

Newsom Signs Law Mandating Inmates Be Housed By Gender Identity

Democratic California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation Saturday mandating that transgender inmates be housed in prisons based on the gender with which they identify.

SB 132 requires the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to “house transgender, gender-nonconforming and intersex (TGI) individuals in a manner that matches their gender identity while supporting health and safety,” [according to a press release from Newsom’s office](#).

“California has some of the strongest pro LGBTQ+ laws in the nation and with the bills signed today, our march toward equality takes an additional step forward,” the governor said in a statement. “These new laws will help us better understand the impacts of [COVID-19](#) on the LGBTQ+ community, establish a new fund to support our transgender sisters and brothers and advance inclusive and culturally competent efforts that uphold the dignity of all Californians, regardless of who you are or who you love.”

SB 132 was introduced by Democratic California state Sen. Scott Wiener, a gay politician who represents San Francisco, who also introduced [SB 145](#), which stated that adults less than 10 years older than the minor with whom they are convicted of having anal or oral sex would not automatically be added to the sex offender registry, [according to the San Francisco Chronicle](#).

Yesterday, Governor [@GavinNewsom](#) signed [@Scott_Wiener’s #SB132](#) requiring [@CACorrections](#) to house transgender, gender-nonconforming and intersex people according to their own sense of where they will be safest. [#CaliforniaForAll](#)

<https://t.co/F3Dl1xtcSj>

– Office of the Governor of California (@CAGovernor)
[September 27, 2020](#)

“Thank you Governor Newsom for once again proving you are a champion for LGBTQ people,” Wiener said in a statement, according to the press release. “SB 132 is life-saving legislation that will protect trans people in prison, particularly trans women who are subject to high levels of assault and harassment in men’s facilities.”

“Today is a great day for California’s LGBTQ community and yet another example of California’s deep commitment to LGBTQ equality,” he added.

Officers must ask the inmates privately what gender they identify as, [Fox News reported](#). After this, the inmates can request that they be housed in a prison that aligns with their gender identity, and the corrections facilities [cannot deny](#) this request based on the inmate’s anatomy, the publication reported.

California corrections may deny the request due to “management or security concerns,” however, and if the inmate’s housing request is denied, the inmate will have a “meaningful opportunity” to object to this denial, according to Fox News. The state will have to reassess the inmate’s request if the inmate cites health or safety concerns, the publication reported.

Newsom did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Daily Caller News Foundation.

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