

# San Francisco Chronicle

## Gender-neutral restroom bill sent to Jerry Brown's desk

By **Melody Gutierrez**

Monday, August 22, 2016

SACRAMENTO — The state Legislature passed a bill Monday that would make all public single-stall restrooms gender-neutral, a change transgender people say will allow them to pee in peace. The bill, **AB1732**, now heads to Gov. Jerry Brown for consideration.

Assemblyman Phil Ting, D-San Francisco, said that if Brown signs the bill, California will have the most inclusive restroom access law in the country by making single-stall restrooms in businesses, government buildings and other public places available to all genders, instead of one for men and another for women. The law would go into effect March 1, 2017, and would not affect multi-stall restrooms.

"Restricting access to single-use restrooms defies reason," Ting said in a statement. "It is a basic necessity of life, and everyone should get in and out on the same terms. By signing this bill, Gov. Jerry Brown can chart a new course for equality that other states should follow."

The bill passed the Assembly 53-13 on Monday, and the Senate approved it last week on a 28-7 vote. Brown has until the end of September to act on it.

Supporters of the bill said it benefits not only transgender people but also parents who have children of the opposite gender when accompanying them to the restroom.

AB1732 builds on a restroom access bill signed into law in 2013 that allows transgender K-12 students to use the school restroom corresponding with the gender they identify with.

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