

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-319
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE NEED FOR ADULT
Title: CHANGING STATIONS IN PUBLIC FACILITIES.
Vote Date: 3/19/2024
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/5/2024
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Increased accessibility to public facilities gives individuals with disabilities greater mobility and independence. In 2016, Connecticut lawmakers worked together to ensure that baby changing stations were installed in restrooms at restaurants. This bill looks to study an expansion of these changing tables to include adult changing areas. Having adult changing tables can be used for people who may need assistance from caretakers or who need some extra room to take care of themselves. Individuals with disabilities of all ages may require extra care, which may require more space in public restrooms.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Connecticut General Assembly, State Senator, John Kissel](#); supports this bill stating that the need for adult changing tables was brought to his attention by his constituent Stefanie Bourassa, who shared her story about traveling in the airport. He stated that everyone entering Connecticut should have the opportunity to use facilities without discomfort or loss of dignity. It is stated he believes that as the population ages the need for this type of facility will only grow.

[CT Physical Therapy Association, President, Stefanie Bourassa](#); supports this bill by sharing a story about a recent family trip and noticed the accessible areas for adults at an

airport in Florida. It is stated that having more accessible restrooms will be important to support others when they travel. It is stated that Bradley International Airport saw 4.6 million passengers in 2022, and with the ever-growing flights out of both Bradley and Tweed Airport, having additional accessibility will highlight how welcoming and supportive the state is. It is stated she supports the creation of the task force to investigate the possibilities of including adult changing stations in public facilities.

[Connecticut Resident, Lisa Allyn](#): supports this bill stating that she is the mother of an adult son with Spina Bifida, which is a developmental disability that often causes incontinence and mobility issues. She stated that there is a need for a table that is height adjustable in public restrooms to help people transfer from a wheelchair. She explained that most often her son changes or catheterizes in the car, so they are unable to stay out of the house if he would like. It is suggested that a person with incontinence issues be included in the task force.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Ashley Orser

Date: 3/20/24