
HOUSE BILL 1168

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Simpson and Wood

Read first time 01/14/09. Referred to Committee on Environmental Health.

1 AN ACT Relating to reducing the environmental health impact of
2 cleaning in state facilities; and adding a new chapter to Title 70 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that cleaning products
5 are necessary for creating and maintaining sanitary conditions in state
6 facilities and workplaces. However, chemicals contained in cleaning
7 products can be released to the environment during normal use by
8 evaporation of volatile components or by leaving residue on cleaned
9 surfaces. Choosing less hazardous cleaning products for use in our
10 workplaces and our facilities and taking steps to reduce exposure can
11 minimize harmful impacts to office and custodial workers, improve
12 indoor air quality, and reduce water and ambient air pollution.
13 Purchasing and appropriate use of products that perform well and that
14 have positive environmental attributes such as biodegradability, low
15 toxicity, low volatile organic compound content, reduced packaging, and
16 low life cycle energy use can reduce the environmental impact of
17 routine cleaning activities while also ensuring cleaning effectiveness.
18 Therefore, the legislature finds that the adoption of practices to

1 select, procure, and use environmentally preferred products will
2 benefit the environment and the health and safety of workers and
3 visitors to state facilities.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) All state agencies that purchase
5 cleaning products or services must ensure that cleaning products have
6 properties that minimize potential impacts to human health and the
7 environment consistent with maintenance of the effectiveness of these
8 products for the protection of public health and safety. For purposes
9 of this chapter, "state agency" means any office, department, division,
10 bureau, board, commission, or other agency of the state of Washington
11 or of any subdivision thereof.

12 (2) The department of general administration, in consultation with
13 the department of health and the department of ecology, shall consider
14 nationally recognized accrediting information from multiple sources and
15 provide consultation and guidance to state agencies to:

16 (a) Select and procure products and use practices that reduce or
17 minimize the risks of harmful effects to employees, custodial workers,
18 visitors, and other building occupants and to the environment;

19 (b) Promote adoption of practices endorsed by this chapter;

20 (c) Recognize state agencies that adopt and implement
21 environmentally beneficial facility and workplace management policies
22 and practices;

23 (d) Encourage contractors supplying goods and services to state
24 agencies to select and procure such products; and

25 (e) Encourage lessors and building managers who provide leased
26 space to state agencies to select and procure such products.

27 (3) The department of general administration, upon renewal of a
28 lease and for all new leases, must require lessors and building
29 managers who provide leased space to state agencies to use
30 environmentally preferred products and practices.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) When procuring cleaning products, state
32 agencies shall purchase environmentally preferred products or document
33 the reasons for selecting nonpreferred products. The products must
34 conform to guidance for environmentally preferred purchasing of

1 cleaning products that may be provided under section 2 of this act, or
2 must be products that have been identified by the department of general
3 administration as compliant with this chapter.

4 (2) When there is a need to control the spread of germs, infection,
5 and disease in areas where high levels of bacteria are present or in
6 areas where mandated by law, the use of germicidals, disinfectants, and
7 antimicrobiological products to disinfect surfaces must be reported as
8 required in subsection (3) of this section. The use of these products
9 must be in accordance with responsible cleaning procedure requirements,
10 including:

11 (a) Controlled and efficient use;

12 (b) Proper dilution, mixing, and handling;

13 (c) Following label instructions;

14 (d) Monitoring of chemical quantities used; and

15 (e) Compliance with chemical hazard communication and personal
16 protective equipment use requirements under chapter 296-800 WAC.

17 (3) All state agencies that procure or use cleaning products shall
18 prepare and submit a report electronically to the department of general
19 administration biennially listing the amount and type of cleaning
20 product used. When the use of nonpreferred products is reported,
21 information must include the total number, type, and amount of
22 nonpreferred products used and the reasons for their selection. Agency
23 reports must be published on the department of general administration's
24 web site and made available to employees and the general public.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Local governments and school districts are
26 encouraged to review their purchasing and use of cleaning products and
27 select those having properties that minimize potential impacts to human
28 health and the environment consistent with section 2 of this act. The
29 department of general administration shall encourage local governments
30 and school districts that are members of the department of general
31 administration's state purchasing cooperative to achieve the goals of
32 this chapter.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** State agencies shall transition to cleaning
34 products having properties that minimize potential impacts to human
35 health and the environment within six months of the effective date of
36 this section in a manner that avoids waste of existing inventories,

1 accommodates establishment of supply chains for new products, enables
2 the training of personnel in appropriate work practices, and allows the
3 phase out of products and practices inconsistent with this chapter.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act constitute
5 a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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