

HOUSE BILL 793

F1, J1
HB 15/08 – W&M

9lr2053

By: **Delegates Rice, Ali, Barkley, Bronrott, Carr, Feldman, Frick, Gilchrist, Guzzone, Ivey, King, Manno, Montgomery, Olszewski, Reznik, Stifler, Stukes, Taylor, F. Turner, Valderrama, and Walker**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2009

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Classroom Indoor Air Quality Standards**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Classroom Indoor Air Quality
4 Standards; establishing the membership and staffing of the Task Force;
5 providing for the designation of the chair of the Task Force; requiring the Task
6 Force to evaluate and make recommendations regarding certain issues;
7 requiring the Task Force to submit a certain report to the Governor and the
8 General Assembly by a certain date; prohibiting a member of the Task Force
9 from receiving certain compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to
10 receive certain reimbursements; providing for the termination of this Act; and
11 generally relating to the Task Force on Classroom Indoor Air Quality
12 Standards.

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, The State should be committed to providing a healthy classroom
15 environment for students and school employees; and

16 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that for many pollutants, indoor levels may be
17 significantly higher than outside levels; and

18 WHEREAS, Due to children's developing bodies and the amount of time they
19 spend indoors, they are often more susceptible to pollutants than adults; and

20 WHEREAS, Failure to prevent or respond to classroom indoor air quality issues
21 may increase the potential for health problems for students and staff; and

22 WHEREAS, Poor classroom indoor air quality may negatively impact student
23 attendance and performance; now, therefore,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
2 MARYLAND, That:

3 (a) There is a Task Force on Classroom Indoor Air Quality Standards.

4 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

5 (1) Two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
6 President of the Senate;

7 (2) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
8 of the House;

9 (3) The Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;

10 (4) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
11 designee;

12 (5) The State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's
13 designee; and

14 (6) The following members appointed by the Governor:

15 (i) Two representatives from not-for-profit organizations that
16 focus on issues related to the health and welfare of children;

17 (ii) One representative from the University of Maryland School
18 of Medicine's Division of Pediatric Pulmonology and Allergy;

19 (iii) One representative from the Johns Hopkins University
20 School of Public Health;

21 (iv) One representative from the American Association of
22 Pediatrics, Maryland Chapter;

23 (v) One representative from the Maryland Parent Teacher
24 Association;

25 (vi) One representative from the Public School Superintendents
26 Association of Maryland; and

27 (vii) One representative from the Maryland Association of Boards
28 of Education.

29 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

1 (d) The Department of the Environment and the Department of Health and
2 Mental Hygiene jointly shall provide staff support for the Task Force.

3 (e) A member of the Task Force:

4 (1) May not receive compensation for serving on the Task Force; but

5 (2) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
6 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

7 (f) The Task Force shall:

8 (1) Conduct a study of air quality in all classrooms, including portable
9 classrooms, throughout the State, that:

10 (i) Identifies potentially unhealthy conditions and their extent
11 within classrooms in the State; and

12 (ii) Evaluates classroom design and construction specifications,
13 ventilation systems, school maintenance practices, indoor air quality, and potentially
14 toxic contamination including mold and other biological contaminants;

15 (2) Identify and recommend best practices and statewide standards to
16 prevent harmful air quality in classrooms; and

17 (3) On or before May 1, 2011, the Task Force shall report its findings
18 and recommendations to the Governor, and in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
19 Government Article, the General Assembly.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 June 1, 2009. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of May 31,
22 2011, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
23 abrogated and of no further force and effect.