

HB 542 -- UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION IN PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION

SPONSOR: Sparks

This bill states that it is an unlawful discriminatory practice for a place of public accommodation to:

- (1) Designate any changing room or restroom, other than a family restroom, for use by persons of both sexes; or
- (2) Allow any person to use a changing room or restroom that has been designated for use exclusively by persons of the opposite sex.

The bill further states that a place or business is not exempt from these provisions because that place or business collects membership fees or dues from people who make use of any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, services, or privileges made available in the place or business. Such a place or business is deemed a place of public accommodation as long as the place or business accepts for membership anyone who pays fees or dues and the place or business otherwise meets the statutory definition of "place of public accommodation."

This bill also allows for the filing of a civil claim of unlawful discriminatory practice under these provisions.