



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings – Gender–Neutral Bathrooms
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Tuesday, January 31, 2023 | 1:00 PM

We all use public, single-occupancy bathrooms on a regular basis-- in planes, hospitals, restaurants, and more. Making these restrooms gender-specific restricts access and can create discomfort.

Women face longer wait times for bathrooms than men ([an average of 6+ minutes](#)), who are delayed by approximately just 11 seconds. Labeling restrooms with signage for **any gender** can cut wait times for women to [less than 1.5 minutes](#).

Trans- and non-binary people can be at risk when using gender-specific facilities. In a national survey, [60% of transgender people](#) avoid public restrooms due to apprehension about being confronted. This is a real fear-- [12% have been verbally harassed; 9% were denied access; 1% were physically attacked; and 1% were sexually assaulted](#).

Gender-Neutral bathrooms are family-friendly, enabling parents to assist their children. They are also more accessible and comfortable for people with disabilities.

SB84 simply requires a gender-neutral sign, which can be [purchased](#) for less than \$20.

The penalty is modest for non-compliance:

- The first offense is a warning;
- After 30 days, if the facility still does not comply, a \$100 fine may be assessed; and
- If another 30 days passes without this change, the organization can be fined \$250 for the third and subsequent violation.

[SB84](#) requires a simple, inexpensive fix to make **ALL** feel welcome!

I urge a favorable report on SB84.