STATE OF NEW YORK

5924

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 4, 2025

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the executive law, the general business law, the public authorities law, and the public buildings law, in relation to requiring certain buildings display domestic violence signs in their bathrooms

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Domestic Violence Bathroom Signage Act".

§ 2. Paragraph (p) of subdivision 3 of section 575 of the executive law, as relettered by chapter 740 of the laws of 2022, is relettered paragraph (q) and a new paragraph (p) is added to read as follows:

(p) Developing domestic violence signage and enforcing the display of such signage under sections two hundred six-g and three hundred ninety-f of the general business law, three hundred eighty-nine-a of the public authorities law, and one hundred forty-eight of the public buildings law.

(i) Such signage shall:

(A) include information regarding services and assistance available to victims of domestic violence.

(B) be in English, Spanish, and any other language determined appropriate by the director of the office.

(ii) The office shall create a mechanism for people to register a complaint which may initiate an investigation by the office.

(iii) The office, while a building is undergoing otherwise mandated inspections, may inspect for compliance with domestic violence signage requirements.

(iv) The director of the office shall inform the entity of any discovered failure to comply with domestic violence signage requirements. The entity shall cure the violation or demonstrate to the director that the

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

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finding of non-compliance was incorrect. If the entity is found to be in non-compliance, the department shall provide the entity signage and resource materials.

§ 3. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 206-g to read as follows:

§ 206-g. Information concerning services for domestic violence victims. 1. For purposes of this section, "lodging facility" shall mean any inn, hotel, motel, motor court or other establishment that provides lodging to transient guests. Such term shall not include an establishment treated as a dwelling unit for the purposes of any state or local law or regulation or an establishment located within a building that has five or less rooms for rent or hire and that is actually occupied as a residence by the proprietor of such establishment.

2. Every keeper of a lodging facility shall make available in plain view and in a conspicuous place and manner in the public restrooms, and in the individual guest rooms, and near the public entrance or in another conspicuous location in clear view of the public and the employees where similar information is customarily displayed in such lodging facility, informational signage developed by the office for the prevention of domestic violence. Such informational signage shall be placed on the bottom right corner of the restroom mirror or, if no mirror larger than forty-eight inches by thirty inches is in the restroom, on the back of the restroom door at approximately five feet above the floor.

§ 4. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 390-f to read as follows:

§ 390-f. Information concerning services for domestic violence victims. 1. Every entity which maintains a public restroom shall display in plain view and in a conspicuous place and manner in such public restrooms informational signage created by the office for the prevention of domestic violence under section five hundred seventy-five of the executive law.

2. Every entity which maintains a restroom for its patrons shall display in plain view and in a conspicuous place and manner in such restrooms informational signage created by the office for the prevention of domestic violence under section five hundred seventy-five of the executive law.

§ 5. The public authorities law is amended by adding a new section 389-a to read as follows:

§ 389-a. Information concerning services for domestic violence victims in facilities at service areas. 1. Any service area maintained or operated by the authority shall display in plain view and in a conspicuous place and manner in the public restrooms and in any lactation rooms, informational signage developed by the office for the prevention of domestic violence under section five hundred seventy-five of the executive law.

2. For purposes of this section, "lactation room" shall mean a hygienic place, other than a restroom, that: (a) is shielded from view; (b) is free from intrusion; (c) contains a chair, a working surface, and, if the building is otherwise supplied with electricity, an electrical outlet; and (d) is intended to be used for the primary purpose of breastfeeding or expressing breast milk.

§ 6. The public buildings law is amended by adding a new section 148 to read as follows:

§ 148. Information concerning services for domestic violence victims in public buildings. 1. As used in this section:

(a) "covered public building" means a public building owned by the state of New York, under the supervision and control of the commissioner of general services, that is determined by said commissioner to be open to the public; and

(b) "lactation room" means a hygienic place, other than a bathroom, that:

(i) is shielded from view;

(ii) is free from intrusion;

(iii) contains a chair, a working surface, and, if the public building is otherwise supplied with electricity, an electrical outlet; and

(iv) is intended to be used for the primary purpose of breastfeeding or expressing breast milk.

2. A covered public building shall display in plain view and in a conspicuous place and manner in the public restrooms and in any lactation rooms informational signage developed by the office for the prevention of domestic violence under section five hundred seventy-five of the executive law.

§ 7. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.