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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- AIR QUALITY IN SCHOOLS

Introduced By: Representative Rebecca M. Kislak

Date Introduced: February 12, 2021

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 23.8

4 AIR QUALITY IN SCHOOLS

5 **23-23.8-1. Air quality in schools.**

6 (a) The department of health in conjunction with the department of environmental  
7 management shall conduct indoor and outdoor air quality tests annually in every school in Rhode  
8 Island, including public and private schools. The department of health and the department of  
9 environmental management shall work in conjunction to perform air quality tests to characterize  
10 the exposure of school occupants to various pollutants that the department of health and/or the  
11 department of environmental management deem(s) to be harmful based on peer-reviewed scientific  
12 research.

13 (b) As used in this chapter, "outdoor air quality" means the air quality within a fifty (50)  
14 yard radius of any school in the state.

15 **23-23.8-2. Results of tests.**

16 The department of health shall make the air quality test results pursuant to § 23-23.8-1  
17 easily available online within thirty (30) days of receiving the test results and send the test results  
18 to the department of education, and the superintendent of the department/district where the school  
19 is located, or to the school directly.

1           **23-23.8-3. Compliance.**

2           The department of health, department of environmental management, and the department  
3 of education shall work in conjunction to create and implement a plan to improve the air quality to  
4 a healthy level determined by the department of health and the department of environmental  
5 management, and based on peer-reviewed scientific research, in schools that have test results that  
6 indicate that school occupants are exposed to various pollutants deemed to be harmful in  
7 accordance with § 23-23.8-1.

8           **23-23.8-4. Funding.**

9           The department of health, department of environmental management, and the department  
10 of education shall apply for funding made available by the state, agencies of the federal  
11 government, and other appropriate funding sources to improve indoor and outdoor air quality. The  
12 department of health, department of environmental management, and the department of education  
13 shall administer and direct any funding they receive to improve air quality to a healthy level as  
14 described in § 23-23.8-3.

15           **23-23.8-5. Implementation.**

16           The department of health in conjunction with the department of environmental  
17 management and the department of education shall promulgate rules and regulations in accordance  
18 with this chapter.

19           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- AIR QUALITY IN SCHOOLS

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1           This act would require the department of health, in conjunction with the department of  
2 environmental management, to conduct indoor and outdoor air quality tests in all public and private  
3 schools throughout the state, on an annual basis.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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