

2021 -- H 5068

LC000079

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Alzate, and Shallcross Smith

Date Introduced: January 22, 2021

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

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 **16-21-37. Healthy school buildings and grounds.**

4 (a) Healthy school buildings and grounds required. Healthy school buildings and school
5 grounds are key factors in the overall health and safety of students and staff. School buildings and
6 grounds must be designed and maintained to be accessible and free of health and safety hazards,
7 and to promote learning and school engagement. In order to achieve good indoor air quality, school
8 departments must ensure proper ventilation, filtration, moisture and humidity management, and
9 contaminate source control. In the furtherance of good air quality, the provision of this section shall
10 be required for all new school buildings constructed on or after July 1, 2021.

11 (b) Prohibition on mobile fossil-fuel-powered equipment use indoors. All fossil-fuel-
12 powered machinery that is mobile and whose specific function is for use inside any school building
13 is prohibited. The purpose of this prohibition is to prevent accumulation of exhaust inside the
14 building from equipment such as polishers and burnishers. This prohibition in this section does not
15 include stationary equipment such as gas stoves, chemistry equipment, and vocational equipment.

16 (c) School electronic devices.

17 (1) All school electronic devices, including computers, imaging devices, and television and
18 audio/visual systems, shall meet the requirements of the Electronic Product Environmental
19 Assessment Tool (EPEAT) rating system, Silver or Gold level. All exposed cables and cords shall

1 not contain any of the three phthalate esters of concern given in Consumer Product Safety
2 Improvement Act (CPSIA), Section 108(a) above one-tenth (0.1%) by weight.

3 (2) As used in this section, the term "phthalate esters of concern" means: di-(2 ethylhexyl)
4 phthalate (DEPH), CAS 117-81-7; di-n-butyl phthalate (DBP), CAS 84-74-2; and butyl benzyl
5 phthalate (BBP), CAS 85-68-7. Testing and analysis shall be conducted following CPSC-CH-
6 C1001-09.3, 2010 and U.S. EPA Method 8270D.

7 (d) Purchase of ENERGY STAR® equipment and appliances.

8 (1) All newly purchased equipment and appliances to be used in a school shall be compliant
9 in all product categories covered by the ENERGY STAR® program. All low-efficiency products,
10 including incandescent lights, halogen torchieres, and portable electrical resistance heaters are
11 prohibited from use. When ENERGY STAR® compliant equipment is not available, the project
12 owner should submit a notice of exception to the relevant high performance school administrators.

13 (2) As used herein, the term "ENERGY STAR®" means the same-named joint program
14 between the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which
15 program promotes the adoption of energy-efficient products and practices.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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1 This act would promote healthy school buildings and grounds by prohibiting the use of
2 certain appliances in school buildings and by requiring that all newly purchased equipment and
3 appliances to be used in a school be compliant in all product categories covered by the ENERGY
4 STAR® program. This act would also require that all school electronic devices, including
5 computers, imaging devices, and TV/AV systems, meet the requirements of the EPEAT rating
6 system

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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