

HOUSE BILL 2416

By Gilmore

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 50, relative to creation of the "Green Cleaning Schools Act".

WHEREAS, children are vulnerable to and may be severely affected by exposure to chemicals, hazardous waste, and other environmental hazards; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that human exposure to indoor air pollutants can be two to five times and up to one-hundred times higher than outdoor levels; and

WHEREAS, children, teachers, janitors, and other staff members spend a significant amount of time inside school buildings and are continuously exposed to chemicals from cleaners and other maintenance products; now, therefore

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 50, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

49-50-1601. This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Green Cleaning Schools Act".

49-50-1602. As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Department" means the department of education;

(2) "Environmentally-sensitive cleaning products" means cleaning or maintenance products that minimize potential impacts to human health and the environment, consistent with maintaining the effectiveness of these products for the protection of the public health and safety; and

(3) "Schools" means all elementary and secondary public schools with fifty (50) or more students.

49-50-1603.

(a) The department shall establish a green cleaning policy for adoption by schools, whereby only environmentally-sensitive cleaning products shall be purchased and used in the cleaning of such schools, if economically feasible.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a school may deplete its existing cleaning and maintenance supply stocks and implement the new requirements in the procurement cycle for the following school year.

49-50-1604. For the purposes of this part, if a school determines that the adoption of a green cleaning policy is not economically feasible and would result in an increase in its cleaning costs, the school shall provide annual written notification to the department, on a form provided by the department that the adoption of a green cleaning policy is not economically feasible, until such time that it is economically feasible.

49-50-1605. The department, in consultation with the department of environment and conservation, shall promulgate rules and regulations to:

(1) Establish a green cleaning policy for adoption by schools as prescribed in § 49-50-1603;

(2) Establish and periodically amend guidelines and specifications for environmentally-sensitive cleaning and maintenance products for use in schools that adopt the green cleaning policy;

(3) Conduct an annual review of its green cleaning policy to ensure that only environmentally-sensitive cleaning products are included in the policy; and

(4) Effectuate any other purpose of this part.

49-50-1606. The department shall maintain an updated version of the green cleaning policy and the guidelines and specifications for the purchase and use of environmentally-sensitive cleaning and maintenance products in schools on its web site.

SECTION 2. For the purpose of promulgating rules and regulations, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes this act shall take effect January 1, 2013, the public welfare requiring it.