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State Nondiscrimination Laws: Public Accommodations

No updates required since February 28, 2025

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Background

Public accommodations nondiscrimination laws protect people from being unfairly refused service, denied entry to, or other discriminated against in public places because of some aspect of who they are. The definition of “public accommodations” differs by state, but generally these laws cover anywhere someone is when they are not at home, work, or school, such as retail stores, restaurants, parks, hotels, doctors’ offices, and banks. While state laws vary, these laws commonly include protections against discrimination based on race, religion, age, disability, sex, and—less commonly—sexual orientation or gender identity.

Equality Maps & Additional Resources

- See our [Equality Map: Public Accommodations Nondiscrimination Laws](#), which is updated and maintained in real time alongside this document.
 - See also our [Equality Map: Local-Level Public Accommodations Nondiscrimination Ordinances](#), which is also updated and maintained in real time. Lists of municipalities with local-level nondiscrimination ordinances can be found on each state profile page on our website.
- For more on LGBTQ people’s economic experiences, including in housing, see our landing pages on [economic security](#), [housing](#), and [more](#).



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State-by-State Sources & More Detail

Alabama

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Alaska

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity
- Formerly, following the June 2020 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in [Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia](#), the Alaska state agency explicitly interpreted existing state protections against discrimination based on sex to include both sexual orientation and gender identity for employment, housing, public accommodations, credit/lending, and government agencies/practices. See archived capture of [Alaska State Commission for Human Rights](#) (announced Dec 2020), agency [social media post](#) (Dec 2020), and [subsequent guidance](#) with further detail (Feb 2021). However, under pressure from conservative interest groups amid the 2022 election season, in August 2022 the agency rescinded its interpretation for all areas except for employment, which was explicitly covered by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Bostock*. See [this coverage](#) for more details about this reversal, and see also the agency's [social media post](#) announcing the change (August 2022).

Arizona

- State attorney general explicitly interprets existing protections against discrimination based on sex to include both sexual orientation and gender identity
- See Attorney General's [statement](#) (2023)

Arkansas

- State has law preventing passage or enforcement of local nondiscrimination laws
- See [Ark. Code Ann. § 14-1-403](#) (2015)

California

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [A.B. 1400](#) (2005) for both sexual orientation and gender identity

Colorado

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law covers sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [C.R.S. 24-34-601](#). Amended to include sexual orientation (defined to include “transgender status,” see [CRS §24-34-301](#)) in 2008 ([SB 08-200](#)).



Connecticut

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [CGS Ch. 814c §46a-60](#). Amended to include sexual orientation in 1991 ([HB 7133](#)) and to include gender identity in 2011 ([HB 6599](#)).

Delaware

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [SB 121](#) (2009) for sexual orientation and [SB 97](#) (2013) for gender identity.

District of Columbia

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [D.C. Code § 2-1402.31](#). Passed, including sexual orientation, in 1973. Re-adopted as the D.C. Human Rights Act in 1977. Amended to include gender identity in 2006 ([Law 16-58](#)).

Florida

- State agency explicitly interprets existing protections against discrimination based on sex to include both sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [Florida Commission on Human Rights](#) (2020), including Section 5 of the [intake questionnaire for public accommodations discrimination complaints](#)

Georgia

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Hawai`i

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [Hawai`i Rev. Stat. §489-3](#) (2006)

Idaho

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Illinois

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [775 ILCS 5/1-102](#) (signed into law 2005, effective 2006)



Indiana

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Iowa

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation only
- See [Iowa Code § 216.7](#), [SF 427](#) (2007) adding sexual orientation and gender identity, and [SF 418](#) (2025), removing gender identity.

Kansas

- State agency explicitly interprets existing protections against discrimination based on sex to include both sexual orientation and gender identity
- See Kansas Human Rights Commission's [Statement on Bostock](#) (2020)

Kentucky

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Louisiana

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Maine

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 5, §4591, §4592](#) (2005)

Maryland

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [S.B. 212](#) (2001 for sexual orientation protection and 2014 for gender identity protection)

Massachusetts

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [Mass. Gen. Laws Ch 272 §92A](#), amended to include sexual orientation in 1989 and gender identity in 2016 ([S.735](#))



Michigan

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law covers sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [SB4](#) (2023), as well as the Michigan Supreme Court's decision in [Rouch World LLC v. Department of Civil Rights](#) (July 2022).
- Formerly, state agency explicitly interpreted existing protections against discrimination based on sex to include both sexual orientation and gender identity. See Michigan Civil Rights Commission's [Interpretive Statement](#) (2018).

Minnesota

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [Minn. Stat. § 363A.11](#) (1993)

Mississippi

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Missouri

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Montana

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Nebraska

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Nevada

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [S.B. 207](#) (2009) and [S.B. 331](#) (2011)

New Hampshire

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [HB 421](#) (1997) for sexual orientation and [HB 1319](#) (2018) for gender identity



New Jersey

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [N.J. Stat. § 10:5-4](#), and [10:5-12](#) amended to include sexual orientation in 1992 and amended to include gender identity in 2007

New Mexico

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [H.B. 314](#) (2003)

New York

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [SB 720](#) (2002) for sexual orientation and [SB 1047](#) (2019) for gender identity
- Prior to 2019, the [New York Code of Rules and Regulations §466](#) prohibited gender identity discrimination, via executive order (2015).

North Carolina

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity
- Previously, state law prevented passage or enforcement of local nondiscrimination laws. See [HB2](#) (2016) and [HB142](#) (2017). The part of HB 142 that preempted local ordinances expired on December 1, 2020.

North Dakota

- State agency explicitly interprets existing protections against discrimination based on sex to include both sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [North Dakota Department of Labor and Human Rights statement](#) (2020)

Ohio

- State agency explicitly interprets existing protections against discrimination based on sex to include both sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [Ohio Civil Rights Commission](#) (2021)

Oklahoma

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Oregon

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [S.B. 2](#) (2007)



Pennsylvania

- State regulations and agency both explicitly interpret existing protections against discrimination based on sex to include both sexual orientation and gender identity
- Regulations: [53 Pa.B. 3188](#) (2023)
- Agency: See Pennsylvania's Human Relations Commission's [Guidance on Discrimination on the Basis of Sex Under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act \(PHRA\)](#) (2018).

Rhode Island

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [Rhode Island Stat. § 11-24-2](#), amended in 1995 to include sexual orientation and in 2001 to include gender identity

South Carolina

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

South Dakota

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Tennessee

- State has law preventing passage or enforcement of local nondiscrimination laws
- See [Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-51-1802](#) (2011)

Texas

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Utah

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Vermont

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [Vt. Stat. tit. 9, § 4502](#), amended to include sexual orientation in 1992 and amended to include gender identity in 2007 ([SB 51](#))

Virginia

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [SB 868](#) (2020)



Washington

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [Wash. Rev. Code § 49-60-215](#) (2006)

West Virginia

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Wisconsin

- State public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation only
- See [Wis. Stat. § 106.52](#) (1982)

Wyoming

- No state public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

U.S. Territories

American Samoa

- No territory-level public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Guam

- No territory-level public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

- No territory-level public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

Puerto Rico

- No territory-level public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerating sexual orientation or gender identity

U.S. Virgin Islands

- Territory public accommodations nondiscrimination law enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity
- See [Bill 34-0271](#) (2023) and [10 V.I.C. § 64.](#)