



# Borough of Chambersburg

*A full service municipality in Franklin County celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service over 120 years of community electric and a regional wastewater, water, storm sewer and municipal solid waste utility*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Chambersburg Borough Approves Resolution Urging the Pennsylvania General Assembly to Enact Legislation to Protect Citizens from Acts of Discrimination

Chambersburg – On January 22, 2018, Town Council approved a Resolution urging the Pennsylvania General Assembly to enact proposed Senate Bill 613.

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (“PHRA”), the current State Law, does not currently prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

In light of the PHRA’s failure to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, numerous Pennsylvania municipalities have adopted local ordinances prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in employment. These local laws were reviewed by the Borough Solicitor.

Issues of discrimination are handled on the State and Federal level.

Town Council choose to approve a Resolution in support of a new State Law, Senate Bill 613, currently before the Senate State Government Committee, which would amend the PHRA to expand prohibited acts of discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

The enactment of Senate Bill 613 would alleviate the need for municipalities to adopt local ordinances to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

The item represents a policy position for the Town Council of the Borough of Chambersburg.

It was placed on the January 22, 2018, agenda by a motion of Council Member Mike Herbert on Monday, January 8, 2018.

The item appeared on the January 8, 2018, agenda after a request from a series of members of Town Council following a Town Council Executive Session legal review on Monday, December 11, 2017.

The item had a legal review in Executive Session on Monday, December 11, 2017, in response to a request a former member of Town Council, Mr. Sean Scott, who made the request in a public meeting in November 2017.

The adopted Resolution appeared on the Borough of Chambersburg’s agenda management website prior to its adoption.

Chambersburg Borough is represented in the Pennsylvania Senate by Sen. Richard Alloway and in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives by Rep. Rob Kauffman. A copy of the Resolution will be delivered to both.

Please refer all inquires and questions to either Heath Talhelm, Town Council President at [htalhelm@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:htalhelm@chambersburgpa.gov) or Alice Elia, Town Council Vice-President at [aelia@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:aelia@chambersburgpa.gov).

A copy of the Resolution is enclosed for your reference and reproduction.

Chambersburg is a unique community. Chambersburg supplies more services than any other municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions, Chambersburg is Pennsylvania’s only municipality supplying electric and gas. Chambersburg is 1 of 35 Boroughs to operate a municipal non-profit electric utility. Chambersburg is the largest municipal electric utility in the State, twice as large as the second largest, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and, the only one to operate generation stations. Chambersburg is 1 of 2 municipalities in PA to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is 1 of 2,000 communities to have its own electric system and 1 of 800 communities to have a natural gas system but 1 of only about 50 to operate both. Chambersburg manages a regional water system, a regional sanitary sewer system (not through an independent Authority), and a new storm sewer utility; one of the first storm sewer utilities to form under the new Federal mandate to regulate stormwater.

Chambersburg currently has 20,508 residents (2013). [www.chambersburgpa.gov](http://www.chambersburgpa.gov)

**A RESOLUTION OF TOWN COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CHAMBERSBURG, FRANKLIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 613, WHICH WOULD AMEND THE PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS ACT TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION BASED ON AN INDIVIDUAL'S SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act ("PHRA") does not currently prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in employment, housing, and public accommodations; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of the PHRA's failure to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, numerous Pennsylvania municipalities have adopted local ordinances prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in employment, housing, and public accommodations; and

**WHEREAS**, although the local ordinances described above purport to be authorized under the PHRA, the municipal prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression is clearly not specifically authorized by the PHRA ; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 613, currently before the Senate State Government Committee, would amend the PHRA to specifically prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations; and

**WHEREAS**, the enactment of Senate Bill 613 would alleviate the need for municipalities to adopt local ordinances to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in employment, housing, and public accommodations; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Borough of Chambersburg and it is hereby resolved by and with the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1: The recitals set forth above are incorporated by reference thereto.

SECTION 2: Town Council of the Borough of Chambersburg urges the Pennsylvania General Assembly to enact Senate Bill 613:

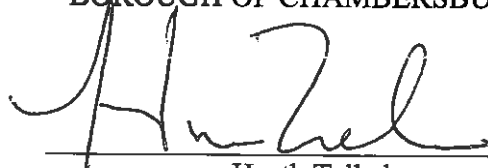
- A. To expressly amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in employment, housing, and public accommodations; and
- B. To alleviate the need for municipalities to enact local ordinances to prohibit discrimination that is not currently prohibited by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.

BE IT DULY RESOLVED by the Chambersburg Town Council at its regularly convened meeting held on the 22nd day of January, 2018.

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF CHAMBERSBURG

  
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Jamia L. Wright  
Borough Secretary

  
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Heath Talhelm  
Council President

Approved this 22nd day of January, 2018.