

By: Representative Crawford

To: Public Property;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 881

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE UNIVERSAL CHANGING TABLES
 2 INSTALLATION INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM ACT FOR THE PURPOSES OF
 3 CREATING FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE OR COMMERCIAL
 4 ENTITIES LOCATED WITHIN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI TO INSTALL
 5 UNIVERSAL CHANGING TABLES WITHIN THE RESTROOM OF FACILITIES UNDER
 6 THEIR CONTROL; TO PROVIDE THAT THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
 7 REHABILITATION SERVICES SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE
 8 THAT GRANTS SHALL BE FUNDED FROM MONIES APPROPRIATED BY THE
 9 LEGISLATURE AND ANY OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE
 10 DEPARTMENT FOR THAT PURPOSE; TO PROVIDE THAT THE GRANTS SHALL BE
 11 AWARDED SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE FUNDING; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

13 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and cited as the
 14 "Universal Changing Tables Installation Incentive Grant Program
 15 Act."

16 **SECTION 2.** (1) There is established the Universal Changing
 17 Tables Installation Incentive Grant Program for the purpose and
 18 intent of providing financial assistance to public and private or
 19 commercial entities located within the State of Mississippi to
 20 install universal changing tables in one or more restrooms in
 21 existing or proposed facilities under its control.



22 (2) Any state agency, department, municipal or county
23 governing authority exercising ownership and control over any
24 public facility or the owner of any private or commercial building
25 which is accessible to the public, may be entitled to receive
26 grants up to a maximum amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00)
27 for each universal changing table installed in one or more
28 restrooms in existing or proposed facilities under its control.
29 Based upon a determination by the Mississippi Department of
30 Rehabilitation Services, relative to the funds made available for
31 the awarding of grants for the purpose specified in this act, the
32 department may increase or decrease the number of grants awarded
33 accordingly under the authority prescribed in Section 3 of this
34 act.

35 (3) Grants shall be funded from monies appropriated by the
36 Legislature to the department for that purpose, or any other
37 source of funding made available to the department for purposes of
38 this act. Grants shall be awarded on the basis of available funds
39 on a first-come, first-served basis, provided that grant
40 applicants satisfy the criteria established by the department for
41 the awarding of grants.

42 (4) To cover the costs of administering the grant program in
43 accordance with this act, the Department of Rehabilitation
44 Services may receive up to one percent (1%) of any annual
45 appropriation received by the department for the awarding of
46 grants.



47 **SECTION 3.** (1) The Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation
48 Services shall administer the Universal Changing Tables
49 Installation Incentive Grant Program and shall have the following
50 powers and duties:

51 (a) Receiving applications for grants under the grant
52 program;

53 (b) Determining the eligibility of applicants and
54 paying the grants from any funds available;

55 (c) Adopting and enforcing appropriate rules and
56 regulations regarding forms designed to be used by applicants for
57 grants and the eligibility of applicants;

58 (d) Developing criteria for evaluating the growing need
59 for the installation of universal changing tables, including, but
60 not be limited to:

61 (i) The percentage of the state's population
62 living with a physical disability; and

63 (ii) The number of existing public and private or
64 commercial facilities currently equipped with a universal changing
65 table;

66 (e) Developing the administrative policy for the grant
67 program;

68 (f) Promulgating rules and regulations pertaining to
69 the implementation and operation of the grant program;



70 (g) Establishing a budget to support the activities of
71 the program and periodically reviewing and, if appropriate,
72 revising the amount of the grants offered through the program;

73 (i) Any other rules and regulations as the department
74 may deem necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes and
75 intent of the grant program; and

76 (j) Collaborating with the Department of Archives and
77 History and the Department of Finance and Administration to ensure
78 that the integrity of facilities designated as historic landmarks
79 is not compromised by the installation of a universal changing
80 table within such facilities.

81 (2) When reviewing applications for grant awards, the
82 department shall give priority to applicants whose applications
83 specify that in the installation of the universal changing table,
84 the table is:

85 (a) Powered and height-adjustable, for safety of the
86 person and caregiver assisting;

87 (b) Placed in single occupancy restrooms, universal to
88 gender;

89 (c) Placed in a room with a minimum size of at least
90 ten (10) feet by fourteen and six-tenths (14.6) feet, which allows
91 for a turning radius of sixty (60) inches for the wheelchair in
92 the middle of the room and thirty-six (36) inches of space at one
93 (1) end of the table; and



94 (d) Made known to the visitors by the placement of
95 clearly visible signage at the entrance of the building.

96 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
97 and after July 1, 2024.

