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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
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**SB401: Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings -  
Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (the “Accessible to All Act”)  
Senate Finance Committee  
Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 12:00 PM**

Most of us don't think twice about using a gender-neutral restroom in a hotel, hospital, or airplane. However, in many public establishments, we face the unnecessary inconvenience of single-occupant, gender-divided facilities. Labeling these restrooms with gender-specific signs can limit access for parents with young children; women who experience longer wait times; caretakers of the disabled; and those who identify as transgender.

SB401 would require all public single-occupancy restrooms to have gender-inclusive signage. New signs are available for purchase online for as little as \$15.

This bill would:

- Make restrooms more available for women who take three minutes, about twice as long as men (84 seconds), causing lengthy lines;
- Ensure that people with disabilities no longer have to locate gender-specific facilities;
- Allow parents and caretakers to enter a restroom with their family member or patient; and
- Protect transgender people who may feel uncomfortable or face harassment.

In 2019, Baltimore City enacted a law that requires single-user public restrooms to use gender-inclusive signage. In the past three years, California, Vermont, Maine, Illinois, and New Mexico have also enacted similar legislation. Many national companies, like Starbucks and Chipotle, and countless small businesses across Maryland, already use this type of signage.

SB401 is a common-sense solution to make using the restroom a little less complicated. In addition, I'm offering an amendment that would clarify the definition of “Gender-Inclusive Signage” and ensure that establishments have more time to update their signs.

I urge a favorable report on SB401 with the clarifying amendment.