

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1440

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 9, 2017

Introduced by Sen. AVELLA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to protecting indoor air quality in state owned, leased or operated buildings

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new article 49-A to read as follows:

### ARTICLE 49-A INDOOR AIR QUALITY

#### Section 4920. Purpose.

##### 4921. Definitions.

##### 4922. Indoor air quality plan.

##### 4923. Indoor air quality standards.

##### 4924. Indoor air investigations.

##### 4925. Training course.

§ 4920. Purpose. It is the purpose of this article to protect public health by providing for adequate quantity and quality of indoor air in state owned, leased or operated buildings. In order to achieve this aim it is necessary to provide that a state owned, leased or operated building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system be operated and maintained according to design. It is also necessary that persons who are experiencing adverse health effects because of indoor air problems have means to communicate these problems and have them addressed. In order to ensure a minimum and adequate supply of fresh air to state owned, leased or operated building occupants, it is further, also the purpose of this article to adopt established standards for ventilation.

#### § 4921. Definitions. As used in this article:

1. "Building" means an occupied structure, owned, leased or operated by the state of greater than twenty-five thousand square feet of floor space, using mechanical ventilation providing outdoor air, recirculated

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD00997-01-7

1 air, or a mixture of outdoor and recirculated air, excluding a residen-  
2 tial structure containing six or fewer dwelling units or any structure  
3 or portion of a structure where state regulation of indoor air quality  
4 would be preempted by federal law. This definition shall exclude barns,  
5 which for the purposes of this article shall mean a structure that was  
6 designed and used for storing farm equipment or agricultural products,  
7 or for housing livestock.

8 2. "Owner" means the state or any state agency.

9 § 4922. Indoor air quality plan. 1. Responsibilities of building  
10 owner.

11 (a) The owner of a building shall be responsible for developing and  
12 maintaining an indoor air quality plan for the building; the plan shall  
13 contain the following components:

14 (i) a detailed description of the building's heating, ventilation and  
15 air conditioning system, its operation, and procedures and schedules for  
16 necessary maintenance;

17 (ii) an inventory of toxic substances used in the building, including  
18 copies of applicable material safety data sheets;

19 (iii) a plan detailing modifications and renovations to the building,  
20 including an assessment of the effects of renovation on indoor air qual-  
21 ity ventilation and other factors relevant to air quality;

22 (iv) prior to commencing construction or renovation projects, a plan  
23 to minimize exposure to contaminants and mitigate adverse effects on  
24 building occupants during and after construction or renovation;

25 (v) a procedure for maintaining and providing access (including  
26 inspection and copying) to written records or logs pursuant to paragraph  
27 (b) of this subdivision; and

28 (vi) a system to respond to requests for information, investigate and  
29 respond to complaints of indoor air quality problems and adverse health  
30 effects by occupants consistent with paragraph (d) of this subdivision.

31 (b) The owner of a building shall be responsible for developing and  
32 maintaining the following records and logs as part of the indoor air  
33 quality plan:

34 (i) a written record of maintenance performed on the building's heat-  
35 ing, ventilation, and air conditioning system;

36 (ii) a log of pesticide use and application, including copies of  
37 applicable material safety data sheets;

38 (iii) a written record of modifications and renovations to the build-  
39 ing, including but not limited to modification of the heating, venti-  
40 lation and air conditioning system, construction and modifications of  
41 walls and interior space which could affect air flow to building occu-  
42 pants; and

43 (iv) a log of complaints of indoor air quality problems and reports of  
44 adverse health effects and actions and responses to complaints and  
45 reports.

46 (c) The owner of a building shall designate a person or group of  
47 persons who shall be responsible for coordinating the indoor air quality  
48 plan including:

49 (i) operating and maintaining the building's heating, ventilation, and  
50 air conditioning system;

51 (ii) maintaining the indoor air quality plan pursuant to paragraph (a)  
52 of this subdivision; developing and maintaining the written records and  
53 logs pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subdivision; and

54 (iii) receiving and responding to complaints of indoor air quality  
55 problems and requests for information pursuant to paragraph (d) of this  
56 subdivision.

1     (d) The owner of the building shall post in the lobby of the building,  
2     or conspicuously where building occupants have access to it, a notice  
3     stating the procedures for making requests and complaints under this  
4     paragraph and name and telephone number of the person or persons desig-  
5     nated pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subdivision.

6     (e) A building owner may contract with a management company, lessee or  
7     other party responsible for the building's operation and maintenance to  
8     carry out the responsibilities of this subdivision.

9     (f) A building owner shall provide building occupants with reasonable  
10    access to the indoor air quality plan pursuant to paragraph (a) of this  
11    subdivision; provided, however, that a building owner may exclude from  
12    that access any information the disclosure of which would pose a securi-  
13    ty risk.

14    (g) A building owner shall submit a copy of the indoor air quality  
15    plan pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision to the department  
16    upon request by the department.

17    (h) Where the owner operates more than one similar building on a  
18    contiguous site, the owner may prepare a plan which includes more than  
19    one building.

20    2. The department shall promulgate regulations necessary to carry out  
21    the provisions of this section.

22    § 4923. Indoor air quality standards. 1. Within one year after this  
23    section shall have taken effect, the department, in consultation with  
24    the department of labor, energy research and development authority, and  
25    the office of fire prevention, the department of economic development  
26    and the department of environmental conservation, shall adopt regu-  
27    lations establishing standards of ventilation for new and existing  
28    buildings. The standards shall take into effect building arrangement,  
29    structure, size, use, age, and occupancy. The department may issue  
30    different regulations for new buildings, existing buildings, and build-  
31    ings that are being substantially renovated. For schools, standards  
32    shall be appropriate for children. In establishing the standards, the  
33    department shall consider the most current applicable standards of a  
34    nationally-recognized society or societies of heating, refrigeration,  
35    and air conditioning engineers.

36    2. The department may establish a procedure where any provision or  
37    requirement of the indoor air quality regulations may be varied or modi-  
38    fied in cases where strict compliance would entail practical difficul-  
39    ties or unnecessary hardship or would otherwise be unwarranted. The  
40    procedure shall be designed to insure that any variance or modification  
41    shall not substantially adversely affect provisions for health, safety  
42    and security, and that equally safe and proper alternatives may be  
43    prescribed. Requests for a variance shall be resolved within sixty days  
44    of the date of application unless a longer period is required for good  
45    cause shown.

46    § 4924. Indoor air investigations. 1. Upon receipt of a complaint or  
47    complaints excluding complaints in relation to temperature of indoor air  
48    quality relating to a building from three or more occupants of the  
49    building or, from a tenant of all or part of the building, the building  
50    owner or designee shall initiate an investigation of the complaint or  
51    complaints. The building owner shall respond in writing within thirty  
52    days indicating the results of the initial investigation and any correc-  
53    tive actions taken or pending.

54    2. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the response to the  
55    complaint, the complainant may file a formal complaint with the commis-  
56    sioner, who shall initiate an investigation of the complaint. The

1 complaint shall be in writing and indicate the grounds for the complain-  
2 ant and shall be signed by the complainant. A copy shall be provided by  
3 the commissioner to the building owner or the person designated for such  
4 purposes promptly, and in any event prior to any inspection by the  
5 department. On the request of complainant, the complainant's name shall  
6 be withheld. The complainant or a representative of the complainant  
7 shall be given the opportunity to accompany the department's inspector  
8 during an inspection for the purpose of aiding such inspection.

9 3. If the commissioner determines that an indoor air quality problem  
10 exists in a building, such commissioner shall issue in writing to the  
11 building owner and complainant such findings and any proposed means of  
12 correcting such problems. The building owner or representative shall  
13 respond to the findings within thirty days including any plans for  
14 correcting the indoor air quality problem. The building owner or repre-  
15 sentative shall notify the commissioner of actions taken to correct such  
16 problems.

17 § 4925. Training course. The department, in consultation with the  
18 department of labor, and nationally recognized societies of industrial  
19 hygiene, fire prevention and heating, refrigeration, and air condition-  
20 ing, shall develop model courses in the operation and maintenance of  
21 heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. The commissioner  
22 shall have authority to approve programs in heating, ventilation and air  
23 conditioning operation and maintenance and shall maintain a list of  
24 approved programs, which shall be made available to interested parties  
25 upon request. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations  
26 setting forth the criteria for approval of such programs.

27 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of September next  
28 succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.