



Illinois Pols Mock Transgenders

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The Illinois House debated a bill streamlining the process for changing a birth certificate when someone completes gender reassignment surgery abroad this week immediately after taking up one on neutering deer. Representative Chapin Rose, a Republican, said they might start issuing sex-change certificates to deer.

Representative Bill Black, also Republican, who opposed recognizing non-surgical gender transition, said, "Maybe you went somewhere and a voodoo doctor said you were a man, where you had been a woman." Black added, "I've often thought that perhaps I was a female in a male body... I wish I didn't have to shave every day... I'd like to smell better. I'd like to have softer skin."

Matt Foreman of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said in a written statement, "Rose and Black have sunk to new lows with their repugnant and boorish comments." He added, "Let Don Imus be a lesson for us all. There will be no more profit or pleasure to be gained by describing the lives of others in contemptuous and defensive terms. We've had enough of trash talk from public figures and elected leaders."

The bill was defeated 78 to 32.