



DATE: January 16, 2020
BILL: Senate Bill 44: Public Buildings - Changing Facilities for Adult Diapers
COMMITTEE: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
POSITION: Letter of Information

Dear Chair Smith,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to write a letter of information for Senate Bill 44: Public Buildings - Changing Facilities for Adult Diapers. MDOD is aware of the need for changing facilities for adults as it is a reality in many of our constituents' lives. In the 2019 Maryland General Assembly session, the Maryland Department of Disabilities MDOD was requested to facilitate a study exploring the issue of requiring adult-changing facilities in government buildings and transit locations. MDOD would be happy to distribute and answer any questions on the study.

In regards to SB44, MDOD would like to illustrate the following points:

- **Federal Accessibility Regulations**
 - Currently, there are no federal regulations for adult changing stations due to the absence of any standards for adult changing stations in the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design refers to the revised regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The 2010 Standards set minimum requirements for newly designed and constructed or altered State and local government facilities, public accommodations, and commercial facilities to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.
- **State Accessibility Requirements**
 - Maryland accessibility construction is governed by the Maryland Accessibility Code under the Maryland Department of Labor which is based on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. COMAR 09.12.307 mentions bathroom stall accessibility standards but it does not include adult changing stations.
- **Construction Outside Federal and State Accessibility Regulations**
 - The issue in granting construction of items which fall outside of 2010 ADA Standards of Accessible Design and the Maryland Accessibility code is without correct monitoring and accountability for the quality of the finished product, it could pose safety risks if components of the adult changing stations are not installed and maintained properly or consistently within facilities.

If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Hall, Director of Interagency Affairs, (410)767-3652, elizabeth.hall2@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary