

1 H.486

2 Introduced by Representatives Gonzalez of Winooski, Donovan of Burlington,
3 Sheldon of Middlebury, and Sullivan of Burlington

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Health; occupational health; fragrances in State buildings

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
8 Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Administration (VOSHA) to study
9 the issue of whether fragrances in State buildings impact the health of
10 employees or visitors and to report back to the House Committees on
11 Government Operations and on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate
12 Committees on Government Operations and on Institutions with findings and
13 recommendations.

14 An act relating to a study of fragrances in State buildings

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

16 Sec. 1. VOSHA STUDY OF FRAGRANCES IN STATE BUILDINGS

17 (a) On or before December 15, 2019, the Vermont Occupational Safety and
18 Health Administration (VOSHA) shall:

19 (1) Study whether fragrances in State buildings or facilities have an
20 impact on the health of State employees or visitors and whether such impact

1 can be mitigated by instituting a scent-free building or scent-reduced building
2 policy.

3 (2) Coordinate with the Department of Health when studying the health
4 impacts of fragrances, if necessary.

5 (3) Recommend changes, if any, to Vermont statutes or VOSHA rules to
6 address potential health impacts of fragrances in State buildings.

7 (4) Submit a report of the findings and recommendations to the House
8 Committees on Government Operations and on Corrections and Institutions
9 and the Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Institutions.

10 Any recommendation may take the form of draft legislation or rules.

11 (b) As used in this section, “fragrances” means any smell from personal
12 care products, air fresheners, candles, cleaning products, and any other product
13 that has been associated with adversely affecting a person’s health, including
14 headaches, upper respiratory symptoms, shortness of breath, and difficulty
15 with concentration.

16 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on passage.