



Bill 42-23, Menstrual Products in Public Restrooms - Required

Montgomery County Council Meeting

December 12, 2023

Position: Oppose

Dear President Glass, Vice President Friedson and Honorable Members of the Council:

The Maryland Hotel Lodging Association (MHLA) is the sole statewide trade association dedicated to advocacy for Maryland's lodging industry, which supports more than 106,000 jobs and contributes \$9.3B to Maryland's economy annually.¹ Our members include more than 20 hotels with over 4,400 rooms located in Montgomery County.

Bill 42-23 would require hotels and other places of public accommodation to provide complimentary menstrual products in restrooms, subject to a Class A Violation that is enforceable by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Hotels have a longstanding practice of ensuring basic toiletries, including menstrual products, are available if needed upon request by guests. While the need for menstrual products is at times a necessity for certain females, we feel it is inappropriate for the government to place responsibility for it on private businesses. It would be costly, burdensome and potentially impossible for hotels to supply complimentary menstrual products, the related dispensers, and the staff necessary to stock and monitor each public restroom in a hotel 24/7.

If this bill moves forward, we hope to receive clarification on some specific questions and concerns. As written, we believe the bill would only apply to bathrooms in hotel common areas and would exclude those in guest rooms. Is this the sponsor and/or the Council's intent? Would this requirement also apply to men's bathrooms? How would the requirement be enforced? Would a business have an opportunity for a cure period before receiving a Class A penalty?

We have significant concerns with the legislation before you and respectfully request an Unfavorable Report on Bill 42-23.

¹ [AHLA Dashboard \(morningconsultintelligence.com\)](https://www.morningconsultintelligence.com)