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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 471 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY BRIGGS, HILL-EVANS, ISAACSON, MADDEN, SCHLOSSBERG,  
GUENST, SANCHEZ, OTTEN, KINKEAD, PARKER AND N. NELSON,  
MARCH 16, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 16, 2023

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," in books, furniture and supplies,  
6 providing for purchase and use of green cleaning products.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
11 section to read:

12 Section 801.1. Purchase and Use of Green Cleaning  
13 Products.--(a) The board of school directors of each school  
14 district shall purchase green cleaning products for use by  
15 public schools as is practical and economically feasible. Public  
16 schools may exhaust existing cleaning products prior to the  
17 purchase of green cleaning products.

18 (b) The board of school directors of each school district  
19 shall develop and implement policies on the purchase and use of

1 green cleaning products by the effective date of this  
2 subsection. The policies shall:

3 (1) require green cleaning products to be used by public  
4 schools;

5 (2) establish purchasing policies of green cleaning products  
6 that meet third-party certification standards, including:

7 (i) Green Seal, Green Label, Environmental Choice,  
8 TerraChoice or Ecologo; or

9 (ii) any other nationally recognized independent third-party  
10 entity that certifies environmentally preferable products that  
11 the board of school directors determines to be appropriate;

12 (3) establish green cleaning practices, including storage,  
13 application, frequency of use and disposal of supplies to ensure  
14 that the occupants of a school building do not suffer any  
15 adverse health effects as a result of these practices;

16 (4) provide a clear and accurate description of the  
17 functional characteristics or nature of the green cleaning  
18 products that are to be purchased; and

19 (5) require training for staff on implementing the policies.

20 (c) Policies developed and implemented according to this  
21 section shall not preclude the use, when necessary, of a  
22 disinfectant, disinfecting cleaner, sanitizer or another  
23 microbial product regulated by 7 U.S.C. Ch. 6 Subch. II  
24 (relating to environmental pesticide control).

25 (d) On or before June 30 of each year, a board of school  
26 directors that does not purchase green cleaning products for use  
27 shall provide written notice of the board of school directors'  
28 reasoning to the Department of Education.

29 (e) As used in this section, the following words and phrases  
30 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless

1 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Green cleaning products." Environmentally preferable  
3 cleaning and cleaning maintenance products and supplies intended  
4 for routine cleaning and cleaning maintenance that, at a  
5 minimum, possess positive health and environmental attributes,  
6 including biodegradability, low toxicity, low volatile organic  
7 compound content, reduced packaging, low life cycle energy use  
8 and lesser or reduced effects on human health and the  
9 environment when compared to competing products that serve the  
10 same purpose. The term includes general purpose cleaners,  
11 bathroom cleaners, carpet cleaners, glass cleaners, floor  
12 cleaners, floor finishes and floor strippers, wall cleaners,  
13 desk cleaners, surface cleaners, window cleaners, whiteboard  
14 cleaners and soap. The term does not include room deodorizers,  
15 air fresheners, toilet deodorizers or hand cleaners.

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