



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3831**



INTRODUCED BY: HON. REYNOLDS MICHAEL T. TAN

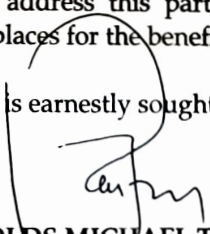
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The American Restroom Association refers to "Potty Parity" as advocacy efforts and actual legislation that addresses the longer lines for women often seen at public restrooms.¹ Research shows that the average time a woman spends in a toilet is 90 seconds, and 5-10 minutes if she is with a child. A woman spends more time in the toilet due to biological, social, and cultural gender norms. Women must sit down while men can stand up. Women have to remove more clothing than men, whose clothing provides faster access. Changing a diaper or a sanitary napkin involves a number of steps and takes time.² Moreover, parity can be defined by equal floorspace or by number of fixtures within the washrooms, sometimes adjusted for the longer average time taken and more frequent visits to the washroom for females, among other factors.³

In the Philippines, existing legislation like the Republic Act No. 6541, otherwise known as the National Building Code of the Philippines, as implemented by Presidential Decree No. 1096 provides the minimum standards in relation to toilet and washroom infrastructure, but does not necessarily or particularly address the familiar long waiting lines at women's restrooms in crowded public places.

Based on the foregoing, this bill seeks to address this particular matter by developing a toilet parity policy at crowded public places for the benefit of all women.

Foregoing considered; the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.


HON. REYNOLDS MICHAEL T. TAN
Representative, Second District of Samar

¹ Potty Parity: Overview. American Restroom Association. <https://americanrestroom20years.org/potty-parity/> (Last accessed August 8, 2025)

² Woods, Zonibel. (18 November 2016) Last Woman Standing: Toilet Equality for Men and Women. Asian Development Blog. <https://blogs.adb.org/blog/last-woman-standing-toilet-equality-men-and-women>

³ Potty Parity. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potty_parity (Last accessed August 8, 2025)



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AN ACT TO DEVELOP A 'TOILET PARITY POLICY' AT CROWDED PUBLIC PLACES, SUCH AS MALLS, SCHOOLS, STADIUMS, CONCERTS, FAIR GROUNDS, THEME PARKS, AND OTHER SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS.

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Toilet Parity Policy Act".

SECTION 2. The ratio between the total number of toilets or water closets for females shall be two (2) toilets or water closets for females for every one (1) toilet, water closet or urinal built for males at crowded public places, such as malls, schools, stadiums, concerts, fair grounds, theme parks, government structures, and other similar establishments.

SECTION 3. Within sixty (60) days from the promulgation of this Act, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Department of Health (DOH), and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and other relevant stakeholders shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,