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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 427 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, SANTARSIERO, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, HAYWOOD,  
HUGHES, KEARNEY, BROWNE, COSTA AND TARTAGLIONE,  
MARCH 11, 2019

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MARCH 11, 2019

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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 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

1 Standard for Safety for Gas and Vapor Detectors and Sensors  
2 (ANSI/UL2075) installed in accordance with this act.

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

6 (i) Complies with either of the following:

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

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

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

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

30 "Dormitory." A building containing one or more housing units

1 owned or leased by an institution of higher education which is  
2 used as a residence by the students of the institution of higher  
3 education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (3) A State-related institution as defined in section  
25 1502-A of the Public School Code of 1949.

26 (4) A college or university which is operated not for  
27 profit, located in and incorporated or chartered by the  
28 Commonwealth and entitled to confer degrees as set forth in  
29 24 Pa.C.S. § 6505 (relating to power to confer degrees).

30 "Operational." Working and in service.

1 Section 3. Administration.

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

6 Section 4. Carbon monoxide alarm requirements.

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

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

20 Section 5. Enforcement.

21 Willful failure to install or maintain an operational  
22 approved carbon monoxide alarm required by this act is a summary  
23 offense punishable by a fine of up to \$50.

24 Section 6. Effective date.

25 This act shall take effect immediately.