

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL No. 9403

**Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES LANI MERCADO-REVILLA,
BRYAN B. REVILLA AND RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III**

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR BABY CHANGING FACILITIES IN RESTROOMS OF ALL
PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENTS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Equity in parenting roles has a positive impact for both parents. Fathers who are involved in child-rearing and household duties report being happier and have fewer mental and physical health problems.¹ Moms involved in work outside the home have lower rates of depression.² The joy and burden of parenting, when shared by both parents can be rewarding, not only to the parents, but to children as well. Equally shared parenting translates into a stronger parent-child bond.³

We now live in a modern world where inclusive parenting is encouraged and the tasks of caring, feeding, dressing and nappy changing are no longer exclusively relegated to the mother.

However, despite men taking active participation in parenting, public facilities that encourage inclusive parenting are lacking. "While baby changing stations have become relatively common, they are predominantly placed in women's restrooms,

¹De La Cretaz, B., October 12, 2016. *Finally, A Necessary 'Bathroom Law': Baby-Changing Stations Coming to Government Buildings*. www.rewirenewsgroup.com. accessed 10/04/2023. <<https://rewirenewsgroup.com/2016/10/12/bathroom-law-baby-changing-stations-government-buildings/>>

² Jacobson, M., May 21, 2012. *Shared Parenting: Why Modern Families Are Choosing Equality*. www.parenting.com. accessed 10/04/2023. <<https://www.parentmap.com/article/shared-parenting-why-modern-families-are-choosing-equality>>

³ Ibid.

while men have been left to their own devices to try to find a suitable place to put a new diaper on their small children.”⁴

Despite a report indicating that majority of fathers who live with their children bathe, diaper, and dress them at least several times a week, most restaurants and stores do not have changing stations in the men's room, or don't offer a family changing station that both men and women can use.⁵

This need has already been acknowledged by the late Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago when she filed Senate Bill 2704 in the 16th Congress. She noted that most establishments do not have diaper-changing tables, while those that do, have their diaper-changing stations located in women's restrooms only. She stressed that having changing tables located solely in female restrooms assumes that women have the singular responsibility of caring for children and changing their diapers. It fails to consider that men should also be engaged in childcare.⁶

When appropriate facilities are in place, it is easier for both parents to be involved in their children's care. Encouraging inclusive parenting redounds to a happier family life as we make efforts to move the dial towards gender equality. It is therefore imperative that diaper changing facilities, which can be accessed by parents of both genders, are set-up in public places.

Immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


REP. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
Representative
2nd District of Cavite


REP. BRYAN B. REVILLA
Representative
AGIMAT Partylist


REP. RAMON "JOJO" REVILLA III
Representative
1st District of Cavite

⁴ Bush. B., May 2, 2023. *After dadvocate raises stink, new diaper-changing stations on way for Columbus men's rooms*. The Columbus Dispatch. Accessed 10/04/2023.
<https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/local/2023/05/02/130-mens-or-gender-neutral-restrooms-to-get-diaper-changing-stations-under-columbus-program/70171658007/>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Senate Bill 2704 filed by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago in the 16th Congress

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Baby Changing
Facilities Act.”

Sec. 2. *Definition of Terms.* –

(A) Baby-changing facility shall mean an area where a person can
change the diapers or soiled clothing of a child. The facility shall
accommodate at least a 20-pound child and shall have trash bins for
proper waste disposal, hand washing and toilets.

(B) Public establishments shall mean malls, shopping centers,
theaters or movie houses, convention centers, sports arenas, auditoriums,
cultural complexes, exhibition halls, permanent amusement parks, health
facilities, restaurants that can seat 50 or more people, gasoline stations
that have restrooms open for public-use, and establishments measuring
25,000 feet or more. This does not apply to an industrial building or to a
nightclub or bar that does not permit entry to anyone below the age of 18.
This section also does not apply to a restroom located in a health facility if
the restroom is intended for the use of one patient or resident at a time.

(C) Government offices shall mean all local and national government offices, agencies, and government-owned and controlled corporations.

Sec. 3. General Provision. – There shall be at least one safe, sanitary, and convenient baby changing facility with hand washing and restroom facilities that is accessible to everyone, regardless of gender, in all major establishments and government offices.

Sec. 4. Exceptions. – Section 3 shall not apply if the local building inspector determines that the installation of a baby changing facility is not feasible or would result in a failure to comply with applicable building standards governing the right of access of persons with disabilities. This provision shall also not apply to a restaurant with a seating capacity of 50 people, if there is a centrally located station with baby changing facility located within 300 feet of the entrance of the restaurant.

Sec. 5. Penalties. – Major establishments that fail to comply with the provisions of this Act within one year from its enactment shall be meted with a warning. Major establishments that fail to comply with the provisions of this Act six months after being issued a warning, shall pay ten thousand pesos (Php10,000) for every succeeding month until compliance is made.

Sec. 6. *Separability Clause*. – If any provision, section, or part of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate, or impair other provisions, sections or parts hereof.

Sec. 7. *Repealing Clause*. – All other laws, rules and regulations, orders, circulars, and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Sec. 8. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,