

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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September 6, 2018
Start: 11:42 a.m.
Recess: 11:46 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.
14th Fl.

B E F O R E: MARK LEVINE
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Inez D. Barron
Mathieu Eugene
Keith Powers

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

2 [sound check]

3 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: ...a statement
4 afterwards. Okay, thank you Council Member Barron,
5 and thank you especially Council Member Ampry-Samuel
6 for waiting. Would you please call the roll Matt.
7 Thank you.

8 CLERK: Committee Clerk Matthew
9 DeStefano, Committee on Health. Roll call vote for
10 Proposed Intro 954-A, Chair Levine.

11 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: I vote aye .

12 CLERK: Barron.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I abstain.

14 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I vote aye.

16 CLERK: The vote stands with 2 in the
17 affirmative and one abstention. The vote stands.

18 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Thank you both. I'm
19 going to read this statement. No need to stay if you
20 don't want to, but I am Mark Levine and we are here
21 at the Committee on Health to vote on Intro 954-A.
22 This legislation would allow individuals to amend the
23 sex designation on their birth certificate without
24 requiring the affirmation of a physician or a health
25 professional. Instead, the legislation would require

2 a signed and notarized statement by the applicant
3 attesting that the request for a change in sex
4 designation is to conform the person's legal gender
5 to the person's gender identity. The bill would also
6 allow individuals who don't identify as an
7 exclusively male or female to change the sex
8 designation on their birth certificate to an X.
9 Birth certificates are vital documents that are used
10 in many contexts to prove identity, age and
11 citizenship. They're often the only form of ID that
12 allow for low-income New Yorkers when they're
13 applying for jobs or public benefits. Without a
14 birth certificate that accurately reflects their
15 gender identity, transgender people are routinely
16 forced to disclose their transgender status resulting
17 in increased difficulty in accessing critical
18 services and opportunities. Local Law 1 adopted by
19 the Council in 2015 finally remove the antiquated
20 requirements for individuals to present proof of sex
21 reassignment surgery to amend the gender marker on
22 their birth certificates. Local Law 1 allowed
23 individuals to amend the gender on their birth
24 certificates by having a medical or mental health
25 professional fill out an affidavit or affirmation

2 attesting that the changed sex designation more
3 accurately reflects the applicant's gender identity.
4 Since the passage of Local Law 1 more transgender
5 individuals were able to change the sex designation
6 on the birth certificate to reflect their gender
7 identify. Over 1,000 birth certificate gender marker
8 change applications have been approved since January
9 of 2015 compared to approximately 20 per year in
10 previous years. A birth certificate is a critical
11 document, and having one that correctly reflects your
12 gender identity is a basic human right. In passing
13 Proposed Intro 954-A New York City would join the
14 ranks of jurisdictions like California and Washington
15 State, which have enacted similar legislation to make
16 it easier for individuals to ensure the gender on
17 their birth certificate is consistent with their
18 gender identity. I want to express my gratitude to
19 the advocacy groups for their critical input to the
20 Council on this important legislation. I want to
21 thank the Speaker for his continued dedication to
22 this issue over many years, and I want to allow
23 Council Member Dr. Mathieu Eugene to register their
24 vote as well. Matt, if you could please.

25 CLERK: Council Member Eugene.

1 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye and
3 thank Mark, Mr. Chair.

4 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Thank you, Council
5 Member Eugene, and we are now I believe going to
6 close the vote or—

7 CLERK: I have to announce the vote. By
8 a vote of 3 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative,
9 and 1 abstention, the bill has been adopted.

10 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Alright, thank you
11 very much, and we're going to close the hearing.

12 [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date September 11, 2018