



The Arc of Massachusetts

Amendment #682 to An Act relative to economic development in the commonwealth (H.5562)

Universal Changing Tables

Many children, adults, and older adults with disabilities and complex medical needs cannot fully participate in community life because public restrooms often lack appropriate changing facilities. Standard changing tables are not designed to safely support older children or adults, forcing many families and caregivers to change loved ones on restroom floors, in vehicles, or to not feel comfortable going out in public at all. Universal changing tables provide a safe, dignified, and hygienic solution that allows people with disabilities to fully participate in work, recreation, tourism, shopping, and community life.

Amendment #682 requires universal changing stations in newly constructed, reconstructed, or remodeled public buildings and places of public accommodation, while allowing exemptions when installation is not feasible or in historically significant buildings.

This amendment would:

- Require newly constructed, reconstructed, or remodeled public buildings and places of public accommodation to include at least one universal changing station in an enclosed restroom
- Ensure changing tables are height-adjustable and capable of supporting at least 350 pounds
- Require restroom facilities to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Require signage and inclusion in a public directory so individuals and families can locate accessible facilities before traveling
- Allow reasonable exemptions for historically significant buildings or locations where installation is not feasible

This amendment advances the goals of the underlying Economic Development bill by making Massachusetts more accessible for individuals with disabilities and medically complex needs and their families. True economic development means creating communities where everyone can participate in local businesses, tourism, recreation, and public life. By expanding access to universal changing tables, Massachusetts will remove a significant barrier to community participation while supporting families, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities across the Commonwealth.

People with disabilities deserve access to safe, private, and hygienic restroom facilities wherever they live, work, and travel. **Adopting this amendment to the Economic Development bill will strengthen Massachusetts' commitment to accessibility, inclusion, and equal opportunity while making our public spaces more welcoming for all.**

This amendment is based on H.256/S.102, filed by Representatives John Lawn and Sean Garballey.