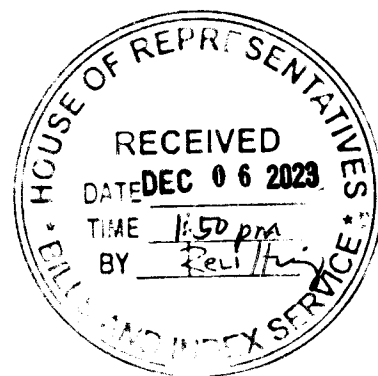




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9678

Introduced by **Representative MA. VICTORIA CO-PILAR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The promotion of general welfare of the public and the protection of the right to health of the people are two mandates of the State enshrined in our Constitution. As such, it is our duty to provide for the general welfare and public convenience to the people.

Baby diaper-changing stations are inaccessible in most establishments and offices; if any, stations are usually found exclusively in women's restrooms. Parents are thereby forced to change their children's diapers on the sink of a public restroom if they cannot wait to change these at home. This practice is not hygienic and makes other uncomfortable to use the public restroom. Moreover, to have diaper-changing tables located only in female restrooms fails to consider that even men are or should be involved in taking care of children.

This bill was originally filed by then Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago during the 16th Congress. Further, the passage of this measure will require all major establishments and government offices to have a designated area to be used as baby diaper-changing stations accessible to both women and men.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



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HOUSE BILL NO. 9678

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR DIAPER-CHANGING STATIONS IN ALL MAJOR
ESTABLISHMENTS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title** – This Act shall be known and cited as the “Diaper-Changing
2 Stations Act”.

3

4 **Sec 2. Definition of Terms** –

5 (a) Diaper-changing station - shall mean a designated area where a person can
6 change the diaper of a child. It shall be gender-neutral and separate from the
7 existing restrooms of the establishment or office. The station shall accommodate
8 at least a 20-pound child and shall have an appropriate trash bin for the disposal
9 of diapers. It shall also have hand-washing facilities, in good repair.

10 (b) Major establishments - shall mean malls, shopping centers, theaters or
11 movie houses, convention centers, sports arenas, auditoriums, cultural complexes,
12 exhibition halls, permanent amusement parks, health facilities, restaurant that can
13 seat 50 people or more, and establishments measuring two thousand three
14 hundred (2,300) square meters or more. This does not apply to an industrial
15 building or to a nightclub or bar that does not permit anyone who is under 18 years
16 of age to enter the premises.

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

3

4 **Sec 3. *In General*** – There shall be at least one safe, sanitary, and convenient baby
5 diaper-changing station that is accessible to restrooms used exclusively by women
6 and restrooms used exclusively by men, or at least one safe, sanitary, and
7 convenient baby diaper-changing station that is accessible to both men and
8 women in all major establishments and government offices.

9

10 **Sec 4. *Exceptions*** – This provision shall not apply to a restaurant with a seating
11 capacity of 50 people, if there is a safe, sanitary, and convenient centrally located
12 baby diaper-changing station within the establishment or government offices.

13

14 **Sec 5. *Penalties*** – Major establishments that fail to comply with the provisions of
15 this Act within one (1) year from its enactment shall be meted with a warning.
16 Major establishments that fail to comply with the provisions of this Act six (6)
17 months after being issued a warning, shall pay two thousand pesos (2,000.00)
18 every succeeding month until compliance is made.

19

20 **Sec 6. *Separability Clause*** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
21 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected
22 shall remain valid and subsisting.

23

24 **Sec 7. *Repealing Clause*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,
25 letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or
26 inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or
27 amended accordingly.

28

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

31

32

33 Approved,