

SENATE No. 1100

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jennifer L. Flanagan

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 concerning environmentally preferable cleaning supplies..

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Jennifer L. Flanagan

James B. Eldridge

SENATE No. 1100

By Ms. Flanagan, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1100) of Jennifer L. Flanagan and James B. Eldridge for legislation relative to environmentally preferable cleaning supplies. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 816 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
In the Year Two Thousand Eleven
—————

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 Section 2. Legislative intent. Cleaning products are essential to ensuring sanitary
- 3 conditions in our public places and the protection of public health. Cleaning products serve a
- 4 vital role as part of the first line of defense in combating infection and disease. The effective use
- 5 of cleaning products is a scientifically proven method of protecting against the spread of a
- 6 variety of diseases, rodent infestations and many known asthma triggers such as mold, mildew,
- 7 dust mites, pollen and other biological contaminants. Recognizing increased public demand for
- 8 attention to human health and the environment, the legislature finds it beneficial to make
- 9 consideration of the environmental preferability of cleaning products an integral part of the
- 10 procurement process. Significant progress has been made in formulating cleaning products that

11 perform well and are more environmentally preferable in terms of their sustainability (e.g.
12 environmental benefits, social benefits (human factors), and economic benefits). It is essential
13 that environmentally preferable cleaning products also perform well. All parties benefit from a
14 market that encourages further innovation to develop products that perform effectively while
15 reducing their environmental impact. Therefore, the legislature finds that state buildings, school
16 districts and public and private elementary and secondary schools should be informed of and
17 should purchase environmentally-preferable cleaning and maintenance products.

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

19 1. "Elementary or Secondary School" means a facility used for instruction of elementary
20 or secondary students by:

21 a. Any school district

22 b. Charter school

23 c. Approved private school

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

25 e. Any other private or parochial elementary or secondary school with greater than 50
26 students.

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

30 3. "Environmentally-preferable" cleaning and maintenance products means those
31 cleaning and maintenance products that perform effectively and simultaneously meet the
32 cleaning needs of the school while also minimizing adverse impacts on human health and the
33 environment. "Environmentally-preferable" cleaning and maintenance products do not include:

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

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

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

44 4. "Facility" means any school building or facility used for instructional purposes and the
45 surrounding grounds or other sites used for playgrounds, athletics or other instructional purposes.

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

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

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

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

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