



# 135th General Assembly | [House Bill 183](#)

## OH's School Restroom Restriction

### Bill Basics

**Summary:** To require state funded schools to restrict the usage of bathrooms to bathrooms that align with a person's sex assigned at birth.

**Primary Sponsor:** Lear, Bird

**Co-Sponsors:** Fowler Arthur, Barhorst, Rob Blasdel, Claggett, Click, Dean, Ferguson, Gross, Hall, King, Klopfenstein, Lorenz, Manchester, Schmidt, Seitz, Stoltzfus, Wiggam, Willis, Williams

**Committee:** [House Higher Education Committee](#)

### Bill Highlights

**House Bill 183** seeks to limit the usage of school restrooms, locker rooms, changing rooms, or shower rooms, on the basis of sex assigned at birth.

- Prohibits people in schools from utilizing facilities that do not correspond with the sex listed on their original birth certificate, i.e. people assigned male at birth to the boys facilities, and those assigned female at birth to the girls facilities, regardless of gender identity.
- Defines "biological sex" as being male or female, in accordance with the sex listed on a person's original birth record, and doesn't acknowledge intersex people.
- States that schools may allow co-ed access to single-person facilities.

### Talking Points

- **Everyone uses the restroom and other facilities throughout the school day.** Transgender people are part of our workplaces and our neighborhoods, and they need to be able to use the restroom just like everyone else.
- **Regulating adult bathroom use is the ultimate nanny state.** This bill expands into higher education - regulating the bathroom use of adults in undergraduate, graduate programs, and possibly other educational settings.
- **These bills create suspicion and paranoia in public spaces for kids** - youth who may not fit into typical gender roles or do not look "girl" or "boy" enough could be threatened or harassed for their appearance.
- **This bill would require a stricter ID to use a school bathroom than needed to vote.** There's no reason to require a birth certificate to use the bathroom.

- **Harmful bills like this deter businesses from investing in the state and workers from moving here.** We've got so many amazing businesses, big and small, who are always trying to recruit an energetic, talented workforce. This bill will only harm those efforts.
- **There isn't any flexibility to reflect the diverse array of uses of educational facilities.** There is no nuance in this bill for circumstances where single sex facilities may not serve the needs of an event or organization utilizing the facilities or other special circumstances.

## Relevant Statistics

- [Data](#) from The Trevor Project shows us that **when we debate legislation regarding transgender youth, it directly harms the mental health of all LGBTQ+ youth.** Any legislation that aims to restrict who can simply use a restroom impacts all youth.
- A Harvard [study](#) shows that transgender youth with restricted access to the facilities that match their gender have a heightened risk of sexual violence.
- The [UCLA](#) found that transgender people are four times more likely to experience violent crime than their non-LGBTQ peers.

## Relevant Context

**Transgender Bathroom Bans Across the Country:** 32 introduced, with at least 9 in effect

**By the Numbers:** In 2023, more than 400 [anti-LGBTQ+ bills](#) have been introduced around the country, making 2023 the worst year on record for LGBTQ+ rights.

**Who is at risk?:** This bill, while supposedly intending to protect people, actually puts people at a heightened risk of being victimized, as it has been shown the trans people are already at a higher risk for being victimized by violent crime

**Enforcement:** Given the language currently in HB 183, the enforcement of this bill would either be through a visual identification of who may or may not be gender non-conforming, or by needing to present a Birth Certificate or other form of identification material in order to use a restroom or locker room. This is not only impossible to enforce, but also will lead to harassment and harm toward transgender and gender nonconforming youth and adults.

## Relevant Language

- **Transgender boy/man |** Someone who's sex assigned at birth is female, but transitioned/is transitioning to male and whose gender identity is a man/boy.
- **Transgender woman/girl |** Someone who's sex assigned at birth is male, but transitioned/is transitioning to female and whose gender identity is a woman/girl.
- **Sex assigned at birth |** The sex – male, female or intersex – that a doctor or midwife uses to describe a child at birth based on their external anatomy. *This term is preferred to "biological" because it's more accurate.*
- **Intersex |** A condition where a person's sex assigned at birth is not clearly male or female, with the person having any combination of external, internal, or genetic abnormalities regarding sex and reproductive anatomy
- **Our Guide to Sex and Gender:** [Sex and Gender Not so Binary Teal.pdf](#)
- **A Guide to LGBTQ+ Language:** [Equality Ohio\\_ Language Guide.pdf](#)