

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Boone, Cowan, Dembrow, Freeman, Huffman, Maurer, Olson, VanOrman, Tomei
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Keely West, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/29, 5/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires under specific conditions that individuals with eligible medical conditions be allowed to use employee restrooms in place of public accommodation if a public restroom is not immediately available. Exempts gas stations of 800 square feet or less. Prohibits liability from attaching to businesses or their employees for damages suffered by a customer unless damages are the result of an intentional tort or gross negligence.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure
- Expanding some measure language

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Broadens the definition of eligible access documentation and recognized medical professionals for the purpose of the act.

BACKGROUND: Almost 2 million Americans suffer for some form of inflammatory bowel disease. SB 277A is patterned after the Restroom Access Act, also known as Ally's Law. Ally's Law was passed in Illinois after 14 year-old Ally Bain, a victim of Crohn's disease, testified before the legislature about her experience when she was denied access to an employee restroom. Similar legislation has passed in eight states, including Texas and Minnesota, and is pending in at least 10 other states. Under the terms of SB 277A an eligible medical condition means the use of an ostomy device or diagnosis of Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis or any other medical condition that can cause a person to require access to a toilet facility without delay.