

2021 -- H 5935

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Representatives Ranglin-Vassell, Kislak, Ajello, Potter, Alzate, Barros,
Biah, and Henries

Date Introduced: February 25, 2021

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-21 of the General Laws entitled "Health and Safety of Pupils" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-21-3.2. Indoor air quality - Schools.**

4 (a) The department of health shall establish rules and regulations regarding indoor air
5 quality in schools which will do the following:

6 (1) Establish an indoor air quality in schools inspection and evaluation program to inspect
7 and evaluate the indoor air quality of every public and private elementary and secondary school in
8 Rhode Island.

9 (2) Set minimum standards for indoor air quality in schools, including standards that relate
10 to the following:

11 (i) Mold levels in the air;

12 (ii) Potential for exposure to bioaerosols;

13 (iii) Chemical compounds that affect indoor air quality, including volatile organic
14 compounds;

15 (iv) Ventilation systems;

16 (v) Plumbing, including water distribution systems, drainage systems and fixtures;

17 (vi) Building structural elements, including roofing, basements and slabs;

18 (vii) The use of space, particularly areas designed to be unoccupied.

19 (b) The department of health shall:

1 (1) Inspect each school in Rhode Island each year for compliance with the minimum
2 standards adopted under subsection (a) of this section; and

3 (2) Report the results of the inspection to:

4 (i) Each school's principal;

5 (ii) The state department of elementary and secondary education; and

6 (iii) The appropriate local school committee.

7 (c) If a school does not meet the minimum air quality standards established by the
8 department, the school must remedy each air quality problem noted within sixty (60) days after the
9 principal receives the report under subsection (b) of this section.

10 (d) The department of health is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations
11 necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

1 This act would direct the department of health to establish an inspection and evaluation
2 program and establish rules and regulations regarding air quality in elementary and secondary
3 schools.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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