A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To establish a working group consisting of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority, the District Department of Transportation, the Department of General Services, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Department of Public Works to coordinate installation of at least 10 public restroom facilities in areas of the District with limited access to public restroom facilities, to authorize the creation of a subsidy program for private entities that keep their restrooms open to the public, and to require the Metropolitan Police Department and the Mayor to provide annual public restroom reporting.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Public Restroom Facilities Installation and Promotion Act of 2017”.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this act, the term

(1) “ANC” means an Advisory Neighborhood Commission.

(2) “BID” means a Business Improvement District.

(3) “DC Water” means the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority.

(4) “DDOT” means the District Department of Transportation.

(5) “DGS” means the Department of General Services.

(6) “DHS” means the Department of Human Services.
(7) "DPR" means the Department of Parks and Recreation.

(8) "DPW" means the Department of Public Works.

(9) "Illicit" means prohibited by law.

(10) "Nuisance" means likely to discourage the use of public restroom facilities such as breaking mirrors, spraying graffiti, or washing clothes in the sink.

(11) "MPD" means the Metropolitan Police Department.

(12) "Working group" means the temporary working group created by section 3(b) for the sole purposes of site selection and restroom facility model selection.

Sec. 3. Public restroom facilities installation.

(a) Within 120 days of the effective date of this act, DPW shall compile a report on locations with frequent human waste cleanup by the District because of public urination or defecation. DPW may work with the BIDs, Clean Teams, or ANCs to evaluate which locations have the greatest need for alternative methods of dealing with human waste. Upon completion of the report, DPW shall share such report with DC Water, DDOT, DGS, DHS, and DPR.

(b) There is established a working group for the purpose of making decisions regarding site selection of and procurement for the installation of public restroom facilities. The working group shall convene within 30 days of the completion of the report required by subsection (a) of this section.

(1) The working group shall be composed as follows:

(A) One representative from DC Water;

(B) One representative from DDOT;

(C) One representative from DGS;

(D) One representative from DHS;
(E) One representative from DPR; and
(F) One representative from DPW.

(2) The working group shall consider the following criteria in designating appropriate site locations for the installation of public restroom facilities:

(A) Locations identified by the report compiled pursuant to subsection (a) of this section as having frequent human waste cleanup needs;
(B) Pedestrian traffic in the area;
(C) Cost of installation, including connecting to water lines;
(D) Ensuring access for people experiencing homelessness;
(E) Availability of exiting public restroom facilities; and
(F) Input from ANC, BID, or other similar community organizations.

(3) The working group shall identify design criteria for the public restroom facilities that would:

(A) Promote usage;
(B) Discourage use of the facilities for illicit or nuisance activities;
(C) Minimize total costs, including maintenance;
(D) Ensure acceptance by the surrounding community; and
(E) Allow advertisement space.

(4) The working group shall identify at least 10 locations in the District for installation of public restroom facilities and which agency has jurisdiction over the property at each location. The working group shall notify the ANC for each potential public restroom facility location identified pursuant to this paragraph, and the Mayor shall post signage in the proposed location for a public restroom facility alerting people of the agency’s plan to install a
public restroom facility. The ANC for each location identified for potential public restroom
facilities shall have 60 days to pass a disapproval resolution regarding installation of a public
restroom facility.

(5) The working group shall devise and implement a strategy to disseminate
information to the public regarding locations of public restroom facilities, such as signage or a
publicly-available online database.

(c) The Mayor shall initiate the procurement of restroom facilities with the design criteria
identified pursuant to paragraph (b)(3) of this section and at the sites identified pursuant to
paragraph (b)(4) of this section unless the ANC for the location of a proposed public restroom
facility passes a disapproval resolution pursuant to paragraph (b)(4) of this section.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to change the procurement procedures
already required for any agency.

Sec. 4. Community Toilet Incentive.

(a) The Mayor shall establish a financial incentive program to encourage private
establishments to make their restrooms available to the public free of charge. Financial
incentives provided under this section shall not exceed 110% of the cost of additional
maintenance and cleaning supplies resulting from increased restroom usage due to participation
in the program. The Mayor may only subsidize the increase in maintenance and supply costs due
to participation in the program and shall require that any private establishment participating in
the program provide documentation of that entity’s maintenance and supply costs before and
after participating in the program.
(b)(1) The Mayor shall provide a sign for all participants in the program established in subsection (a) of this section to indicate that their restroom facilities are open to the public free of charge.

(2) Each private entity participating in the program established in subsection (a) of this section shall display the sign provided under paragraph (1) of this subsection in a prominent location visible from outside the establishment. Failure to display such signage shall terminate that establishment’s eligibility to participate in the financial incentive program.

(3) The Mayor shall maintain a database of locations where public restroom facilities are available through the financial incentive program established under subsection (a) of this section and shall make such database available to the public.

(c) Participation by private establishments in the program detailed in subsection (a) of this section shall not be mandatory, and no entity seeking to participate in this program shall be required to change its hours of operation.

Sec. 5. Reporting.

(a)(1) To monitor potential increases in illicit and nuisance activities in or around public restroom facilities, MPD shall report the following to the Council beginning on January 1, 2020, and on an annual basis thereafter:

(A) Whether areas near public restroom facilities installed pursuant to section 2 experience an increase in illicit or nuisance activities; and

(B) Whether any increase in activities documented under paragraph 1 of this subsection are a direct result of the public restroom facilities attracting illicit or nuisance activities.
(2) MPD may close any public restroom facility installed pursuant to this act if it deems that that public restroom facility has become a target for increased illicit or nuisance activities.

(b) Beginning on January 1, 2018, and on an annual basis thereafter, the Mayor shall report the cost of and number of participants in the financial incentive program provided pursuant to section 4.

Sec. 6. Fiscal impact statement.


Sec. 7. Effective date.

This act shall take effect after approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.