



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
Park and Planning Commission

POSITION STATEMENT

Bill: HB 941 Public health- public buildings- hygiene products

Position: Informational

Date: March 4, 2026

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Dear Chair Melissa Wells,

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (“M-NCPPC” or the “Commission”) has not voted on this bill. However, staff have offered an informational statement with suggested recommendations to consider.

What this bill Does. The purpose of requiring public restrooms in public buildings to provide an adequate supply of certain hygiene products; and generally relating to hygiene products in public buildings.

Suggested Recommendations

(D) “PUBLIC RESTROOM” MEANS A SANITARY FACILITY AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT CONTAINS AT LEAST ONE TOILET OR URINAL.

The Montgomery Parks Department has 303 restroom sites (across 175 parks). According to Parks outreach and surveys, residents rank restrooms as one of the most important amenities needed in parks. In response, the Montgomery Parks Department is undertaking a multi-year effort to evaluate current restroom conditions and identify where improvements – including additional restrooms - are needed.

Operation and Fiscal Impacts. As currently drafted, HB0941 would have significant operational and fiscal impacts. The Parks Department uses hundreds of portable restrooms and vaulted toilets to provide restroom access in parks, especially near amenities like athletic fields. These lack water infrastructure and cannot be reasonably modified to comply with this

legislation. The unintended consequences of the bill may be the removal of these restroom facilities from parks, reducing public access to restrooms rather than enhancing or improving it.

In addition, the requirement to provide feminine hygiene would cause significant fiscal and operational impacts and the cumulative cost of implementation across all facilities must be carefully considered. The impacts include the ongoing supply and replenishment costs across all qualifying facilities, installation of appropriate dispensers where not currently present, increased staff time for monitoring, restocking and maintenance, and potential increases in waste management needs.

We respectfully recommend:

1. The exemption for portable restrooms and vaulted (non-plumbed) toilets.
2. Consideration of fiscal and operational impacts associated with supplying menstrual hygiene products in fixed public buildings.