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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 615 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY RAVENSTAHL, DEASY, READSHAW, D. COSTA, KORTZ,  
MATZIE, P. DALEY, YOUNGBLOOD, SCHLOSSBERG, MAHONEY, O'BRIEN,  
MCGEEHAN, DONATUCCI, CALTAGIRONE, HARHAI, CARROLL, FABRIZIO,  
DEAN, PASHINSKI, NEILSON, BRADFORD, V. BROWN, GOODMAN,  
THOMAS, DAVIDSON, KIRKLAND, HESS, BOBACK, PETRI, STEPHENS,  
MILLARD, MILNE AND FARRY, FEBRUARY 8, 2013

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 8, 2013

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AN ACT

1 Requiring carbon monoxide alarms in school buildings.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the School  
6 Buildings Carbon Monoxide Alarm Act.

7 Section 2. Definitions.

8 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
9 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
10 context clearly indicates otherwise:

11 "Carbon monoxide alarm." A device to detect and sound an  
12 alarm in the presence of carbon monoxide which meets all of the  
13 following:

14 (1) Bears the label of a nationally recognized standard  
15 testing laboratory indicating that it is appropriate for its

1 intended use.

2 (2) Is installed and maintained in accordance with this  
3 act.

4 (3) Is tested, at least monthly, in accordance with the  
5 manufacturer's instructions.

6 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
7 Commonwealth.

8 "Fossil fuel." Coal, kerosene, oil, fuel gases or other  
9 petroleum or hydrocarbon product that emits carbon monoxide as a  
10 byproduct of combustion.

11 "Nonpublic school." Any school, other than a public school,  
12 in which a resident of this Commonwealth may legally fulfill the  
13 compulsory school attendance requirements of the act of March  
14 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of  
15 1949, and which meets the requirements of Title VI of the Civil  
16 Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

17 Section 3. Installation of carbon monoxide alarms.

18 (a) Requirement.--Not later than January 1, 2016, all public  
19 and nonpublic elementary and secondary school buildings that  
20 contain a fossil-fuel burning furnace, boiler or water heater  
21 shall be required to install carbon monoxide alarms in  
22 accordance with the National Fire Protection Association 720:  
23 Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detection  
24 and Warning Equipment, 2012 Edition and applicable regulations  
25 adopted by the department under subsection (b). Combination  
26 smoke and carbon monoxide alarms shall be permitted.

27 (b) Regulations.--The department shall adopt regulations in  
28 consultation with the State Fire Commissioner and State and  
29 local building code authorities to incorporate the requirements  
30 specified in this act. These regulations shall include the

1 appropriate number, type and placement of carbon monoxide alarms  
2 in school buildings and shall be completed not later than six  
3 months after the effective date of this section.

4 (c) Applicability.--Subsection (a) shall not apply to a  
5 public or nonpublic school if the department determines that no  
6 potential carbon monoxide hazard exists for the school building.

7 (d) Funding.--In addition to any State funds specifically  
8 appropriated by the General Assembly for the purposes of this  
9 act, the department shall apply for private, Federal and other  
10 non-State funds and may accept donations, including donations of  
11 equipment, to help public and nonpublic schools comply with the  
12 provisions of this act. Funds and equipment collected under this  
13 subsection shall be distributed to schools in a manner approved  
14 by the department. The department may adopt rules as necessary  
15 to implement this subsection.

16 Section 20. Effective date.

17 This act shall take effect immediately.