



Legislation Details

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Title: WHEREAS, current Pennsylvania law provides basic legal protection against discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, age, national origin, handicap or disability, education and the use of a guide dog, but not sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; and WHEREAS, House Bill 300 would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (PHRA) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, thereby providing basic protection to ensure fairness for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Pennsylvanians; and WHEREAS, the City of Pittsburgh has and always will protect its residents against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression through local ordinance passed almost two decades ago; and
 WHEREAS, twenty states, including the neighboring states of Maryland, New Jersey, and New York already have laws protecting gay, lesbian, and bisexual people from discrimination, and thirteen states also prohibit discrimination against transgender people through legislation or case law; and
 WHEREAS, 462 Fortune 500 companies, including all 27 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Pennsylvania, prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation, in recognition of the fact that attracting and retaining the best workers is critical, and that employers with a reputation for respecting diversity are at a competitive advantage with these protections; and
 WHEREAS, HB 300 has the support of the Pennsylvania State Human Relations Commission, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Realtors Association, and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), as well as 70% of Pennsylvania voters surveyed in a November 2007 poll of likely voters conducted by Susquehanna Polling and Research; and
 WHEREAS, the prime sponsor of HB 300 is Rep. Dan Frankel of Pittsburgh, who is joined in supporting the legislation by at least 79 cosponsors, including at least 14 other state representatives from southwestern Pennsylvania;

Sponsors: Bruce A. Kraus, Patrick Dowd, Darlene M. Harris, Jim Motznik, Tonya D. Payne, William Peduto, Douglas Shields, Theresa Kail-Smith

Indexes: PROCLAMATION - MR. KRAUS

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. 2009-1185.doc

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
3/10/2009	1	City Council	Adopted	Pass