

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 563 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY LAUGHLIN, FONTANA, ARGALL, SCHWANK, CAPPELLETTI AND REGAN, APRIL 16, 2021

REFERRED TO LABOR AND INDUSTRY, APRIL 16, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 27, 1927 (P.L.465, No.299), entitled
 2 "An act to provide for the safety of persons employed,
 3 housed, or assembled in certain buildings and structures by
 4 requiring certain construction and ways of egress, equipment,
 5 and maintenance; providing for the licensing of
 6 projectionists, except in cities of the first class and
 7 second class; requiring the submission of plans for
 8 examination and approval; providing for the promulgation of
 9 rules and regulations for the enforcement of this act;
 10 providing for the enforcement of this act by the Department
 11 of Labor and Industry, the Department of Health, boards of
 12 school directors and, in certain cases, by the chiefs of fire
 13 departments in cities of the third class; providing penalties
 14 for violations of the provisions of this act; and repealing
 15 certain acts," further providing for standards for Class VI
 16 buildings.

17 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 18 hereby enacts as follows:

19 Section 1. Section 3.6(f)(1)(i), (f.1) and (g) of the act of
 20 April 27, 1927 (P.L.465, No.299), referred to as the Fire and
 21 Panic Act, are amended to read:

22 Section 3.6. Standards for Class VI Buildings.--

23 (f) (1) (i) As to family [child day-care] child-care
 24 homes, a facility [registered] licensed by the Department of
 25 [Public Welfare] Human Services as of [April 4, 1992,] the

1 effective date of this section, shall be permitted [one full
2 registration period of twenty-four (24) months beyond] 12 months
3 from the effective date of this section, or until the expiration
4 of [the current certificate of registration] its current
5 license, whichever is longer, to comply with the requirements of
6 this section.

7 (f.1) (1) The smoke detection [devises] devices required
8 under this section [need not] shall be interconnected [or
9 electronically connected] via hardwire, Bluetooth connectivity
10 or any other means that allow for communication between devices
11 for family [child day-care] child-care homes. For the purposes
12 of this act, [noninterconnected] battery-operated,
13 interconnected smoke detection [devises shall be deemed
14 acceptable where:] devices must meet the following conditions:

15 (i) each [devise is an enclosed nonreplacable battery smoke
16 detector unit which meets applicable UL standards and has a
17 minimum ten-year limited warranty] device shall be powered by a
18 nonreplaceable lithium battery listed by Underwriters
19 Laboratories that is warranted for ten (10) years commencing
20 with the date of purchase; and

21 (ii) the activation of each detector results in an alarm
22 that is audible to persons in the indoor child-care space with
23 all intervening doors closed.

24 (2) Family [child day-care] child-care home operators shall
25 maintain, in their fire drill logs, proof of purchase, including
26 the date of purchase of the smoke detector.

27 (3) A family child-care home shall:

28 (i) Have a smoke detector on each floor and in the basement.

29 (ii) Have a portable fire extinguisher rated for class B
30 fires in the kitchen and other cooking areas.

1 (iii) Meet the exiting requirements for an R-3 occupancy and
2 licensure under 55 Pa. Code Ch. 3290 (relating to family child
3 day care homes).

4 (g) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
5 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

6 "Family [~~child day-care~~] child-care home" means a home other
7 than the child's own home in which child [~~day~~] care is provided
8 at any one time to four (4), five (5) or six (6) children
9 unrelated to the operator.

10 [~~"Group child day-care home" means a home other than a~~
11 ~~child's own home in which child day care is provided at any one~~
12 ~~time for more than six (6) but fewer than thirteen (13) children~~
13 ~~who are unrelated to the operator.]~~

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.