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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1279 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, WASHINGTON, ARGALL, COSTA, KASUNIC,  
SOLOBAY, TARTAGLIONE, SCHWANK AND HUGHES, MARCH 14, 2014

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MARCH 14, 2014

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AN ACT

1 Providing standards for carbon monoxide alarms in dormitories;  
2 and imposing penalties.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Carbon  
7 Monoxide Alarm Standards in Dormitories Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

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

12 "Approved carbon monoxide alarm." The term includes:

13 (1) A single or multiple station carbon monoxide alarm  
14 listed as complying with the Approved American National  
15 Standard for Single and Multiple Station Carbon Monoxide  
16 Alarms (ANSI/UL2034) or a carbon monoxide detector listed as  
17 complying with the Approved American National Standard for  
18 Gas and Vapor Detectors and Sensors (ANSI/UL2075) installed

1 in accordance with this act.

2 (2) A device that may be combined with a smoke alarm or  
3 smoke detector if the combined smoke alarm or detector meets  
4 all of the following:

5 (i) Complies with either of the following:

6 (A) The Approved American National Standard for  
7 Single and Multiple Station Carbon Monoxide Alarms  
8 (ANSI/UL2034) for carbon monoxide alarms and the  
9 Approved American National Standard for Single and  
10 Multiple Station Smoke Alarms (ANSI/UL217) for smoke  
11 alarms.

12 (B) The Approved American National Standard for  
13 Gas and Vapor Detectors and Sensors (ANSI/UL2075) for  
14 carbon monoxide detectors and the Approved American  
15 National Standard for Safety for Smoke Detectors for  
16 Fire Alarm Systems (ANSI/UL268) for smoke detectors.

17 (ii) Emits an alarm in a manner that clearly  
18 differentiates between detecting the presence of carbon  
19 monoxide and the presence of smoke.

20 (3) A carbon monoxide detection system that includes  
21 carbon monoxide detectors and audible notification appliances  
22 that are installed and maintained in accordance with the  
23 National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code (NFPA 72) and the  
24 Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO)  
25 Detection and Warning Equipment (NFPA 720) and are in  
26 compliance with the Approved American National Standard for  
27 Gas and Vapor Detectors and Sensors (ANSI/UL2075).

28 "Dormitory." A building containing one or more housing units  
29 owned or leased by an institution of higher education which is  
30 used as a residence by the students of the institution of higher

1 education.

2 "Fossil fuel." Coal, kerosene, oil, wood, fuel gases and  
3 other petroleum or hydrocarbon products which emit carbon  
4 monoxide as a by-product of combustion.

5 "Housing unit." A room or suite of two or more rooms that is  
6 occupied, leased for occupation or intended or designed to be  
7 occupied as a residence by the students of an institution of  
8 higher education.

9 "Installed." A carbon monoxide alarm that is hardwired into  
10 the electrical wiring, directly plugged into an electrical  
11 outlet without a switch, other than a circuit breaker, or, if  
12 the alarm is battery-powered, attached to the wall or ceiling of  
13 a dormitory or a housing unit, in accordance with the Standard  
14 for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detection and  
15 Warning Equipment (NFPA 720).

16 "Institution of higher education." Any of the following:

17 (1) A university within the State System of Higher  
18 Education under Article XX-A of the act of March 10, 1949  
19 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949.

20 (2) A community college established under Article XIX-A  
21 of the Public School Code of 1949.

22 (3) A State-related institution as defined in section  
23 1502-A of the Public School Code of 1949.

24 (4) Any college or university which is operated not for  
25 profit, located in and incorporated or chartered by the  
26 Commonwealth and entitled to confer degrees as set forth in  
27 24 Pa.C.S. § 6505 (relating to power to confer degrees).

28 "Operational." Working and in service.

29 Section 3. Administration.

30 Nothing in this act is intended to modify the authority and

1 responsibilities of the Department of Labor and Industry under  
2 the act of November 10, 1999 (P.L.491, No.45), known as the  
3 Pennsylvania Construction Code Act.

4 Section 4. Carbon monoxide alarm requirements.

5 (a) Dormitories.--Each dormitory, which uses a fossil fuel-  
6 burning heater or appliance or has an attached garage, must have  
7 an operational, centrally located and approved carbon monoxide  
8 alarm installed in the vicinity of the fossil fuel-burning  
9 heater or appliance and every housing unit that is located on  
10 the same story as the fossil fuel-burning heater or appliance or  
11 attached garage within 18 months of the effective date of this  
12 section.

13 (b) Maintenance, repair or replacement.--The governing body  
14 of an institution of higher education is responsible for  
15 providing for the maintenance, repair or replacement of an  
16 approved carbon monoxide alarm or the care and replacement of  
17 batteries.

18 Section 5. Enforcement.

19 Willful failure to install or maintain in operating condition  
20 any approved carbon monoxide alarm required by this act is a  
21 summary offense punishable by a fine of up to \$50.

22 Section 6. Effective date.

23 This act shall take effect immediately.