

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 171**

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

By Senator Chapman

[Introduced February 12, 2025; referred  
to the Committee on Government Organization; and  
then to the Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §16-1-19 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
 2 requiring all state buildings to have a nursing room so that a mother can either nurse her  
 3 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 a  
 4 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.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require all state buildings to provide a private room in which mothers can express milk or nurse their children.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.