

SENATE BILL NO. 306

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR FAHRENKAMP

Introduced: 5/18/91
Referred: STA, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the indoor air quality of state agency offices; and providing for an
2 effective date."

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 * Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The legislature finds that

5 (1) scientific studies reveal that indoor concentrations of some pollutants are frequently
6 higher than outdoor concentrations of the pollutants and that the indoor concentrations of pollutants can
7 exceed health standards;

8 (2) since people spend, on the average, at least 90 percent of their time indoors, the
9 exposure to indoor air pollutants is a significant health risk;

10 (3) indoor air pollution poses a threat to public health because it can cause cancer,
11 respiratory illness, multiple chemical sensitivities, skin and eye irritation, and other related problems, and
12 it is estimated that indoor air pollution may cause significant increases in medical costs and claims and
13 a decline in work productivity;

14 (4) existing state environmental and occupational health programs do not adequately

1 address the exposure to indoor air pollution that may occur in state agency buildings; and

2 (5) it is in the public interest to reduce the exposure of persons to indoor air pollution
3 in state agency buildings by progressively developing a program to investigate air pollution in state
4 agency buildings and to remedy indoor air pollution by concentrating on prevention and on the education
5 of the owners, managers, and occupants of the buildings.

6 (b) It is the intent of the legislature to increase the awareness of the actual and potential risks
7 of indoor air pollution for persons using state agency buildings and to encourage a phased approach to
8 solving air quality problems that provides for altering buildings or their contents as part of a prudent
9 maintenance or refurbishing schedule.

10 * Sec. 2. AS 44.42 is amended by adding a new section to read:

11 Sec. 44.42.090. INDOOR AIR QUALITY OF STATE AGENCY BUILDINGS. (a) In
12 cooperation with other governmental agencies, owners of state agency buildings, nonprofit
13 organizations, and state employee unions, the department shall develop or collect, and distribute,
14 information that

15 (1) provides the operators and maintenance personnel of state agency buildings
16 with information on how to improve the indoor air quality of the buildings;

17 (2) provides persons who act as purchasing agents for state agency buildings with
18 information on the contaminants that can be released by the products, furnishings, or equipment
19 used in indoor environments, so that this factor can be considered when making purchases for
20 the buildings; and

21 (3) identifies design and retrofitting measures that can prevent air pollution in
22 state agency buildings.

23 (b) In cooperation with other governmental agencies, owners of state agency buildings,
24 nonprofit organizations, and state employee unions, the department shall

25 (1) develop criteria and methods for the initial and periodic evaluation of the
26 indoor air quality of state agency buildings, including the identification of

27 (A) the various pollutants, including their strengths and sources;

28 (B) maintenance and performance standards for heating and ventilation
29 systems;

30 (C) the effects of different types of buildings on indoor air quality;

31 (D) the instruments that can be used for the collection of data on indoor

1 air quality; and

2 (E) building, maintenance, and climate conditions that are unique to the
3 state and need to be specifically addressed;

4 (2) perform, as part of an existing inventory activity or maintenance review, an
5 inventory of the indoor air quality of state agency buildings by using the methods and criteria
6 developed under (1) of this subsection; and

7 (3) coordinate to the extent possible the research and development by state
8 agencies and other persons into improving the indoor air quality of state agency buildings, and
9 cooperate with private persons who have expertise in this area of research and development.

10 (c) In this section, "state agency building" means a building, or portion of a building, that
11 has 2,000 or more square feet of usable floor space, that is used to provide administrative offices
12 for the employees of state agencies, and that is owned or leased by a state agency; in this
13 subsection, "state agency" means

14 (1) a department, institution, board, commission, division, authority, public
15 corporation, or other administrative unit of the executive branch, but does not include the
16 University of Alaska, the Alaska Railroad Corporation, the Alaska State Housing Authority, and
17 the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation;

18 (2) a committee, division, or administrative unit of the legislative branch,
19 including the Alaska Legislative Council, the leadership of each house, and the office of the
20 ombudsman;

21 (3) an administrative unit of the judicial branch, including the Alaska Judicial
22 Council and the Commission on Judicial Conduct.

23 * Sec. 3. AIR QUALITY REPORT. (a) In cooperation with other governmental agencies, owners
24 of state agency buildings, nonprofit organizations, and state employee unions, the Department of
25 Transportation and Public Facilities shall prepare a report for the legislature that

26 (1) assesses the indoor air quality of state agency buildings;

27 (2) identifies health and safety standards that will ensure a healthful indoor air quality
28 in state agency buildings, including ventilation requirements;

29 (3) summarizes the information, criteria, and methods collected and developed by the
30 department under AS 44.42.090(a) - (b), enacted by sec. 2 of this Act; and

31 (4) makes recommendations for further action by the legislature to ensure a healthful

1 indoor air quality in state agency buildings.

2 (b) The department shall submit the report to the legislature by the 15th day of the third regular
3 legislative session that begins after the effective date of this Act.

4 (c) In this section, "state agency buildings" has the meaning given in AS 44.42.090(c), enacted
5 by sec. 2 of this Act.

6 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).