

HOUSE BILL REPORT

ESHB 1464

As Passed House:
February 28, 2007

Title: An act relating to reducing the environmental health impact of cleaning in state facilities.

Brief Description: Reducing the environmental impact of cleaning state facilities.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Select Committee on Environmental Health (originally sponsored by Representatives Simpson, Hudgins, Wood, Campbell, Morrell and Hasegawa).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Select Committee on Environmental Health: 1/30/07, 2/1/07 [DPS].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/28/07, 96-0.

Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill

- Requires all state agencies to purchase and use cleaning products having properties that minimize potential impacts to human health and the environment.
- Directs the Department of General Administration, in consultation with the Department of Health and the Department of Ecology, to provide guidance to state agencies in the selection and procurement of products that reduce the risks of harmful effects to people and the environment.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Campbell, Chair; Hudgins, Vice Chair; Newhouse, Ranking Minority Member; Sump, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Chase, Hailey, Hunt, Morrell and Wood.

Staff: Brad Avy (786-7289).

Background:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Department of General Administration (Department) coordinates state agencies' purchases and sales of goods and services. The Director of the Department must establish overall state policy for determining where and when an item in the state supply system should be stocked. In addition, the Director of the Department must develop state goals for using recycled or environmentally preferable products.

The Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) must periodically review personal health and sanitation conditions at state-owned or contracted institutions and facilities. The Department of Ecology (DOE) is established as the state agency with the authority to carry out an integrated and coordinated program of pollution prevention and control.

Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill:

All state agencies must purchase and use cleaning products having properties that minimize potential impacts to human health and the environment. The Department, in consultation with the DOH and the DOE, must consider nationally recognized accrediting information and provide guidance to state agencies to:

- select and purchase products and use practices that reduce or minimize the risks of harmful effects to employees, custodial workers, visitors, and other building occupants, and to the environment;
- promote adoption of cleaning practices that reduce or minimize these risks;
- recognize state agencies that adopt and implement environmentally beneficial facility and workplace management policies and practices;
- encourage contractors supplying goods and services to state agencies to use such products; and
- encourage lessors and building managers who provide leased space to state agencies to select and purchase such products.

The Department, upon renewal of a lease and for all new leases, must require lessors and building managers who provide leased space to state agencies to use environmentally preferred products and practices.

State agencies must purchase environmentally preferred products or document the reasons for selecting nonpreferred products. Preferred products must conform to guidance for environmentally preferred purchasing of cleaning products developed by the Department. State agencies must transition to preferred cleaning products within six months of the effective date of the bill in a manner that avoids waste of existing inventories, and allows for proper establishment of supplies and training.

When there is a need to control the spread of germs, infection, and disease in areas where high levels of bacteria are present or in areas where mandated by law, the use of germicidals, disinfectants, and microbiological products must be used in accordance with responsible cleaning procedure requirements, including:

- controlled and efficient use;
- proper dilution, mixing, and handling
- following label instructions;
- monitoring of chemical quantities used; and
- compliance with chemical hazard communication and personal protective equipment use requirements under chapter 296-800 WAC.

State agencies must prepare a biennial report for listing on the Department's website the products purchased that are not on the preferred list, along with reasons why they were not selected.

Local governments and school districts are encouraged to review their purchasing and use of cleaning products and select those products having properties that minimize potential impacts to human health and the environment. The Department must encourage local government and school purchasing of preferred products if the entity is part of the Department's purchasing cooperative.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This bill will have a positive impact on the human health environment for state building and school occupants, cleaning workers, as well as the external environment. This bill works hand-in-hand with what the Department of General Administration is already accomplishing on a voluntary basis. General Administration prefers to include the new requirements into leases on a phased-in basis as the leases expire.

(In support with concerns) There is a distinction between cleaning and disinfecting or sanitizing products. Third party certification requirements may have the unintended consequence of limiting needed access to disinfectants. Flexibility is needed by the Department of General Administration for certifying environmentally preferred cleaning products.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Representative Simpson, prime sponsor; Ruth Sheaner, retired toxicologist; Robert Bippert and Pattie Williams, General Administration; and Darin Rice, Department of Ecology.

(In support with concerns) Dave Ducharme, Rickett Benckiser; Andrew Hackman, The Consumer Specialty Products Association.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.