

HB 10 Public Buildings - Changing Facilities for Adult Diapers –SUPPORT
Health and Government Operations Committee
January 29th, 2020

Good Afternoon Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Health and Government Committee. I am Tammy Bresnahan, Director of Advocacy for AARP MD. As you know, AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in the Free State, encompassing almost 900,000 members.

I am here today to support HB 10 Public Buildings - Changing Facilities for Adult Diapers with Delegate Ebersole's amendments. This bill generally requires a diaper-changing facility suitable for changing the diaper of both a child and an adult to be installed in at least one public restroom within a public building constructed on or after October 1, 2020. The requirement also applies to a public restroom (in an existing public building) that is built or substantially renovated on or after that date. Exceptions are established.

Around the country, there are a handful of places that have installed private family restrooms equipped with adult changing tables. The airports in Phoenix, Baltimore and Orlando are a few.ⁱ

Similar to infant changing tables, an adult changing table is basically a cot, but one that's sturdy enough to support several hundred pounds of weight, and can be adjusted for height. Many people may be unaware that these tables even exist, in part because there are so few of them. But they're necessary. People with any number of medical issues or disabilities use this amenity, including those who are post-stroke, have dementia, Parkinson's Disease, are on the Autism spectrum, or are paralyzed. The lack of these tables is both isolating and degrading.ⁱⁱ

AARP MD believes that State and local government should proactively develop and implement transition plans to ensure communities are fully accessible to people with disabilities.

AARP Maryland respectfully requests a favorable report for HB 10.

For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact Tammy Bresnahan, Associate State Director of Advocacy at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.

ⁱ Advocates Support Efforts To Install Public Changing Tables For Disabled Adults

May 5, 2017 4:31 PM ET

Heard on All Things Considered

ⁱⁱ **Very Unsanitary, Very Public: The Lack Of Adult Changing Tables Creates Isolation And Embarrassment**

By [SARAH BODEN](#) • AUG 21, 2018