

# **Restroom Access and Your Business:**

How to follow the law.

# What is the Restroom Access Act?

Purpose of Act: The Restroom Access Act (410 ILCS 39/1 et seq.) requires retail establishments to provide access to an employee-only restroom to customers suffering from an eligible medical condition (see below) under the following conditions:

- 1. The customer requesting use of the restroom suffers from an eligible medical condition or utilizes an ostomy device;
- 2. Three or more employees of the retail establishment are working at the time the customer requests restroom access;
- 3. The retail establishment does not normally make the restroom available to the public;
- 4. The restroom is not located in an area where providing access would create an obvious health or safety risk to the customer or retail establishment; and
- 5. A public restroom is not immediately accessible to the customer.

### How to Follow the Law:

#### Types of Businesses Required to Comply:

The Restroom Access Act applies to places of business open to the public for the sale of goods or services (exempting filling or service stations with a structure of 800 square feet or less that contain an employee-only restroom in that structure) that have a toilet facility for its employees' use.

#### **Eligible Medical Conditions:**

The Restroom Access Act protects customers suffering from any medical condition that requires immediate access to a restroom, including, but not limited to, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, or Irritable Bowel Syndrome.

#### **Protection of Business Interests:**

The Restroom Access Act protects retail establishments and their employees from certain liability stemming from the retail establishment's compliance with the legislation.

## Be an Ally:



Familiarize yourself with the Restroom Access Act by watching the educational video linked via the QR code below.





Note: Individuals may choose to present an "I Can't Wait" card or other proof of their medical condition. In Illinois, providing proof of an eligible medical condition is not necessary to exercise their rights.

The Restroom Access Act in Illinois is a great example of how advocates and business community partners came together, early on, to draft state legislation that both ensured restroom access for customers with medical conditions and protected business community interests. We thank the Illinois Retail Merchants Association and other business partners for their recognition and support of this legislation's importance.