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H.463

Introduced by Representatives Burrows of West Windsor and Killacky of
South Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; public health; toxigenic mold; buildings

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a
working group to address the presence of toxigenic mold in buildings.

An act relating to the Working Group to Address the Presence of Toxigenic
Mold in Buildings

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE PRESENCE OF
TOXIGENIC MOLD IN BUILDINGS

(a) Creation. There is created the Working Group to Address the Presence
of Toxigenic Mold in Buildings for the purpose of improving public health by
strengthening educational opportunities and response systems related to the
presence of toxigenic mold in buildings.

(b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following
members:

1 (1) two current members of the House of Representatives, representing
2 either the House Committee on Health Care, the House Committee on Human
3 Services, or the House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs,
4 who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

5 (2) two current members of the Senate, representing the Senate
6 Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on
7 Health and Welfare, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

8 (3) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

9 (4) the Health Care Advocate or designee;

10 (5) a town health officer, appointed by the Governor;

11 (6) a physician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33 or a
12 naturopathic physician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 81 with
13 expertise in the hazards and symptoms of and treatment for exposure to
14 toxigenic mold, appointed by the Vermont Medical Society;

15 (7) a realtor with expertise related to toxigenic mold, appointed by the
16 Speaker of the House;

17 (8) a professional providing mold removal and remediation services who
18 has expertise in the identification of and hazards related to toxigenic mold,
19 appointed by the Committee on Committees; and

20 (9) an individual residing in Vermont who has been impacted by
21 exposure to toxigenic mold, appointed by the Governor.

1 (c) Powers and duties. The Working Group shall study how the presence
2 of toxigenic mold in buildings could be better addressed in Vermont,
3 including:

4 (1) drafting a model surveillance plan aimed at better tracking and
5 understanding the health effects and associated costs of toxigenic mold and
6 other contaminants associated with water damaged buildings on indoor air
7 quality and public health;

8 (2) developing an updated toxigenic mold awareness campaign to
9 educate both the public and health care providers about the prevalence of
10 toxigenic mold, the health impacts caused by toxigenic mold, and preventative
11 measures that can be taken to reduce these impacts;

12 (3) proposing enhanced toxigenic mold training for town health officers,
13 including the causes and prevalence of toxigenic mold, symptoms of toxigenic
14 mold exposure, recent developments on medical testing and treatment for
15 toxigenic mold exposure, options for environmental testing, remediation
16 guidance, and preventative measures;

17 (4) recommending appropriate continuing medical education
18 requirements on identifying and treating conditions associated with chronic
19 toxigenic mold, including the medical professions impacted, length of training,
20 and essential content; and

1 (5) examining whether and how real estate disclosures could be
2 improved to better inform buyers of the dangers of toxigenic mold.

3 (d) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the administrative,
4 technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Health.

5 (e) Report. On or before December 1, 2022, the Working Group shall
6 submit a written report to the House Committees on General, Housing, and
7 Military Affairs, on Health Care, and on Human Services and to the Senate
8 Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on
9 Health and Welfare with its findings and any recommendations for legislative
10 action.

11 (f) Meetings.

12 (1) The Commissioner of Health or designee shall call the first meeting
13 of the Working Group to occur on or before August 1, 2022.

14 (2) The Commissioner of Health or designee shall be the chair.

15 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

16 (4) The Working Group shall cease to exist on December 1, 2022.

17 (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

18 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
19 Assembly, a legislative member of the Working Group serving in the
20 member's capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation
21 and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than six

1 meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the
2 General Assembly.

3 (2) Other members of the Working Group shall be entitled to per diem
4 compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.
5 § 1010 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from
6 monies appropriated to the Department of Health.

7 (h) Definition. As used in this section, “toxigenic mold” means a mold that
8 produces mycotoxins.

9 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.