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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 261 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, KITCHEN, SCHWANK, SMITH, COSTA,  
TARTAGLIONE AND BREWSTER, JANUARY 15, 2015

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JANUARY 15, 2015

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AN ACT

1 Providing standards for carbon monoxide alarms in schools; and  
2 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 Schools 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 Safety for Single and Multiple Station Carbon  
16 Monoxide Alarms (ANSI/UL2034) or a carbon monoxide detector  
17 listed as complying with the approved American National  
18 Standard for Safety for Gas and Vapor Detectors and Sensors

1 (ANSI/UL2075) installed 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 Safety for Single and Multiple Station Carbon  
8 Monoxide Alarms (ANSI/UL2034) for carbon monoxide  
9 alarms and the approved American National Standard  
10 for Safety for Single and Multiple Station Smoke  
11 Alarms (ANSI/UL217) for smoke alarms.

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

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

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

29 "Classroom." A room located in a public school or a  
30 nonpublic school where one or more students receive instruction.

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

4 "Installed." A carbon monoxide alarm that is hardwired into  
5 the electrical wiring, directly plugged into an electrical  
6 outlet without a switch, other than a circuit breaker, or, if  
7 the alarm is battery-powered, attached to the wall or ceiling of  
8 a school or classroom, in accordance with the Standard for the  
9 Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detection and Warning  
10 Equipment (NFPA 720).

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

17 "Operational." Working and in service.

18 "Public school." Any of the following:

- 19 (1) A school of a school district.
- 20 (2) A charter school.
- 21 (3) A regional charter school.
- 22 (4) A cyber charter school, that provides educational  
23 instruction by any means at one or more centrally located  
24 facilities where students attend the instruction.

25 "School." Any public school or nonpublic school.

26 Section 3. Administration.

27 Nothing in this act is intended to modify the authority and  
28 responsibilities of the Department of Labor and Industry under  
29 the act of November 10, 1999 (P.L.491, No.45), known as the  
30 Pennsylvania Construction Code Act.

1 Section 4. Carbon monoxide alarm requirements.

2 (a) General rule.--Each school, which uses a fossil fuel-  
3 burning heater or appliance or has an attached garage, must have  
4 an operational, centrally located and approved carbon monoxide  
5 alarm installed in the vicinity of every classroom that is  
6 located on the same story as the fossil fuel-burning heater or  
7 appliance or attached garage within 18 months of the effective  
8 date of this section.

9 (b) Maintenance, repair or replacement.--The governing body  
10 of a school is responsible for providing for the maintenance,  
11 repair or replacement of an approved carbon monoxide alarm or  
12 the care and replacement of batteries.

13 Section 5. Enforcement.

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

17 Section 6. Effective date.

18 This act shall take effect immediately.