

HB24-1039: Non-Legal Name Changes

APPROVED by Governor and took effect on April 29, 2024.

Overview

This bill clarifies the responsibility of school districts to adhere to non-discrimination laws, including addressing students by their self-identified preferred names, independent of a court-ordered legal name change.

School personnel are required to address a student by the student's chosen name and to use the student's chosen name in school and during extracurricular activities.

The act deems it discriminatory to knowingly or intentionally use a name other than the student's chosen name or knowingly or intentionally avoiding or refusing to use a student's chosen name, unless done at the request of the student.

School Impact

Schools are required to implement a written policy outlining how the school will honor a student's request to use a chosen name. Schools are required to use the preferred name in the classroom and on items like rosters, the yearbook and the student's ID. Refusal to do so would be deemed a form of discrimination.

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Sponsors: Sen. Faith Winter (D), Senator Janice Marchman (D), Rep. Stephanie Vigil (D), Rep. Brianna Titone (D)