

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 238

(Senator King, *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation

Health and Government Operations

Board of Public Works - Relocatable Classrooms - Indoor Air Quality
Requirements

This bill requires the Board of Public Works (BPW), in consultation with the Department of General Services (DGS) and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), to adopt regulations that establish criteria to enhance the indoor air quality for relocatable classrooms built after July 1, 2014, that are purchased or leased with State or local funds. The regulations must mandate that each unit be built with materials containing low amounts of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in accordance with industry standards.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. BPW and other affected agencies can develop the regulations with existing budgeted resources. The State no longer purchases relocatable classrooms, so any new regulations do not affect State finances. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in local expenditures for relocatable classrooms to the extent that the new regulations increase their cost.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 223 of 2007 required BPW, in consultation with DGS and DHCD, to adopt regulations establishing criteria designed to enhance indoor air quality in

relocatable classrooms purchased or leased with State or local funds. The criteria developed by BPW had to require that each relocatable classroom:

- include appropriate air barriers to limit infiltration;
- be constructed in a manner that provides protection against water damage by using proper materials and drainage systems;
- provide continuous forced ventilation when the unit is occupied;
- include a programmable thermostat;
- be outfitted with an energy-efficient lighting and heating and air conditioning system; and
- be constructed with building materials that contain low amounts of VOCs.

Chapter 223 applied only prospectively to relocatable classrooms purchased or leased after October 1, 2007. However, those regulations were never developed. This bill revises the requirement related to VOCs and applies all of the indoor air-quality requirements only to relocatables purchased after July 1, 2014.

Background: Except for a three-year period from fiscal 2006 through 2008, local school systems have not been allowed to use State funds to purchase relocatable classrooms. However, local school systems could (and still can) request State funds to move and install State-owned relocatable classrooms for special programs, for temporary relief of overcrowding, or to serve as interim facilities during an approved school construction project. For fiscal 2015, to date, the Interagency Committee on School Construction has recommended \$361,000 in funding for one project to use a State-owned relocatable unit. Local school systems may also use local funds to lease or purchase relocatable classrooms.

The State currently owns 146 relocatable classrooms but has not purchased any new ones in at least 30 years, and it has no plans or funding to purchase any more. Of those, 121 are being used by local school districts for instructional purposes, 20 are vacant, and 5 are awaiting demolition. Existing State-owned units are demolished or surplus as they age beyond their useful life.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Board of Public Works, Department of General Services,
Public School Construction Program, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 27, 2014
mm/rhh

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