



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 79

January Session, 2023

Substitute Senate Bill No. 959

Senate, March 15, 2023

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. ANWAR of the 3rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MOLD IN RESIDENTIAL HOUSING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) Not later than January 1, 2024,
2 the Department of Public Health shall (1) evaluate information or
3 guidance published by the United States Environmental Protection
4 Agency regarding identification of, assessment of, remediation of and
5 limiting of exposure to mold; (2) develop the following: (A) Uniform
6 standards for identifying and assessing mold in residential housing, (B)
7 uniform standards for remediating mold, including, but not limited to,
8 any necessary revisions to the guidelines establishing mold abatement
9 protocols published by the department pursuant to section 19a-1111 of
10 the general statutes, and (C) guidelines for limiting exposure to mold in
11 residential housing and uniform standards for assessing the health
12 threat from such exposure, including, but not limited to, its effects on
13 indoor air quality; (3) publish such standards and guidelines on the
14 department's Internet web site; and (4) develop a public awareness
15 campaign concerning mold in residential housing, including, but not

16 limited to, public service announcements on the department's Internet
17 web site and social media accounts regarding (A) mold prevention and
18 identification in the home, and (B) the health risks associated with
19 exposure to mold in the home.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	42,934	78,386
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	16,729	33,458

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill is anticipated to result in a cost to the Department of Public Health (DPH) of \$42,934 in FY 24 and \$78,386 in FY 25 and a cost to the Office of the State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits of \$16,729 in FY 24 and \$33,458 in FY 25. The cost to DPH reflects the salary of a Health Program Associate for half of the fiscal year (\$39,068) in FY 24 and the position's full fiscal year salary (\$78,136) in FY 25, a one-time equipment cost of \$3,616 in FY 24, and on-going other expenses for general office supplies of \$250 in both fiscal years. The cost to the Office of the State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits reflects the funding needed for the position's fringe benefits.

The bill requires, by 1/1/24, DPH to: (1) evaluate information/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

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 42.82% of payroll in FY 24.

guidelines establishing mold abatement protocols; (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 agency's website; and (6) develop a public awareness campaign concerning mold in residential housing.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 959*****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 concerning mold in residential housing.

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

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-111*l*). 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)