

**ARTICLE 15 BYLAW AMENDMENT/PRIDE COMMISSION**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Bylaws to establish a Pride or GLBTQ Commission to advocate for a culture of respect, promote GLBTQ positive policies and to monitor progress toward equality of all persons with regard to sexual orientation and gender identity within the Town; setting forth the membership, duties and responsibilities, administration, and requirements of such Commission; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted by the Board of Selectmen)

**VOTED:** That Title II of the Town Bylaws (“Committees and Commissions”) be and hereby is amended by inserting a new article to provide for the creation of an Arlington Pride/LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission as follows:

**Article 13: LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission**

**Section 1. LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Established**

There is hereby established an LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission to promote equality-affirming policies regarding the full spectrum of sexual orientations and gender identities, and to bring greater visibility and empowerment to the LGBTQIA+ population through education, advocacy, and collaboration with other Town agencies, schools, and community groups.

**Section 2. Membership**

The Commission shall consist of seven (7) members, six (6) of which are to be appointed by the Town Manager subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen, and one (1) of which shall be appointed by the School Committee. Members shall be appointed to the following initial terms: Two (2) members to a one-year term, two (2) members for two-year terms, and three (3) members for three-year terms, as determined appropriate by the Town Manager and School Committee. All subsequent terms shall be for three years.

Should an appointing authority fail to appoint a successor to a Commission member whose term is expiring, such member may continue to serve until the relevant authority names a successor. A vacancy of the Committee shall be filled by the relevant appointing authority.

**Section 3. Administration and Operation**

The LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission shall not meet or conduct business without the presence of a quorum. A majority of the members of the LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission at any given time shall constitute a quorum and the Commission shall approve its actions by majority vote of the quorum.

**Section 4. Effective Date**

Following Town Meeting approval of this bylaw, this Title shall take effect immediately upon the approval by the Attorney General of the Commonwealth.

(5-0)

**COMMENT:** The Board of Selectmen unanimously support the establishment of a local Pride Commission to be known as the Arlington LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission. The Commission shall serve as an entity to specifically support the Arlington LGBTQIA+ community, promote equality-affirming policies, as well as create and maintain a connection point between our Town and School government and LGBTQIA+ persons. The Board believes that the work of this Commission will build upon the efforts to the Town and School Department to date, especially the Arlington Human Rights Commission, and appreciates the substantial contributions of a variety of stakeholders in bringing this bylaw proposal before Town Meeting.