

TO: HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Your Committee is in receipt of “AN ACT requiring the Department of Public Works and Transportation to Establish a Plan regarding the Installation of Changing Stations within County Owned Buildings and Parks.” This Act may be referred to as the “Diapers Involve All Parents Regardless of Sex Act” or “DIAPRS Act”.

Your Committee is informed that changing stations are a normal fixture in women’s bathrooms but continue to be lacking in men’s bathrooms. The disparity in the number of changing stations in women’s bathrooms versus men’s bathrooms has resulted in a substantial number of parents being excluded from utilizing a resource aimed at supporting families and has made it difficult for parents to fully share responsibilities. As such, your committee believes that making changing stations universally accessible to all parents supports shared parenting responsibilities and breaks down the stereotypes associated with child-rearing. Making changing stations available and accessible to all parents within County-owned buildings and parks encourages equal parental participation, recognizes the diversity of the modern family, and affirms that all parents are bound by the call of diaper duty.

Your Committee is further informed that without access to sanitary and safe spaces, parents who are unable to access changing stations often use other surfaces to change diapers, including restroom floors or counters. These unsanitary conditions can pose health risks to children, parents, and others using the bathroom. Thus, diaper changing accommodations such as a changing station, table, or other similar amenity not only makes the task of diaper changing easier and cleaner, they also reduce the risk of injury.

Your committee is aware that the federal government passed the Bathrooms Accessible in Every Situation (BABIES) Act in October 2016, which requires changing stations that are “physically safe, sanitary, and appropriate” to be available in both women’s and men’s bathrooms in federal buildings open for public use. Similarly, in April 2018, New York State passed a law requiring all new or substantially renovated buildings that have bathrooms used by the public to make at least one changing table accessible to both men and women on each floor of a building that has a public toilet. However, the provisions of this state law do not apply to all publicly accessible bathrooms located within County-owned buildings and parks that are open to the general public.

Your Committee advises that this proposed Act will require the Department of Public Works and Transportation to establish a plan to install changing stations inside or in proximity to publicly accessible bathrooms located within County-owned buildings and parks that are open to the general public. Specifically, this plan will ensure that at least one changing station will be available for use by any person within each publicly accessible floor in a County-owned building. The plan will also require the Department of Public Works and Transportation to conduct a study to determine the: (1) number of the County-owned buildings and parks open to the public; (2) number of bathrooms in County-owned buildings and parks open to the public; (3) number of changing stations to be installed in County-owned buildings and parks open to the public; (4) locations for installation of changing stations in County-owned buildings and parks open to the public; (5) cost of installation of changing stations in County-owned buildings and parks open to the public; and (6) the projected timeline for installation of changing stations at the identified locations within County-owned buildings and parks open to the public.

Your Committee recognizes that the plan mandated by this Act will be applicable to both new and existing County-owned buildings and parks that are publicly accessible. Further, the plan mandated by this Act shall be submitted to the County Executive and the Clerk of the Board of Legislators. Once executed, this plan will provide all parents and caregivers equal access to safe, sanitary, and convenient diaper changing accommodations in publicly accessible County-owned buildings and parks.

Your Committee further recognizes the requirements of this Act can be satisfied in a variety of different ways. For example, a publicly accessible floor within a county owned building that has a men's restroom, a women's restroom, and a unisex bathroom may satisfy the requirements of this Act by installing a changing station in the unisex bathroom. In an instance where a publicly accessible floor within a county owned building only has a men's bathroom and a women's bathroom, the requirements of this Act may be satisfied by installing a changing station in both bathrooms; OR installing a changing station in an area specifically designated for changing the diaper of a child, that is within reasonable proximity to the bathrooms on the floor. These are examples and not meant to be an exclusive list of how the requirements of this Act can be satisfied.

Additionally, and as you know, your Honorable Board must comply with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"). Your Committee is informed that the proposed project does not meet the definition of an action under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning, dated January 14, 2025, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators. Your Committee concurs in this conclusion.

Your Committee, after careful consideration, recommends adoption of this Act.

Dated: August \_\_, 2025  
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

ACT NO. \_\_\_\_ - 2025

AN ACT requiring the Department of Public Works to Establish a Plan regarding the Installation of Changing Stations within County Owned Buildings and Parks.

Be it enacted by the Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester, as follows:

Section 1. For the purposes of this Act, “changing station”, shall means a table or other device suitable for changing the diaper of a child and shall be in compliance with section 603.5 (Diaper Changing Tables) of the two thousand nine edition of the publication entitled ICC A117.1, Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities, published by the International Code Council (ICC), Inc. and New York State Executive Law Section 378, requiring installation and maintenance of diaper changing stations in all newly constructed buildings in the State.

§ 2. The Department of Public Works shall establish a plan to install changing stations inside or in proximity to publicly accessible bathrooms located within County-owned buildings. At least one changing station shall be available for use by any person within each publicly accessible floor of County-owned buildings. This section shall only be applicable to County-owned buildings that are open and accessible to the general public. This section shall not be applicable to County-owned buildings that require express permission prior to entry, such as requiring valid County employment to enter.. Such plan shall include, but not be limited to, a study of:

- a. the number of the County-owned buildings open to the public;
- b. the number of bathrooms open to each gender within County-owned buildings open to the public;
- c. the number of changing stations to be installed in County-owned buildings open to the public;
- d. the locations for installation of changing stations in County-owned buildings open to the public;
- e. the cost of installation of changing stations in County-owned buildings open to the public; and
- f. the projected timeline for installation of changing stations at the identified locations within County-owned buildings open to the public.

§ 3. The Department of Public Works shall establish a plan to install or make available at least one changing station for any person inside each publicly accessible County-owned park that currently

have publicly accessible bathrooms. This section shall only be applicable to County-owned parks that are open and accessible to the general public. Such plan shall include, but not be limited to, a study of:

- a. the number of the County-owned parks open to the public;
- b. the number of bathrooms in County-owned parks open to the public;
- c. the number of changing stations to be installed in County-owned parks open to the public;
- d. the locations for installation of changing stations in County-owned parks open to the public;
- e. the cost of installation of changing stations in County-owned parks open to the public; and
- f. the projected timeline for installation of changing stations at the identified locations within County-owned parks open to the public.

§ 4. The plan mandated by this Act shall be applicable to both new and existing County-owned buildings and parks that are publicly accessible. The plan mandated by this Act shall be submitted to the County Executive and the Clerk of the Board of Legislators no later than six (6) months after the effective date of this Act.

§ 5. Effective date. This Act shall take effect immediately, and may be referred to as the “Diapers Involve All Parents Regardless of Sex Act” or “DIAPRS Act”.