

House Proposal of Amendment

S. 133

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to education law

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. ANR REPORT ON PCB TESTING IN SCHOOLS; FUNDING

(a) On or before January 15, 2024, the Secretary of Natural Resources, after consultation with the Secretary of Education and the Commissioner of Health, shall submit to the House Committees on Education, on Human Services, on Ways and Means, and on Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Education, on Health and Welfare, on Finance, and on Appropriations a status report and plan for the testing, remediation, and removal of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in schools. The report shall include all of the following:

(1) A summary of schools that the Agency of Natural Resources has tested as of January 1, 2024, the testing results, and a summary of the completed, ongoing, or planned remediation or removal, including the actual costs of testing and the actual costs or cost estimates of remediation or removal.

(2) An updated, detailed estimate of the cost to test for PCB contamination in schools, including a timeline for completion of testing for PCBs in schools.

(3) A new detailed estimate of the cost of future remediation or removal of PCB contamination in schools based on completed remediation or removal and ongoing or scheduled remediation or removal.

(4) A detailed recommendation of how PCB remediation or removal should be funded for public schools, and the recommended revenue sources for that funding.

(5) A detailed recommendation of how remediation or removal of PCB contamination in independent schools, including independent schools in leased or rented spaces, should be funded from sources other than the Education Fund and the recommended revenue sources for the funding of remediation or removal in independent schools.

(6) A plan for how the Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Education shall work with schools to find adequate, alternative educational space if PCB testing, remediation, or removal at a school facility requires interruption of school programs or relocation of students.

(7) A survey of school officials whose schools have been tested and have exceeded the State action levels for PCBs. The survey shall solicit the input of the school official on the quality or sufficiency of the State response in providing technical, public relations, and financial assistance to schools.

(8) A detailed proposal for expanding the PCB testing program to child care programs regulated under 33 V.S.A. chapter 35, including a screening level for children under one year of age, estimated costs of testing and remediation, possible sources of revenues to pay for testing and remediation costs, and proposed contingency plans for providing alternate child care services if PCB testing of child care programs requires interruption or relocation of services.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) "Independent school" has the same meaning as in 16 V.S.A. § 11.

(2) "Public school" has the same meaning as in 16 V.S.A. § 11.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.