
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1209 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY GUENST, SANCHEZ, BURGOS, HANBIDGE, KULIK,
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KRUEGER, FITZGERALD AND N. NELSON, APRIL 16, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 16, 2021

AN ACT

1 Requiring carbon monoxide alarms in school buildings.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the School
6 Buildings Carbon Monoxide Alarm Act.

7 Section 2. Definitions.

8 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
9 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
10 context clearly indicates otherwise:

11 "Carbon monoxide alarm." A device to detect and sound an
12 alarm in the presence of carbon monoxide that meets all of the
13 following:

14 (1) Bears the label of a nationally recognized standard
15 testing laboratory indicating that the device is appropriate
16 for its intended use.

1 (2) Is installed and maintained in accordance with this
2 act.

3 (3) Is tested, at least monthly, in accordance with the
4 manufacturer's instructions.

5 "Department." The Department of Education of the
6 Commonwealth.

7 "Fossil fuel." Coal, kerosene, oil, fuel gases or other
8 petroleum or hydrocarbon products that emit carbon monoxide as a
9 byproduct of combustion.

10 "Nonpublic school." Any school, other than a public school,
11 in which a resident of this Commonwealth may legally fulfill the
12 compulsory school attendance requirements of the act of March
13 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of
14 1949, and which meets the requirements of Title VI of the Civil
15 Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

16 Section 3. Installation of carbon monoxide alarms.

17 (a) Requirement.--Not later than January 1, 2022, all public
18 and nonpublic elementary and secondary school buildings that
19 contain a fossil-fuel burning furnace, boiler or water heater
20 shall be required to install carbon monoxide alarms in
21 accordance with the Standard for the Installation of Carbon
22 Monoxide (CO) Detection and Warning Equipment (NFPA 720) of the
23 National Fire Protection Association, and applicable regulations
24 adopted by the department under subsection (b). Combination
25 smoke and carbon monoxide alarms shall be permitted.

26 (b) Regulations.--The department shall adopt regulations in
27 consultation with the State Fire Commissioner and State and
28 local building code authorities to incorporate the requirements
29 specified in this act. These regulations shall include the
30 appropriate number, type and placement of carbon monoxide alarms

1 in school buildings and shall be completed not later than six
2 months after the effective date of this section.

3 (c) Applicability.--Subsection (a) shall not apply to a
4 public or nonpublic school if the department determines that no
5 potential carbon monoxide hazard exists for the school building.

6 (d) Funding.--In addition to any State funds specifically
7 appropriated by the General Assembly for the purposes of this
8 act, the department shall apply for Federal, non-State, private
9 and other funds and may accept donations, including donations of
10 equipment, to help public and nonpublic schools comply with the
11 provisions of this act. Funds and equipment collected under this
12 subsection shall be distributed to schools in a manner approved
13 by the department. The department may adopt rules as necessary
14 to implement this subsection.

15 Section 4. Effective date.

16 This act shall take effect immediately.