

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

S.197

Introduced by Senator Lyons

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; environmental health; education; radon

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to direct the Department of Health to adopt rules pertaining to mandatory radon testing in schools.

An act relating to radon testing in schools

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

In recognition of the importance of environmental health conditions in schools, the General Assembly finds that:

(1) Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Vermont and the United States. Lung cancer causes more deaths each year than prostate, breast, and colorectal cancer combined.

(2) Long-term exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, and the first cause among nonsmokers.

1 (3) The annual cost for lung cancer treatment in the initial year of
2 diagnosis is greater than \$60,500.00 per patient and in the last year of life is
3 greater than \$92,500.00 per patient.

4 (4) Each year an estimated 376 people die in Vermont due to lung
5 cancer. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that
6 13.4 percent of lung cancer deaths are attributable to radon exposure, which
7 indicates that approximately 51 Vermonters die due to radon exposure each
8 year.

9 (5) The EPA reports that a nationwide survey of radon levels in schools
10 estimated that the radon level in nearly one in five schoolrooms exceeds the
11 Agency's action level of 4 pCi/L. The EPA recommends testing all schools for
12 radon.

13 Sec. 2. RULEMAKING

14 (a) The Commissioner of Health shall adopt rules requiring mandatory and
15 routine radon testing in schools. The rules shall establish:

16 (1) standards for radon levels in schools;

17 (2) testing schedules;

18 (3) required documentation of testing; and

19 (4) mitigating protocols where heightened levels of radon are identified.

1 (b) As used in this section, “school” means a public or independent
2 prekindergarten, kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school, or any
3 postsecondary school as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 176(b).

4 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.