

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 410

BY SENATOR CHAPMAN

[Introduced January 12, 2024; referred
to the Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §16-1-19 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to requiring all state buildings to have a nursing room so that a mother can either nurse
3 her baby or pump; requiring that these nursing rooms be separate from a bathroom; and
4 permitting that these rooms can be adjacent to bathrooms.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. STATE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM.

§16-1-19. Child's right to nurse; location where permitted; right protected; state buildings must provide nursing rooms.

1 (a) The Legislature finds that breast feeding is an important, basic act of nurturing that is
2 protected in the interests of maternal and child health.

3 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, a mother may breast feed
4 a child in any location open to the public.

5 (c) All state buildings and properties leased by the state are required to provide a place,
6 other than a bathroom, that is shielded from view and free from intrusion from coworkers and the
7 public, which may be used to express milk or to nurse a child.

8 (1) The nursing rooms provided in state buildings must have a functional electrical outlet
9 and a place for the mother to sit.

10 (2) Although the nursing rooms cannot be bathrooms, they may be attached to bathrooms,
11 such as a private room or lounge off from a bathroom.