
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 313 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY TARTAGLIONE, SANTARSIERO, COSTA, MUTH, HUGHES,
KEARNEY AND L. WILLIAMS, MARCH 10, 2020

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MARCH 10, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Governor to declare the asbestos and toxic schools in
2 Pennsylvania a disaster emergency.

3 WHEREAS, Asbestos is a fibrous mineral that has been used in
4 many buildings throughout the country but can be extremely
5 hazardous when it becomes disrupted and airborne; and

6 WHEREAS, Asbestos can be easily inhaled or ingested and can
7 lead to many health concerns, such as mesothelioma, lung cancer
8 and asbestosis; and

9 WHEREAS, Although the United States Environmental Protection
10 Agency set strict laws to help limit the use of asbestos and
11 prevent exposure to it due to its harmful effects in the 1980s,
12 asbestos has not yet been banned in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, Consequently, many older schools, homes and public
14 buildings still contain asbestos; and

15 WHEREAS, Many Pennsylvanians may not know if they have been
16 exposed to asbestos or are currently being exposed to it; and

17 WHEREAS, Six schools have already been closed in Philadelphia
18 due to the hazardous asbestos conditions; and

1 WHEREAS, Students and staff at Carnell School and McClure
2 Elementary school have been exposed to asbestos fibers; and

3 WHEREAS, Parents and the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers
4 have been petitioning to close the schools to prevent additional
5 exposure; and

6 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, this is not just a Philadelphia
7 problem, it is a Statewide issue that can affect schools, homes
8 and other structures in any region throughout Pennsylvania; and

9 WHEREAS, This resolution urges the Governor to declare a
10 state of emergency and allows this Commonwealth to begin the
11 process of mitigating these conditions and bring awareness to
12 anyone who may be affected; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge the Governor to declare the
14 asbestos and toxic schools in Pennsylvania a disaster emergency.