Bill No.: SB-533
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO DIAPER CHANGING STATIONS IN PUBLIC AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.
Vote Date: 3/19/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 2/14/2019
File No.: 

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen. Martin M. Looney, 11th Dist.
Sen. John W. Fonfara, 1st Dist.
Sen. Matthew L. Lesser, 9th Dist.
Sen. Gary A. Winfield, 10th Dist.
Sen. Christine Cohen, 12th Dist.
Sen. Catherine A. Osten, 19th Dist.
Sen. Marilyn V. Moore, 22nd Dist.
Sen. Dennis A. Bradley, 23rd Dist.
Sen. Julie Kushner, 24th Dist.
Sen. Will Haskell, 26th Dist.
Sen. Mae Flexer, 29th Dist.
Sen. Norm Needleman, 33rd Dist.
Sen. Alex Bergstein, 36th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill requires the State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee to revise the State Building Code to require certain buildings to have at least one baby diaper changing table accessible to men and women on each floor level open to the public. The requirement applies to new or substantially renovated public or commercial buildings with at least one restroom open to the public. To fix the problem that a father by himself, or a same-sex male couple cannot currently change their baby’s diaper in all buildings.

***Substitute Language
Clarifies that the bill's requirements can be met by providing a baby diaper changing table accessible to women and another that is accessible to men or a baby diaper changing table that is accessible to both men and women.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

**Martin Looney, President Pro Tempore, CT State Senate**

He comments on the fact that the current system significantly affects fathers alone and same-sex male couples, by not allowing them to have access to a changing table for their child. As an alternative to a changing table, for which they are not allowed access, they will resort to unsafe and unsanitary methods.

**Cathy Osten, State Senator**

She testifies that having no changing stations in men’s restrooms causes a major inconvenience to fathers by themselves and same-sex male couples. Additionally, it could jeopardize the health/safety of the child.

**Merrill Gay, Executive Director, Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance**

He testifies that this issue was met by President Obama in 2016 when we passed the Bathrooms Accessible in Every Situation Act, which required changing tables in all bathrooms for federal buildings. He also cites an instance where a Florida man documented his struggles trying to change his child’s diaper with no table. He then references the New York law passed in 2019 requiring all bathrooms to have changing tables.

**Madeline Granato, Policy Manager, CT Women’s Education and Legal Fund**

She testifies that this bill mirrors a New York law that took effect in 2019. This law requires businesses to include changing table in men’s bathrooms. Additionally she states that every family is unique, and all deserve access to a clean, safe place to change their child’s diaper.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None

Reported by: Assistant Clerk Don Cretella Date: 3/27/19