

4803

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

April 24, 2013

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Introduced by Sen. BALL -- read twice and ordered printed, and when  
printed to be committed 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, EVEN IF THE PLACE OF BUSINESS DOES NOT  
19 NORMALLY MAKE THE EMPLOYEE TOILET FACILITY AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC,  
20 PROVIDED THAT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE MET:

21     1. THE INDIVIDUAL REQUESTING THE USE OF THE EMPLOYEE TOILET FACILITY  
22 HAS AN ELIGIBLE MEDICAL CONDITION OR UTILIZES AN OSTOMY DEVICE, PROVIDED  
23 THAT THE PLACE OF BUSINESS MAY REQUIRE THE INDIVIDUAL TO PRESENT REASON-

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

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1 ABLE EVIDENCE THAT THE INDIVIDUAL HAS AN ELIGIBLE MEDICAL CONDITION OR  
2 USES 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 EMPLOYEE TOILET FACILITY IS NOT LOCATED IN AN AREA WHERE  
6 PROVIDING ACCESS WOULD CREATE AN OBVIOUS HEALTH OR SAFETY RISK TO THE  
7 REQUESTING INDIVIDUAL OR CREATE AN OBVIOUS SECURITY RISK TO THE PLACE OF  
8 BUSINESS;

9 4. USE OF THE TOILET FACILITY WOULD NOT CREATE AN OBVIOUS HEALTH OR  
10 SAFETY RISK TO THE REQUESTING INDIVIDUAL; 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 one hundred twentieth day after  
19 it shall become law, provided that effective immediately, the addition,  
20 amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the  
21 implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized and  
22 directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.