

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1959

Introduced by Assembly Member Williams

February 23, 2012

An act to add Section 18941.10 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to building standards.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1959, as introduced, Williams. Building standards: green building standards: toxic air contaminants.

The California Building Standards Law provides for the adoption of building standards by state agencies by requiring all state agencies that adopt or propose adoption of any building standard to submit the building standard to the California Building Standards Commission for approval and adoption. In the absence of a designated state agency, the commission is required to adopt specific building standards, as prescribed. Existing law requires the commission to publish, or cause to be published, editions of the code in its entirety once every 3 years.

This bill would require the commission, as a part of the next triennial edition of the California Green Building Standards Code adopted after January 1, 2013, to consider adopting building standards for toxic air contaminants as a part of the mandatory minimum building standards.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

1 (a) Toxins in the built environment cause serious health
2 problems, including cancer, premature death, asthma, and other
3 respiratory disease.

4 (b) Infants and children may be more susceptible to indoor air
5 pollutants in comparison to the general population and are
6 additionally likely to be disproportionately exposed more often to
7 indoor pollutants in comparison to the general population.

8 (c) Sources of pollutants include all of the following:

9 (1) Volatile organic compounds used in fumigants or
10 formaldehyde in furniture.

11 (2) Metals such as lead and mercury.

12 (3) Semivolatile organic compounds, such as carbon bonded to
13 bromine, chlorine, fluorine used in flame retardants and stain
14 repellents.

15 (4) Endocrine disruptors such as phthalates and BPA used as
16 softeners in plastics, cash register receipts, and air fresheners.

17 (5) Environmental tobacco smoke.

18 (d) Sources of pollutants in the built environment are numerous,
19 and because people spend most of their time indoors, the risk from
20 indoor air pollution is substantial. Californians, like others in
21 industrialized nations, average about 87 percent of their time
22 indoors. Indoor emissions are partially trapped inside buildings,
23 and people's activities put them very near indoor sources.
24 Consequently, some scientists estimate that pollutants emitted
25 indoors are about 1,000 times more likely to be inhaled than
26 comparable outdoor emissions.

27 (e) Indoor pollution is estimated to cost California's economy
28 more than forty five billion dollars (\$45,000,000,000) each year
29 due to premature deaths, medical costs, lost worker productivity,
30 and related impacts. The total cost is likely much higher, because
31 the total health impacts are not known.

32 (f) Therefore, toxins in the built environment should be reduced.

33 SEC. 2. Section 18941.10 is added to the Health and Safety
34 Code, to read:

35 18941.10. (a) As used in this section, "toxic air contaminants"
36 has the same meaning as defined in Section 39655.

37 (b) As a part of the next triennial edition of the California Green
38 Building Standards Code (Chapter 11 (commencing with Section
39 101) of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations) adopted
40 after January 1, 2013, the commission shall consider adopting

- 1 building standards for toxic air contaminants as a part of the
- 2 mandatory minimum building standards.

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