

STATE OF NEW YORK

5435

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IN SENATE

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Introduced by Sens. SALAND, ALESI -- (at request of the Governor) --
read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to
the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law and the state finance law, in relation
to the procurement and use of environmentally sensitive cleaning and
maintenance products in schools

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. Even more so than adults, children are
2 vulnerable to, and may be severely affected by, exposure to chemicals,
3 hazardous wastes and other environmental hazards. The Federal Environ-
4 mental Protection Agency estimates that human exposure to air pollutants
5 indoors can be two to five times, and occasionally up to 100 times,
6 higher than outdoor levels. Children, their teachers, and other school
7 staff members spend a significant part of their lives in school build-
8 ings, and are exposed to chemicals from cleaners, waxes, deodorizers and
9 other maintenance products. Health threats may be caused by the presence
10 of such chemicals, potentially resulting in increased costs to individ-
11 ual schools, school districts and the state in terms of staff time and
12 effort, cleanup costs, school closings and student absenteeism.
13 Discharges of chemicals from cleaning and maintenance products also
14 burden publicly-owned wastewater treatment works, and also end up in our

15 lakes and streams. Cleaning and maintenance products that are the same
16 in form, function and utility as products currently used in schools, but
17 that have eliminated or lowered concentrations of potentially harmful
18 chemicals, are increasingly being developed and are available in the
19 marketplace. Therefore, the legislature finds that school districts and
20 public and private elementary and secondary schools should be informed
21 of and should purchase environmentally-sensitive cleaning and mainte-
22 nance products. It is the purpose of this legislation to reduce as much
23 as possible exposure of children and school staff to potentially-harmful

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 chemicals and substances used in the cleaning and maintenance of
2 schools.

3 § 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 409-i to
4 read as follows:

5 § 409-i. Procurement and use of environmentally-sensitive cleaning and
6 maintenance products. 1. For the purpose of this section the following
7 terms shall mean:

8 (a) "Elementary or secondary school" means a facility used for
9 instruction of elementary or secondary students by: (i) any school
10 district, including a special act school district and a city school
11 district in a city having a population of one hundred twenty-five thou-
12 sand inhabitants or more, (ii) a board of cooperative educational
13 services, (iii) a charter school, (iv) an approved private school for
14 the education of students with disabilities, (v) a state-supported
15 school for the deaf or blind operated pursuant to article eighty-five of
16 this chapter, and (vi) any other private or parochial elementary or
17 secondary school.

18 (b) "Environmentally-sensitive cleaning and maintenance products"
19 means those cleaning and maintenance products that minimize adverse
20 impacts on children's health and the environment.

21 (c) "Facility" means any school building or facility used for instruc-
22 tional purposes and the surrounding grounds or other sites used for
23 playgrounds, athletics or other instructional purposes.

24 2. The commissioner of general services, in consultation with the
25 commissioner and the commissioners of environmental conservation, health
26 and labor, shall establish and from time to time amend guidelines and
27 specifications for environmentally-sensitive cleaning and maintenance
28 products for use in elementary and secondary school facilities. For the
29 purpose of developing appropriate criteria for such guidelines and spec-
30 ifications, such commissioners shall review and evaluate existing
31 research regarding environmentally-sensitive cleaning and maintenance
32 products, including but not limited to, research and guidance issued by
33 the United States environmental protection agency and the office of the
34 federal environmental executive. In developing such guidelines, the
35 commissioner of general services shall provide public notice and an
36 opportunity to comment. Such guidelines shall be followed by elementary
37 and secondary schools to identify and procure environmentally-sensitive
38 cleaning and maintenance products which are available in the form, func-
39 tion and utility generally used by elementary and secondary schools in
40 their facilities.

41 3. The commissioner of general services shall disseminate to all
42 elementary and secondary schools guidelines and specifications for the
43 purchase and use of environmentally-sensitive cleaning and maintenance
44 products in elementary and secondary schools for use in their facili-
45 ties. The commissioner of general services shall also prepare and

46 disseminate to all elementary and secondary schools a sample list of
47 such environmentally-sensitive cleaning and maintenance products that
48 meet these guidelines or specifications. The commissioner of general
49 services shall provide assistance and guidance to elementary and second-
50 ary schools in carrying out the requirements of this section. Elementa-
51 ry and secondary schools shall follow such guidelines, specifications
52 and sample list when purchasing cleaning and maintenance products for
53 use in their facilities.

54 4. Elementary and secondary schools shall notify their personnel of
55 the availability of such guidelines, specifications and sample list.

