

STATE OF NEW YORK

8667

IN SENATE

January 7, 2026

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

AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to employee access to lactation rooms in the workplace

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

1 Section 1. Subdivisions 2 and 3 of section 206-c of the labor law, as
2 added by chapter 672 of the laws of 2022, are amended to read as
3 follows:

4 2. (a) Upon request of an employee who chooses to express breast milk
5 in the workplace, an employer shall designate a room or other location
6 which shall be made available for use by such employee to express breast
7 milk. Such room or other location shall be a place that is: (i) hygien-
8 ic; (ii) in close proximity to the work area; [~~(ii)~~] (iii) well lit;
9 [~~(iii)~~] (iv) shielded from view; and [~~(iv)~~] (v) free from intrusion from
10 other persons in the workplace or the public. Such room or other
11 location shall provide, at minimum, a chair, a working surface, a refri-
12 gerator that shall be used only for purposes related to lactation, near-
13 by access to clean running water and, if the workplace is supplied with
14 electricity, an electrical outlet. The room or location provided by the
15 employer for this purpose shall not be a restroom or toilet stall and
16 shall be located outside the confines of a public restroom.

17 (b) If the sole purpose or function of such room or other location is
18 not dedicated for use by employees to express breast milk, such room or
19 other location shall be made available to such an employee when needed
20 and shall not be used for any other purpose or function while in use by
21 such employee. Employers shall provide notice to all employees as soon
22 as practicable when such room or other location has been designated for
23 use by employees to express breast milk.

24 [~~(c) Where compliance with the requirements of paragraphs (a) or (b)~~
25 ~~of this subdivision is impracticable because it would impose an undue~~
26 ~~hardship on the employer by causing significant difficulty or expense~~
27 ~~when considered in relation to the size, financial resources, nature, or~~
28 ~~structure of the employer's business, such employer shall make reason-~~

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

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~~able efforts to provide a room or other location, other than a restroom or toilet stall, that is in close proximity to the work area where an employee can express breast milk in privacy. Provided, however, nothing in this subdivision shall otherwise exempt an employer from the requirements of subdivision one of this section.~~

~~(d) If the workplace has access to refrigeration, the employer shall extend such access to refrigeration for the purposes of storing the expressed milk.]~~

3. The commissioner shall develop and implement a written policy regarding the rights of nursing employees to express breast milk in the workplace pursuant to the provisions of this section. Employers shall provide such written policy to each employee upon hire and annually thereafter, and to employees upon returning to work following the birth of a child. Employers shall post such policy publicly in a clear and conspicuous location in a common or break area and in the employee handbook, to the extent that an employer provides such handbook to employees, and in a location accessible on either the employer's website or on the internet in a manner accessible by employees. Such policy shall:

(a) Inform employees of their rights pursuant to this section;

(b) Specify the means by which a request may be submitted to the employer for a room or other location for use by employees to express breast milk; and

(c) Require the employer to respond to such request within a reasonable timeframe, but not to exceed five business days.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.