



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 3

Bill #:AL-17

1 **Sponsors:** Lillian Kronau, Alexander Michaels and Carley Salerno

2

3 **An Act To** Amend the New York State Public Building Law to add Section 145 under
4 Article 5 to mandate single-occupancy gender-neutral restrooms in all new state-
5 owned and operated buildings.

6

7 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

8

9 **Purpose** To amend the New York State Public Building Law to add Section 145
10 under Article 5 to mandate the inclusion of single-occupancy gender-neutral
11 restrooms in all state-owned and operated buildings beginning construction after
12 the bill goes into effect.

13

14 **Summary of Provisions**

15 **Section 1**

16 **Single Occupancy:** intended for use by no more than one occupant at a time or for
17 family or assisted use

18 **Gender Neutral:** intended for use by all, regardless of sex

19 **Restroom:** a bathroom in a public building containing one toilet and one sink

20 **State-owned and operated:** any state-owned property that is used to conduct
21 official business, as well as any property not owned by the state but is used
22 primarily to conduct state business

23 **Set:** two bathrooms, one designated for males and one for females

24

25 **Section 2**

26 Amends the New York State Public Buildings Law by adding section 145-a as
27 follows:

28 **§ 145-a. All state-owned and operated buildings constructed in the future shall**
29 **include as part of their infrastructure at least one single-occupancy bathroom per**
30 **every two sets of gender-specific bathrooms. If an agency does not comply with**
31 **this code, it shall be charged a fine of \$500 on January 1st of each year until the**
32 **requirements of the code are met.**

33

34 **Justification**

35 New York State has always been a progressive model for the rest of the nation.
36 Especially in the past several years, New York State has taken tangible steps
37 toward a modern and tolerant society. With our bill, New York will take another
38 important stride towards equality and comfort for all citizens. Nearly 80,000 New
39 York residents identify as transgender, and 19,500 identify as non-binary (non-
40 adherent to any gender label). The Herman Study, the largest study of transgender
41 individuals ever conducted in the U.S., found that 60% of transgender men and



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42 women have avoided using public restrooms due to fear or past experiences of
43 harassment and assault. 90% of these individuals also reported adverse effects of
44 avoiding public restrooms, such as dehydration, urinary tract infections, and kidney
45 infections. Something as simple as restroom use, something that we take for
46 granted every day, can be the source of a huge amount of stress and fear for
47 others. Transgender and non-binary individuals are not the only group that would
48 benefit from the passage of this bill. Parents with young children of a different
49 gender and individuals who require assistance using the restroom also report
50 having problems with the current system. Lawmakers in Vermont, California, and
51 our very own New York City recently reviewed these facts and passed very similar
52 bills. It is time for New York to follow in these footsteps and to ensure the safety
53 and comfort of its citizens. We, as a state, must work to ensure that the needs of
54 *all* our citizens are met, regardless of their identity and background.

55

56 **Fiscal Implications**

57 The average cost of one 40 square foot single-occupancy restroom is \$12,500. The
58 money for each restroom shall be taken from the budget of the building to be
59 constructed.

60

61 **Environmental Implications**

62 There are no expected environmental implications of the bill.

63

64 **Effective Date**

65 The law will go into effect one calendar year after this bill passes.

66