

H.862

Introduced by Representative Burke of Brattleboro

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Public safety; Division of Fire Safety; building codes; sound control

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the Division of Fire Safety to update the Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code to require nonresidential spaces in public buildings to meet minimum standards for sound control.

An act relating to interior sound control in certain public buildings

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

Sec. 1. DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY; AMENDMENTS TO FIRE AND  
BUILDING SAFETY CODE; SOUND CONTROL

(a) On or before July 1, 2027, the Division of Fire Safety shall amend the Fire and Building Safety Code to require that certain public buildings meet minimum standards for the control of indoor sound and reverberation.

(b)(1) The standards shall, at a minimum, provide that rooms and spaces in public buildings, except for dwelling units and utility rooms, have a ceiling constructed with sound-absorbing materials that have a noise reduction coefficient of at least 0.75 and that cover at least 50 percent of the available

1 ceiling area. The amendments may set more protective standards for specific  
2 interior spaces in public buildings.

3 (2) The amendments may include minimum requirements for limiting  
4 sound transmission through interior and exterior walls.

5 (3) The amendments may include minimum requirements for limiting  
6 the transmission of impact-related sound through floor-ceiling assemblies.

7 (c) As used in this section, “available ceiling area” means any ceiling  
8 surface that is within view of an occupant of a room or interior space.

9 “Available ceiling area” does not include structural beams, skylights,  
10 ductwork, and other ceiling components to which sound-absorbing materials  
11 cannot be attached.

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.