

safety and privacy

MFI
LEGISLATIVE
BRIEF

As of July 1, 2012, the new transgender rights law made “gender identity” a protected class in the existing hate crime and non-discrimination laws. According to the language in the law, “gender identity” can be ‘proven’ by merely expressing that it is “sincerely held.” The law is silent on the use of public facilities.

However, in February of 2013, the **Board of Education issued a ‘policy guidance document’ that informed grade K–12 school principals that they must allow boys and girls of any age who self-identify as transgender to use the public school bathroom and locker room of their choosing.**



The policy also informs coaches and athletic directors that they must allow students to **“participate on the team that is consistent with the student’s gender identity.”**

This means, for example, that a 17 year old boy must be allowed to play on a girls’ basketball team AND shower with them after the game.

Of all places, public school bathrooms should be a place of privacy and security, but the guidelines recently issued by the Board of Education cite the Transgender Rights Law as the authority for opening K through 12 grade bathrooms and locker rooms to whatever gender wants to use them. The goes against the clearly stated intent of the Legislature.

The guidelines even recommend that **if a child speaks out against the policy or expresses discomfort** with a person of the opposite sex in the bathroom or locker room, **the uncomfortable student should be disciplined.**

HB1320 An Act Relative to Privacy and Safety in Public Accommodations would expressly state that the **Transgender Law does not apply to private spaces** such as bathrooms and locker rooms, restoring the protections of privacy and modesty for students in our schools.

Please support HB1320 to protect the privacy and safety of all children.

Public bathrooms should be a place of privacy, modesty and security, but the new transgender rights law is being exploited to change all that. Although legislators promised that it “wasn’t a bathroom bill,” transgender activists are already using it to force their way into bathrooms and locker-rooms in the public schools.

