
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 959 (File 79, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING MOLD IN RESIDENTIAL HOUSING.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to do the following by January 1, 2024:

1. evaluate information or guidance published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on identifying, assessing, and remediating mold and limiting mold exposure;
2. develop uniform standards for identifying and assessing mold in residential housing;
3. develop uniform standards for remediating mold, including any necessary revisions to DPH's guidelines establishing mold abatement protocols (see BACKGROUND);
4. develop guidelines for limiting mold exposure in residential housing and uniform standards for assessing the health threat from this exposure, including its effect on indoor air quality;
5. publish these standards and guidelines on the DPH website; and
6. develop a public awareness campaign on mold in residential housing.

The public awareness campaign must at least include public service announcements on the DPH website and social media accounts about (1) preventing and identifying mold in the home and (2) the health risks associated with in-home mold exposure.

Additionally, the bill creates a 12-member working group to evaluate the connection between polybutylene pipes and indoor mold in

residential and commercial buildings. (Polybutylene is a type of plastic resin that was sometimes used in plumbing system pipes from the late 1970s to mid-1990s. These pipes, which are no longer sold in the United States, may eventually break down after exposure to certain substances.)

*Senate Amendment "A" adds the working group provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, except that the working group provisions are effective upon passage.

WORKING GROUP

The bill requires the working group to evaluate (1) whether polybutylene pipes contribute to mold growth; (2) the impact of mold on the residents' health; and (3) potential solutions, such as early intervention options to prevent mold growth in buildings with these pipes and mold abatement in these buildings.

Under the bill, the Public Health Committee chairpersons and ranking members must each appoint three members to the working group by August 1, 2023. The appointed members must have experience related to mold growth, prevention, or abatement or mold's impact on public health. The working group must select a chairperson, who must convene the first meeting by September 1, 2023.

By January 1, 2024, the working group's chairperson must report to the Public Health Committee on the group's finding and any legislative recommendations.

BACKGROUND

DPH Guidelines for Mold Abatement Contractors

Existing law required DPH to publish guidelines establishing mold abatement protocols with acceptable methods for performing abatement or remediation work (CGS § 19a-111f). DPH issued the guidelines in 2006 and last revised them early this year. They address various issues for mold abatement contractors, such as steps in the environmental assessment in mold investigations and subsequent remediation.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 35 Nay 0 (03/03/2023)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 53 Nay 0 (05/08/2023)