



**HB1147 Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings –  
Single – Occupancy Public Restrooms –  
Availability (The Accessible to All Act)**

**March 3, 2020**

**Letter of Information**

**Background:** Beginning October 1, 2020, a place of public accommodation with a single-occupancy public restroom and a single toilet will need signage identifying the restroom as gender inclusive explicitly using descriptive language such as restroom or bathroom.

**Comments:** The Maryland Retailers Association met extensively with the House sponsor of this legislation to discuss concerns we had when the bill was being drafted. We appreciate the sponsor grandfathering in currently existing signage and mandating a set of fines including a first warning to allow a business to make the necessary signage change. Prohibiting criminal charges for inadvertent signage is also critical to the bill.

We do not believe this legislation is overly burdensome to businesses as it will be incorporated into local code for new and significant construction enforcement. With the first violation being a warning, we believe a business will be able to make a signage change in a timely manner, avoiding a fine, in the event code enforcement does not catch the initial signage placement.

We are glad to answer any questions the committee may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cailey Locklair".

Cailey Locklair  
President, Maryland Retailers Association

