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2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. PAULIN, DINOWITZ, EDDINGTON, GALEF, BRADLEY,
KELLNER, REILLY, J. RIVERA -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BOYLAND,
McDONOUGH, PHEFFER -- read once and referred to the Committee on
Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to enacting the rest-
room access act

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "restroom
2 access act".

3 S 2. The public health law is amended by adding a new article 19 to
4 read as follows:

5 ARTICLE 19
6 RESTROOM ACCESS ACT

7 SECTION 1900. DEFINITION.

8 1901. ACCESS TO RESTROOM FACILITIES.

9 1902. REQUIRED CHANGES.

10 S 1900. DEFINITION. AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, "ELIGIBLE MEDICAL CONDI-
11 TION" MEANS CROHN'S DISEASE, ULCERATIVE COLITIS, ANY OTHER INFLAMMATORY
12 BOWEL DISEASE, IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME OR ANY OTHER MEDICAL CONDITION
13 THAT REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO A TOILET FACILITY.

14 S 1901. ACCESS TO RESTROOM FACILITIES. A PLACE OF BUSINESS OPEN TO THE
15 GENERAL PUBLIC FOR THE SALE OF GOODS OR SERVICES THAT HAS A TOILET
16 FACILITY FOR ITS EMPLOYEES SHALL ALLOW ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO IS LAWFULLY ON
17 THE PREMISES OF SUCH PLACE OF BUSINESS TO USE THAT TOILET FACILITY
18 DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS, PROVIDED THAT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CONDI-
19 TIONS ARE MET:

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 1. THE INDIVIDUAL REQUESTING THE USE OF THE EMPLOYEE TOILET FACILITY
2 SUFFERS FROM AN ELIGIBLE MEDICAL CONDITION OR UTILIZES AN OSTOMY DEVICE;

3 2. TWO OR MORE EMPLOYEES OF THE PLACE OF BUSINESS ARE WORKING AT THE
4 TIME THE INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS USE OF THE EMPLOYEE TOILET FACILITY;

5 3. THE PLACE OF BUSINESS DOES NOT NORMALLY MAKE THE EMPLOYEE TOILET
6 FACILITY AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC;

7 4. THE EMPLOYEE TOILET FACILITY IS NOT LOCATED IN AN AREA WHERE
8 PROVIDING ACCESS WOULD CREATE AN OBVIOUS HEALTH OR SAFETY RISK TO THE
9 REQUESTING INDIVIDUAL OR CREATE AN OBVIOUS SECURITY RISK TO THE PLACE OF
10 BUSINESS; AND

11 5. A PUBLIC RESTROOM IS NOT IMMEDIATELY ACCESSIBLE TO THE REQUESTING
12 INDIVIDUAL.

13 S 1902. REQUIRED CHANGES. NOTHING IN SECTION NINETEEN HUNDRED ONE OF
14 THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE CONSTRUED AS REQUIRING A PLACE OF BUSINESS OPEN TO
15 THE GENERAL PUBLIC FOR THE SALE OF GOODS OR SERVICES THAT HAS A TOILET
16 FACILITY FOR ITS EMPLOYEES TO MAKE ANY PHYSICAL CHANGES TO AN EMPLOYEE
17 TOILET FACILITY.

18 S 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
19 become law, provided that effective immediately, the addition, amendment
20 and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation
21 of this act on its effective date are authorized and directed to be made
22 and completed on or before such effective date.