

**KTJ**

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## MUNICIPAL LAW GROUP

# SINGLE OCCUPANCY RESTROOMS MUST BE LABELED AS GENDER-NEUTRAL IN PUBLIC FACILITIES

### All single occupancy restrooms

The Illinois Equitable Restrooms Act has been amended to require every single-occupancy restroom in a "place of public accommodation", (which is defined to include schools, parks, libraries and "other places of public gathering" like city or village hall), to be identified as all-gender and designated for use by no more than one person at a time or for family or assisted use. Each single-occupancy restroom must have signage identifying the single-occupancy restroom as a restroom, but not indicating any specific gender.

The requirements of this amendment become effective January 1, 2020.

The full text of the amendment, Public Act 101-0165 is available at:

[Public Act 101-0165](#)

A more detailed summary of the amendment is set forth herein.



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## GENDER-NEUTRAL SINGLE-OCCUPANCY

Public Act 101-0165 amends the Illinois Equitable Restrooms Act to require that all single occupancy bathrooms in places of public accommodation must be designated simply as restrooms and become gender neutral.

Under the Act, "**place of public accommodation**" takes its definition from Section 5-101 of the Illinois Human Rights Act and is defined very broadly as follows:

- Theaters, concert halls, stadiums, or other places of exhibition or entertainment;
- Auditoriums, convention centers, lecture halls, or other places of public gathering;
- Libraries, galleries, or other places of public display or collection;
- Parks or other places of recreation;
- Elementary or secondary schools or other places of education;
- Senior citizen centers or food banks;
- Gyms, golf courses or other places of exercise or recreation; and
- Terminals, depots, or other stations used for specified public transportation.

"**Single-occupancy restroom**" means a fully enclosed room, with a locking mechanism controlled by the user, containing a sink, toilet stall, and no more than one urinal.

All single-occupancy restrooms in any place of public accommodation must be identified as all-gender and designated for use by no more than one person at a time or for family or assisted use. Each single-occupancy restroom must be outfitted with exterior signage that marks the single-occupancy restroom as a restroom and does not indicate any specific gender.

Any health officer or health inspector has the authority to inspect any place of public accommodation to determine compliance with these requirements.

Ref: 410 ILCS 35/5

This amendment becomes effective January 1, 2020.