ORDINANCE NO. 5127

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 78, ARTICLE I, OF THE BOSSIER PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, BY ADDING SECTION 78-5, ESTABLISHING THE DESIGNATION AND USE OF RESTROOMS, CHANGING ROOMS, AND SIMILAR FACILITIES IN BUILDINGS OWNED OR OPERATED BY THE BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY; PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION OF PRIVACY AND SAFETY; ADOPTING DEFINITIONS CONSISTENT WITH LOUISIANA'S WOMEN'S SAFETY AND PROTECTION ACT; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING PENALTIES; AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, The Bossier Parish Police Jury owns and operates numerous public buildings throughout Bossier Parish for governmental purposes;

WHEREAS, the Police Jury has a legitimate governmental interest in protecting the privacy, safety, and dignity of members of the public and its employees while using restroom, changing room, shower, and similar facilities;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature enacted the Women's Safety and Protection Act, La. R.S. 9:55 through 9:65, establishing definitions relating to biological sex and recognizing the authority of governmental entities to maintain separate accommodations based upon biological sex where privacy and safety are implicated;

WHEREAS, Article VI of the Louisiana Constitution and applicable provisions of the Louisiana Revised Statutes authorize the Bossier Parish Police Jury to adopt ordinances for the protection of the public health, safety, welfare, and management of parish property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 15th day of July, 2026, that Chapter 78, Article I, Section 78-5 of the Bossier Parish Code of Ordinances, be and is hereby titled "Designation and Use of Restrooms, Changing Rooms, and Similar Facilities in Buildings Owned or Operated by the Bossier Parish Police Jury", be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 78-5. Designation and Use of Restrooms, Changing Rooms, and Similar Facilities in Buildings Owned or Operated by the Bossier Parish Police Jury

(a) *Purpose.* This Ordinance is to protect the privacy and safety of persons utilizing a restroom, changing room, shower, locker room, and similar facilities located within buildings owned, leased, maintained, or operated by the Bossier Parish Police Jury.

(b) *Applicability*. This Ordinance shall apply to every building, library, office, courthouse, maintenance facility, warehouse, recreation building, public works facility, annex, administrative office, and every other structure owned or operated by the Bossier Parish Police Jury.

(c) *Definitions*.

(1) Unless otherwise required by law, the definitions contained in La. R.S. 9:58 are hereby adopted by reference.

(2) For purposes of this Ordinance:

Biological Sex shall mean an individual's biological sex as observed or clinically verified at birth.

Male shall have the meaning provided by La. R.S. 9:58.

Female shall have the meaning provided by La. R.S. 9:58.

Restroom includes any room containing toilets or urinals.

Changing Room includes locker rooms, dressing rooms, shower rooms, or any area where persons may reasonably be expected to disrobe.

(d) *Designation of Facilities*.

(1) Every multiple-occupancy restroom, changing room, shower room, or locker room located within a Parish facility shall be permanently designated as:

(a) Male;
(b) Female; or
(c) Family/Single Occupancy, where appropriate.

(2) Single-user restrooms may remain available for use by any person regardless of biological sex.

(e) *Authorized Use*.

(1) A person shall use only those multiple-occupancy restrooms, locker rooms, shower rooms, or changing rooms designated for that person's biological sex.

(2) Nothing in this Ordinance shall prohibit:
(a) A parent assisting a minor child.
(b) Assistance provided to a disabled person.
(c) Emergency medical care.
(d) Law enforcement activities.
(e) Custodial or maintenance services.
(f) Emergency evacuations or disasters.

(f) *Signage*. Appropriate signage shall be installed identifying each restroom or changing area as:
(1) "Male",
(2) "Female", or
(3) "Family/Single Occupancy".

(g) *Enforcement.*

(1) Any employee observing a violation shall request that the individual leave the facility designated for the opposite biological sex.
(2) If the individual refuses, the person may be directed to leave the Parish building.
(3) Failure to comply shall constitute a violation of this Ordinance.
(4) Nothing herein limits the authority of law enforcement to remove persons engaging in disorderly conduct, trespass, disturbing the peace, or any other violation of Louisiana law.

(h) *Penalties.* Any person who knowingly and intentionally enters or remains in a restroom, locker room, shower room, or changing room designated exclusively for members of the opposite biological sex, after having been requested to leave by an employee or law enforcement officer, shall be guilty of violating this Ordinance.

(1) Upon conviction:
First offense: Fine not exceeding $250.

Second offense: Fine not exceeding $500 and/or imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days.

Third and subsequent offenses: Fine not exceeding $500 and imprisonment for not more than six (6) months.

Each separate occurrence shall constitute a separate offense.

(i) *Employee Discipline.* Employees violating this Ordinance shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to applicable personnel policies in addition to any criminal penalties.

(j) *Civil Remedies.* Nothing in this Ordinance shall impair any civil remedies available under Louisiana law, including those provided by La. R.S. 9:55 through 9:65.

(k) *Severability*. If any provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such determination shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

(l) *Effective Date*. This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption and publication according to law.

The ordinance was offered by Mr. Darby, seconded by Mr. Benton. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 15th day of July, 2026.

ASHLEY B. EZELL
PARISH SECRETARY

TOM SALZER, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY