

SENATE No. 816

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act Concerning Environmentally Preferable Cleaning Supplies..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Green Cleaning Act.

2

3 Section 2. Legislative intent. Cleaning products are essential to ensuring sanitary
4 conditions in our public places and the protection of public health. Cleaning products serve a
5 vital role as part of the first line of defense in combating infection and disease. The effective use
6 of cleaning products is a scientifically proven method of protecting against the spread of a
7 variety of diseases, rodent infestations and many known asthma triggers such as mold, mildew,
8 dust mites, pollen and other biological contaminants. Recognizing increased public demand for
9 attention to human health and the environment, the legislature finds it beneficial to make
10 consideration of the environmental preferability of cleaning products an integral part of the
11 procurement process. Significant progress has been made in formulating cleaning products that
12 perform well and are more environmentally preferable in terms of their sustainability (e.g.
13 environmental benefits, social benefits (human factors), and economic benefits). It is essential
14 that environmentally preferable cleaning products also perform well. All parties benefit from a

15 market that encourages further innovation to develop products that perform effectively while
16 reducing their environmental impact. Therefore, the legislature finds that state buildings, school
17 districts and public and private elementary and secondary schools should be informed of and
18 should purchase environmentally-preferable cleaning and maintenance products.

19

20 Section 3: Definitions. For the purpose of this section, the following terms shall mean:

21 1. “Elementary or Secondary School” means a facility used for instruction of elementary
22 or secondary students by:

23 a. Any school district

24 b. Charter school

25 c. Approved private school

26 d. A state-supported school for students with disabilities

27 e. Any other private or parochial elementary or secondary school with greater than 50
28 students.

29 2. “State building” means any building owned by the state and for which the state is
30 responsible for maintaining the day to day cleanliness of the building, either through
31 procurement of cleaning products or via state-contracted cleaning services.

32 3. “Environmentally-preferable” cleaning and maintenance products means those
33 cleaning and maintenance products that perform effectively and simultaneously meet the

34 cleaning needs of the school while also minimizing adverse impacts on human health and the
35 environment. “Environmentally-preferable” cleaning and maintenance products do not include:

36 a. Any product for which no guideline or environmental standard has been established by
37 any of the nationally recognized third-party certification entities listed in the guidelines
38 developed under section 4 of this act, or which is outside the scope of or is otherwise excluded
39 under guidelines or environmental standards established by such national or international
40 certification program, including:

41 (i) Disinfectants, disinfecting cleaners, sanitizers or any other antimicrobial product
42 regulated by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. Sec. 136 et seq.)
43 unless US EPA promulgates a final rule to allow such products to make green claims and obtain
44 and use green certifications.

45 (ii) Antimicrobial hand soaps regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

46

47 4. “Facility” means any school building or facility used for instructional purposes and the
48 surrounding grounds or other sites used for playgrounds, athletics or other instructional purposes.

49 Section 4. Green cleaning supply guidelines and specifications. The LEAD AGENCY
50 (EPA, General Services, Public Health, Department of Education or other department) shall, in
51 consultation with OTHER DEPARTMENTS and a panel of stakeholders, including cleaning
52 industry representatives, non-governmental organizations, and others, establish and amend on a
53 biennial basis guidelines and specifications for environmentally-preferable cleaning and
54 maintenance products, equipment and paper, for use in school facilities and state buildings. The

55 LEAD AGENCY shall provide multiple avenues by which cleaning products may be determined
56 to be environmentally-preferable under the guidelines. At a minimum, the guidelines shall
57 include as avenues, the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Design for the
58 Environment (DfE) program, the EcoLogo program administered by TerraChoice, Green Seal,
59 and alternative qualifications, such as: a submission of testing by an accredited third-party
60 verifying that the product meets the criteria of one of the recognized standards; or submission of
61 a comparative life-cycle assessment (LCA) conducted in accordance with applicable standards as
62 determined by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) or any successor
63 organization, and which demonstrates life cycle impact benefits (such as, but not limited to:
64 human health, global warming potential, waste, water or energy) associated with the
65 environmentally preferable cleaning product when compared to traditional cleaning products,
66 and others as determined appropriate by the LEAD AGENCY. Guidelines and specifications
67 must be established after a review and evaluation of existing research and must be completed no
68 later than 180 days after the effective date of this Act. Guidelines and specifications should
69 include implementation practices, including inspection and evaluation. The completed guidelines
70 and specifications must be posted on the LEAD AGENCY's website.

71

72 Section 5. Use of environmentally preferable cleaning supplies. By no later than 90 days
73 after implementation of the guidelines and specifications established under Section 4 of this Act,
74 all elementary and secondary public schools and state buildings shall establish a sustainable
75 cleaning policy and exclusively purchase and use environmentally-preferable cleaning products,
76 equipment and paper pursuant to the guidelines and specifications established under Section 4 of
77 this Act. Schools and state buildings will not dispose of existing products, rather a school or state

78 building is allowed to deplete its existing cleaning and maintenance supply stocks and implement
79 the new requirements in the procurement cycle for the following year.

80

81 Section 6. Dissemination to schools and state buildings. (a) Within 30 days of completion
82 of the guidelines and specifications under Section 4 of this Act, the LEAD AGENCY shall
83 determine and implement a method for disseminating to each elementary or secondary non-
84 public school and state building in the State, the guidelines and specifications. The LEAD
85 AGENCY shall maintain a website that promotes the use of environmentally-preferable cleaning
86 and maintenance products, that provides information on how procurement officials and others
87 can determine which products meet the criteria for environmental preferability, and that will
88 include best practices for covered schools and state buildings regarding environmentally
89 preferable cleaning and maintenance products. The website should contain prominent language
90 stating that the guidelines do not apply to products excluded under section 3 (3). The LEAD
91 AGENCY shall also provide on-going assistance to schools and state buildings to carry out the
92 requirements of this Act. (b) In the event that the guidelines and specifications under Section 10
93 of this Act are updated by the LEAD AGENCY, the LEAD AGENCY shall provide the updates
94 to each school and state building and shall post all updated materials on its website.