

# Name changes in N.J. no longer open to the public under Murphy order to benefit transgender residents

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Gov. [Phil Murphy](#) has ordered that name changes in New Jersey will be kept confidential in the state in an action he said is meant to protect transgender residents.

The Democratic governor last week signed an executive order that all name change orders filed with the state Department of Treasury after 1948 are exempt from the Open Public Records Act, which allows people to obtain public records from the government.

“A person’s name change can be a critical step in gender transition or affirmation of their gender identity, but many who wish to change their name have legitimate safety and privacy concerns with maintaining legal records of their name change,” Murphy said in a statement.

Murphy also announced legislation was introduced that would waive the \$50 fee associated with filing for a name change in the state. “With transgender rights coming under fire around the country, New Jersey continues to lead the way in protecting and supporting all members of the LGBTQIA community,” state Sen. Joseph Vitale, D-Middlesex, the bill’s primary sponsor, said in a statement.

In 2021, the New Jersey Supreme Court changed its rules to exclude all name change actions from public access.

”I am proud to sign an executive order today, during Transgender Awareness Week, that will help protect privacy, and support New Jerseyans who wish to change their names without fear for their safety.”