

# Senate Bill 8 Explained

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## Official Bill Caption

Relating to the designation and use of certain spaces and facilities according to sex; authorizing a civil penalty and a private civil right of action.

## What it Does

SB 8 was passed during the second special session, takes effect December 4, 2025, and requires state agencies and political subdivisions (cities, counties, school districts, etc.) to:

- Designate multiple-occupancy private spaces like locker rooms and bathrooms as being for either males or females.
- “Take every reasonable step” to ensure people only use the private space that corresponds with their sex as it is defined in the bill.
- Apply the law to correctional facilities and adults in family violence shelters.

Exceptions: children 9 years of age and under, elderly people, or people with disabilities who may need assistance in private spaces.

Entities not complying can be investigated by the Attorney General, sued, and fined \$25,000 for the first violation and \$125,000 for each additional violation.

## Why it Matters

This cruel, unnecessary bill leaves transgender and intersex Texans vulnerable to invasive gender tests; harassment; humiliation; and even violence simply for going about their daily lives. It puts a similar target on people who are not transgender but whose appearance doesn't match traditional gender expectations.

The bill authors could not point to any harm justifying SB 8. Legislators who voted for it chose to stoke paranoia and fear of our transgender neighbors to score political points.

Texans deserve safety and respect, not government overreach that strips away our dignity.

## What's Next

In 2026, TFN and our youth organizing arm, Texas Rising Action, will endorse candidates who fight for every Texan's right to live authentically and with dignity — free from government overreach targeting transgender Texans.

Texas Freedom Network will continue to fight alongside LGBTQIA+ Texans and families until they are fairly represented in our state.

**We're building power to create the Texas we deserve. Join our movement for change at [www.tfn.org/join-us!](http://www.tfn.org/join-us!)**

