

HOUSE No. 1465

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

William N. Brownsberger, (BY REQUEST)

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the use of HEPA vacuums.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Lizzie DeRham</i>	<i>20 Middlesex St. Cambridge, MA 02140</i>	

HOUSE No. 1465

By Mr. Brownsberger of Belmont (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1465) of William N. Brownsberger and Lizzie DeRham relative to the use HEPA filtered vacuums. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2025 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to the use of HEPA vacuums.

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

1 Whereas, Article 97 of the Constitution of Massachusetts provides that the people shall
2 have the right to clean air:

3 The purpose of this Act is to improve the quality of indoor air, and thereby reduce or
4 prevent incidence of acute and chronic illness that are known to occur due to exposure to poor
5 IAQ. The Act intends to ensure that the use of True (airtight) HEPA Filter vacuums that prevent
6 the escape of dust and biological agents from the vacuum unit, and minimize the adverse effects
7 of re-suspended dust, will reduce the concentration in indoor air of biological agents such as
8 bacteria, viruses, fungi, pollen, dust, dust mites and other insects, animal dander (tiny scales from
9 hair, skin, or feathers) and molds. In hospitals and health care facilities, the use of HEPA filter

10 vacuums is intended to further reduce exposure to airborne particulates from natural rubber latex,
11 a known allergen.

12 The Act is intended to ensure that all surfaces such as shelving, carpeting, furniture,
13 office equipment, walls, window screens, fans, grilles of heating and cooling units, refrigerator
14 coils, and HVAC unit vent covers are dust and particulate free, thereby reducing the
15 concentration of any or all of them in the indoor air, in air circulated through any operative
16 HVAC systems, and as substrates on which further biological growth may thrive, particularly in
17 the presence of moisture.

18 The Act is further intended to ensure that the reduction in concentration of surface and
19 airborne particles, which are known to act as triggers for asthma, sinusitis, hives, severe
20 anaphylactic reactions that can cause death, respiratory illness, dermatitis, and other acute and
21 chronic medical conditions in susceptible patients, students, medical personnel, teachers, workers
22 and all support staff, will cause the costs associated with the incidence of illness, such as lost
23 work time, lost productivity, and impaired ability to learn, to be reduced; and cause costs related
24 to demand for medical care, use of medical insurance, and demand for supplemental education to
25 be reduced.

26 The Act is intended to ensure that all contracts with cleaning companies of record
27 stipulate:

- 28 1. Regular and sole use of True HEPA Filter vacuum units.
- 29 2. The condition that vacuuming is to be included in the cleaning contract, with further
30 stipulation as to frequency of vacuuming, areas to be vacuumed, specific attention to be paid to
31 identifiable problem areas, or to heavily trafficked areas.

32 3. Regular and required maintenance of the HEPA filter vacuum unit, the cleaning or
33 replacement of the HEPA filter, either scheduled or whenever deemed necessary by either
34 operator or employee observer, designated or other.