

WHAT'S ON THE LINE?

A NEW YORK STATE LGBTQ+ RIGHTS TIMELINE

1977

As result of transgender tennis player Renee Richards' ban from the U.S. Open, in **Richards v. United States Tennis Ass'n** the New York appellate court rejected the United States Tennis Association requirement that in order to be eligible to participate in a tournament, the plaintiff had to pass a sex-chromatin test. This ruling still protects transgender athletes in New York today.

1982

New York becomes the first state to create a non-discrimination policy for gay and lesbian couples applying to adopt children, stating their applications may not be rejected 'solely on the basis of homosexuality.'

2003

The **Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act (SONDA)** comes into effect, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation in employment, housing, public accommodations, education, credit, and the exercise of civil rights. This law is the first in the country to explicitly name asexuality as a protected sexual orientation.

2008

Through an Executive Order by Governor Paterson, New York starts legally recognizing same-sex marriages that were performed in other states or regions.

1980

Ronald Onofre was convicted for violating New York Penal Law by having consensual sex in the privacy of his own home. He took the matter to court in **New York v. Onofre**, and as a result, same-sex sexual activity between consenting adults becomes legal under the right to privacy afforded to Americans by the Constitution.

1991

New York's **Hate Crimes Act**, just one year old, is amended to cover sexual orientation.

2007

The **Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA)** passes the State House for the first of ten times, dying in the State Senate and not being enacted until 2020.

2011

Same-sex marriage becomes legal in New York State through the **Marriage Equality Act**, signed into law by Governor Cuomo.

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The **Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)** becomes law, which aims

to provide the State's public school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on the basis of different races, weights, national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental or physical abilities, sexual orientations, gender identity, and sexes.

2015

Governor Cuomo directs the New York State Division of Human Rights (DHR) to promulgate regulations banning harassment and discrimination against transgender individuals in employment, housing, education, access to credit, and public accommodations

2019

The **Hate Crimes Act** is amended again to cover gender identity and expression. With this comes the elimination of the 'Gay or Trans Panic' legal defenses as justification for violent crime. Use of gender marker X instead of M or F is made available on court documents and in health care documents for the first time.

2020

13 years after it passes the House for the first time, the **Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA)** takes effect, making discrimination against transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming individuals in employment, housing and education illegal in New York State.

2014

Transgender and gender non-conforming New Yorkers gain the right to change their gender markers without having to show proof they've undergone sex reassignment surgery.

2016

Governor Cuomo announces a series of regulations to ban public and private health care insurers from covering conversion therapy practices used against minors.

2019

Conversion therapy for all ages becomes illegal in New York State under **Bill A576**, after 11 laws eliminating the practice had passed the State Assembly since 2003 but never been enacted into law.

2021

An anti-prostitution bill that was commonly known as the '**Walking while Trans**' bill for the target it put on transgender women of color was repealed by the State Legislature. The **Gender Recognition Act** is signed into law, streamlining the name and gender marker change process, most importantly eliminating the requirement to publish ones' previous and current names along with their current residential address in their local newspaper.