



AN ACT REQUIRING UNIVERSAL CHANGING STATIONS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

H.256 / S.102, filed by Rep. Lawn, Rep. Garballey and Sen. Barrett

This bill ensures that universal changing tables are present in public restrooms. Many children, adults, and elderly individuals with disabilities and medical complexities cannot fully participate in society due to a lack of restrooms with universal changing tables. This bill is supported by the Massachusetts Chapter of the Changing Spaces Campaign.

CONTEXT

People who require help with daily self-care, such as toileting, deserve to experience and enjoy trips away from home without suffering the indignity of being left in soiled incontinence wear for an extended period or being changed somewhere inappropriate, unhygienic, or unsafe. While away from home, there is often nowhere to change their undergarments, as commonly accessible baby changing tables no longer support their weight and size. Knowing a universal changing station with an adult capacity changing table will be at a public location provides disabled persons and their families more confidence to go out into the community.

THE BILL

- Requires all newly constructed, reconstructed, or remodeled (as of January 1, 2027) public buildings, public parks, rest stops, and all other areas defined as places of public accommodation to maintain at least one universal changing station within an enclosed restroom facility.
- Requires that the changing table be capable of adjusting height and supporting a minimum of 350 pounds.
- Requires that the space within the facility complies with all requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Requires signage at the location, and requires that the location be listed and advertised publicly in a directory so that people can plan accordingly.
- Allows for exemptions in cases where the building has historical significance or when installing a universal changing table is not feasible.

THE IMPACT

True community inclusion provides people with disabilities with a safe, private, and hygienic place to meet the most basic human need of toileting. Installing universal changing tables removes a barrier for disabled teens and adults to participate more fully in life's activities. The broader community is enriched as it engages with and includes the diverse talents and life experiences of all people who are part of that community.

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