
HOUSE BILL 3167

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Hunt, Campbell, Hudgins, Dickerson, Chase, Williams, and McIntire

Read first time 01/23/08. Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Environmental Health.

1 AN ACT Relating to evaluating environmental health conditions in
2 state office buildings; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the indoor
5 environmental quality of the office setting is of growing concern due
6 to the potential health effects of an increasing number of chemicals
7 found in today's office environment, biological contaminants, and the
8 trend toward less fresh air exchange to facilitate energy conservation.
9 Indoor contaminants may include: Radon, asbestos, volatile organic
10 chemicals; combustion byproducts including carbon monoxide, nitrogen
11 oxides and carbon dioxide; metals and gases including lead, chlorine,
12 and ozone; respirable particles, and other contaminants. In some
13 circumstances, exposure to these substances may cause adverse health
14 effects, including respiratory illnesses, multiple chemical
15 sensitivities, skin and eye irritations, headaches, and other related
16 symptoms.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) To help ensure that emerging and
18 existing solutions to minimize the potential for adverse health effects

1 are taken into consideration for the construction, remodeling,
2 occupancy, and ongoing maintenance of state office buildings, the
3 department of health shall convene and chair a work group to study
4 approaches and techniques that are effective at minimizing the
5 potential for adverse environmental health effects on occupants of
6 state office buildings.

7 (2) The secretary of health shall establish the work group and
8 include representatives from: The department of general
9 administration; the department of labor and industries; the state
10 building code council; agency representatives of small, mid-size, and
11 large facilities; state employee unions; industry representatives; and
12 other stakeholders as deemed appropriate by the department of health.

13 (3) The work group shall make recommendations to the legislature on
14 practical and cost-effective opportunities to minimize the potential
15 for adverse environmental health effects on building occupants of
16 state-owned and leased office buildings related to building
17 construction, remodeling, occupancy, and ongoing maintenance. The
18 definition of "state office building" includes workplace settings such
19 as office building cafeterias, copy rooms, public school chemistry
20 classrooms and laboratories, workout rooms, restrooms, teachers'
21 lounges, snack areas, lunchrooms, and similar work places where
22 building occupants have routine access.

23 (4) In carrying out its assignment, the work group shall include,
24 but not be limited to, the following indoor environmental quality
25 considerations:

- 26 (a) Regulatory and research information:
 - 27 (i) State and local building codes compared to the industry
 - 28 standard;
 - 29 (ii) Agency policies and procedures;
 - 30 (iii) Research findings; and
 - 31 (iv) Monitoring data.
- 32 (b) Contaminants and contaminant sources:
 - 33 (i) Biological, chemical, and inorganic contaminants;
 - 34 (ii) Mold and mildew;
 - 35 (iii) Construction materials;
 - 36 (iv) Paint;
 - 37 (v) Floor, ceiling, and wall coverings;
 - 38 (vi) Adhesives and sealants;

1 (vii) Cleaning products and disinfectants;
2 (viii) Appliances;
3 (ix) Smoke and combustion;
4 (x) Indoor pesticides and fertilizers;
5 (xi) Fragrances; and
6 (xii) Synergistic effects.
7 (c) Physical factors;
8 (i) Temperature and relative humidity conditions;
9 (ii) Lighting levels;
10 (iii) Noise levels;
11 (iv) White noise intended to dampen voices, echoes, and
12 distractions in interior spaces;
13 (v) Vibrations;
14 (vi) Surface absorption of air pollutants;
15 (vii) Individual work space proximity to copy and printing
16 machines;
17 (viii) Ergonomic conditions;
18 (ix) The design of the work place environment and its potential to
19 exacerbate job-related psychological-social health stressors, both at
20 the macro and individual work space level;
21 (x) Electromagnetic fields; and
22 (xi) Paths of travel.
23 (d) Mitigation measures:
24 (i) Fresh air exchange;
25 (ii) Air filter quality and replacement frequency;
26 (iii) Ability of the employee to control individual work station
27 temperature, lighting, air flow, and to turn off and on office
28 equipment and computers;
29 (iv) Cleaning methods;
30 (v) Occupant education in indoor environmental quality policies;
31 (vi) Designated cleaner air rooms; and
32 (vii) Clean air symbol and conditions of use labeling.
33 (e) Cost.
34 (5) Recommendations may include statutory or regulatory changes,
35 incentives, and other approaches. Recommendations must be presented in
36 a report to the governor and to the legislature by December 1, 2008.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department of health shall conduct
2 a study of at least two state-owned office buildings and at least one
3 privately owned office building leased by the state in the Olympia
4 area. The purpose of the study is to measure and monitor air, water,
5 and general building conditions as they relate to environmental hazards
6 that negatively impact working conditions.

7 (2) The department of health shall test drinking water in all state
8 office buildings to ensure that drinking water is of drinkable quality
9 and taste. State agencies may only purchase bottled water if the
10 drinking water in their facilities is, according to the department of
11 health, not satisfactory for drinking.

12 (3) Savings from the reduced purchase of bottled drinking water by
13 state agencies must be directed toward funding this act.

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