilla, Richardson, Rubio, Weber
Pierson, Wiener

NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares, Grove

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/29/25

AYES: Caballero, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 60-13, 6/4/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Change of name and gender and sex identifier

SOURCE: Equality California

DIGEST: This bill streamlines the process for legally changing one's name, including a change of name to match a person's gender identity.

Senate Floor Amendments of 9/5/25 remove the urgency clause from the bill and delay implementation until July 1, 2026.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Provides that a person may file a petition with a superior court seeking a judgment recognizing the change of gender to female, male, or nonbinary. If requested, the judgment shall include an order that a new birth certificate be prepared reflecting the change of gender and any name change accomplished by an order of a court of this state, another state, the District of Columbia, or any territory of the United States. (Health & (Safety) Saf. Code § 103425.)
- 2) Provides the process for a petitioner seeking a court order to recognize a change in the petitioner's gender and sex identifier as female, male, or nonbinary and to direct the issuance of new administrative documents to reflect those changes. (Health & Saf. Code § 103430.)
- 3) Requires the court to grant the above petition without a hearing if no written objection is timely filed. The relevant court order can include an order for a new birth certificate reflecting the petitioner's change in gender and name, where applicable. The law provides additional processes for a petitioner under 18 years of age. (Health & Saf. Code § 103430.)
- 4) Authorizes a single petition to be filed to change the petitioner's name and recognize the change to the petitioner's gender, and, if requested, to order the issuance of a new birth certificate. It further provides for the filing of such court orders with the Secretary of State and the State Registrar, as specified. (Health & Saf. Code §§ 103435, 103445, 103725.)
- 5) Provides the court procedures for effectuating the above changes. (Code of Civil Procedure (Civ. Proc.) § 1275 et seq.)
- 6) Provides that if a proceeding for a change of name to conform the petitioner's name to the petitioner's gender identity is commenced by the filing of a petition, the court shall thereupon 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 timely filed, the court shall, without hearing, enter the order that the change of name is granted. (Code Civ. Proc. § 1277.5(a)(1).)

- 7) Provides that if a petition is filed to change the name of a minor to conform to gender identity that does not include the signatures of both living parents, the petition and the order to show cause shall be served on the parent who did not sign the petition, within 30 days from the date on which the order is made by the court. If service cannot reasonably be accomplished, the court may order that service be accomplished in a manner that the court determines is reasonably calculated to give actual notice to the parent who did not sign the petition. (Code Civ. Proc. § 1277.5(a)(2).)
- 8) Exempts a proceeding for a change of name to conform the petitioner's name to the petitioner's gender identity from any requirement for publication. (Code Civ. Proc. § 1277.5(b).)
- 9) Prohibits a hearing date from being 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. 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. (Code Civ. Proc. § 1277.5(c).)

This bill:

- 1) Eliminates the process whereby a person may object to an adult's petition for a change of name for a period of six weeks after the petition is filed with the court.
- 2) Requires the court to enter an order without hearing approving of an adult's petition for a change of name within six weeks of receiving the petition.
- 3) Requires a court to enter an order without hearing approving of a minor's petition for a change of name within six weeks of receiving the petition if all of the minor's living parents have signed the petition.
- 4) Provides that a court may only deny a minor's petition for a change of name in the presence of good cause, which cannot be based solely on concerns that the proposed change is not the petitioner's actual gender identity or gender assigned at birth, and where all living parents have not signed the petition.

5) Expedites the timelines for the granting of petitions, as provided.

6) Delays implementation until July 1, 2026.

Background

In 2017, SB 179 (Atkins, Chapter 853, Statutes of 2017) restructured the processes for individuals to change their names and genders to conform with their gender identity and to have these changes reflected on their birth certificates. In addition, a streamlined process was established for changing one's name and gender and having an updated birth certificate issued as part of a single petition. Specific guidelines and required procedures were laid out for petitioners.

AB 218 (Ward, Chapter 577, Statutes of 2021) incorporated into those processes the ability to likewise change a petitioner's gender or sex identifier and name on their marriage certificate and their children's birth certificates. It subjected such updating to similar procedural requirements and included additional provisions to account for objecting spouses and children. It also extended recognition to underlying orders from foreign courts and provided eligibility to persons not born or residing in the state, as specified.

Comments

Code of Civil Procedure section 1277.5 provides the procedure for handling change of name petitions. Currently the court must 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 timely filed, the court shall, without hearing, enter the order that the change of name is granted. Additional procedural requirements apply where the petitioner is a minor and all living parents have not signed the petition.

This bill streamlines the process for legally changing one's name, including a change of name to match the person's gender identity.

The bill is sponsored by Equality California and supported by a number of advocacy organizations, including the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. It is opposed by the Lighthouse Baptist Church.

This bill expedites these processes considerably. It eliminates the ability to object to petitions brought by adults and for minors whose petitions are signed by all living parents. Furthermore, it converts the six-week period into a maximum waiting period, requiring courts to grant such petitions without hearing within six weeks of the filing. This bill also expedites various timelines for the court to enter related orders.

The author identifies another issue:

Current law requires a petitioner to file a judgment ordering a new birth certificate or marriage certificate with the State Registrar or county clerk, as applicable, within 30 days from the date of the judgment. However, in some counties, judgments are not available to the petitioner until seven to ten business days after the court grants it, and if a mailed request is made for copies of the court order, it can take three to six weeks for the copies to arrive. The 30-day statutory deadline is not feasible for many petitioners and is generally not enforced.

This bill removes this timeline from the relevant statutes.

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.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 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.

SUPPORT: (Verified 9/9/25)

Equality California (source)

APLA Health

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Southern California

Bienestar Human Services

California Civil Liberties Advocacy

California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus

California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network

CFT — A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO

City of San Jose

Courage California

East Bay Community Law Center

Ella Baker Center for Human Rights

Grace Institute - End Child Poverty in CA

LGBTQ+ Inclusivity, Visibility, and Empowerment

Los Angeles LGBT Center

PFLAG Sacramento

Public Counsel - Tay

Radiant Health Centers

Rainbow Families Action Bay Area

San Francisco Aids Foundation

OPPOSITION: (Verified 9/9/25)

California Baptist for Biblical Values

California Catholic Conference

California Family Council

Cause: Californians United for Sex-based Evidence in Policy and Law

Lighthouse Baptist Church

Real Impact.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Equality California, the sponsor of this bill, writes:

Under existing law, an individual seeking a court order recognizing their gender change and changing their legal name must wait a minimum of six weeks for anyone who has an objection to file a written objection with the court. However, the six-week waiting period is burdensome and unnecessary as name and gender change petitions for minors are confidential, and for adults and minors who have consent from both of their parents, there is no notification or publication requirement. AB 1084 streamlines and expedites the process for transgender and nonbinary Californians to obtain a court-ordered name and gender change by eliminating the six-week mandatory waiting period for uncontested petitions and requiring court orders for uncontested petitions to be issued within six weeks.

The Transgender Records Act is crucial and timely legislation to ensure that transgender and nonbinary Californians can swiftly obtain accurate identification documents to protect themselves from growing legal threats and reduce their vulnerability to discrimination and harassment.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The Lighthouse Baptist Church writes in opposition:

While AB 1084 pretends to recognize parental involvement by requiring the consent of both parents for minors, it simultaneously undermines that authority by nullifying objections based on belief in biological sex. The bill states that a court must disregard any parental concern if it is based on the view that “the proposed change is not the petitioner’s actual gender identity or gender assigned at birth.”

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 60-13, 6/4/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff

Gonzalez, Hadwick, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez

NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Hoover, Lackey, Ramos, Ta, Tangipa

Prepared by: Christian Kurpiewski / JUD. / (916) 651-4113

9/9/25 17:11:19

**** **END** ****