

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1849

To require the establishment of programs by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve indoor air quality in schools and other buildings.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS (for himself and Mr. RANGEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the establishment of programs by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve indoor air quality in schools and other buildings.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Reduced Asthma
3 Through Air Quality Improvement Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds that in a 2000 report entitled
6 “Clearing the Air: Asthma and Indoor Air Exposures”,
7 the Institute of Medicine determined that—

8 (1) in 1996, asthma accounted for the hos-
9 pitalization of 474,000 people in the United States,
10 including 195,000 children;

11 (2) during the mid-1980s, medical costs directly
12 associated with asthma constituted about 1 percent
13 of all health care costs in the United States; and

14 (3) there is significant evidence of the link be-
15 tween the development of asthma and the presence
16 of indoor contaminants, such as dust mites, tobacco
17 smoke, nitrogen oxide, and debris from cockroaches.

18 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION TO**
19 **SCHOOLS ON IMPROVING INDOOR AIR QUAL-**
20 **ITY.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to subsection (b), the
22 Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (in
23 this section referred to as the “Administrator”) shall seek
24 to enter into an agreement with nongovernmental organi-
25 zations to establish a permanent program to provide infor-

1 mation to school administrators on methods of improving
2 indoor air quality.

3 (b) EXISTING PROGRAMS.—The Administrator may
4 satisfy the requirement of subsection (a) by publishing in
5 the Federal Register notice that an existing program or
6 combination of programs fulfills the purpose of the pro-
7 gram described in that subsection.

8 **SEC. 4. BUILDING HEALTH ASSESSMENT PROGRAM.**

9 (a) AUTHORITY.—The Director of the National Insti-
10 tute for Occupational Safety and Health (in this section
11 referred to as the “Director”) shall implement a Building
12 Health Assessment Program to provide building assess-
13 ments to employers and employees on measures to reduce
14 significant indoor air health risks.

15 (b) SELECTION OF BUILDINGS FOR ASSESSMENT.—

16 (1) REQUEST FOR ASSESSMENT.—The Director
17 may initiate an assessment of a building under this
18 section only after receipt of a request for such as-
19 sessment from an employer, an employee, or an au-
20 thorized representative of an employee, of an entity
21 located in the building.

22 (2) SELECTION.—In selecting a building for as-
23 sessment pursuant to a request under paragraph
24 (1), the Director shall consider the following:

1 (A) The seriousness and extent of signifi-
2 cant indoor air health risks.

3 (B) The potential for the assessment to ex-
4 pand knowledge of building assessment methods
5 and response measures.

6 (c) ONSITE ASSESSMENTS.—Pursuant to a request
7 under paragraph (1), the Director may conduct an onsite
8 assessment of a building, including a Federal, State, or
9 municipal building.

10 (d) ASSESSMENT ELEMENTS.—An assessment under
11 this section shall include, at a minimum, identification of
12 the following:

13 (1) Probable significant indoor air health risks.

14 (2) Probable sources and health effects of iden-
15 tified significant indoor air health risks.

16 (3) Measures for eliminating, controlling, or re-
17 ducing any such significant indoor air health risks.

18 (e) REPORTS.—As promptly as possible, the Director
19 shall—

20 (1) prepare a report on any assessment of a
21 building conducted under this section;

22 (2) provide the report to the employer or em-
23 ployee who requested the assessment; and

24 (3) make the report publicly available.

1 **SEC. 5. GRANTS FOR IMPROVING INDOOR AIR QUALITY.**

2 The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall
3 establish a grant program to—

4 (1) assist schools to implement the indoor air
5 quality improvements recommended by the Adminis-
6 trator of the Environmental Protection Agency
7 under the program established under section 3; and

8 (2) assist employers to implement the rec-
9 ommendations of building assessments conducted by
10 the Director of the National Institute for Occupa-
11 tional Safety and Health under section 4.

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