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HB 321 Public Buildings - Changing Facilities – Requirements SUPPORT

Health and Government Operations Committee

January 14th, 2021

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 850,000 members. **AARP MD supports HB 321 Public Buildings - Changing Facilities Requirements.** We thank Delegate Ebersole for introducing this important piece of legislation.

HB 321 requires a changing facility suitable for providing personal care for an adult to be installed in at least one public restroom within a public building constructed on or after October 1, 2022. 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. The bill also requires local governmental entities must report the location of all changing facilities to 2-1-1 Maryland, Inc., which must maintain a list on its website of all the reported locations. The bill makes conforming changes to existing provisions related to the installation of diaper-changing facilities for children in public buildings.

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.

Real Possibilities

AARP Maryland respectfully requests a favorable report for HB 321.

For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact Tammy Bresnahan, 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