

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 2008
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State Affairs
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Engrossed

This analysis is based on the House Committee Report, which is the most recent version available to the Senate Research Center.

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Current law prohibits smoking in public buildings, but other air pollutants such as radon gas, lead, pesticides, molds, asbestos, formaldehyde, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide endanger the public as well. Indoor air pollution can cause “Sick Building Syndrome” symptoms, including headaches, fatigue, eye and respiratory tract infections, dizziness, and nausea. While in 1995 the legislature directed the Texas Board of Health (board) to develop voluntary indoor air quality guidelines for public schools, guidelines should now be extended to other government buildings. H.B. 2008 requires the board to establish voluntary air quality guidelines for all buildings owned or leased by a governmental entity that are occupied or regularly open to the public.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION

House Bill 2008 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Texas Board of Health (board) to establish voluntary guidelines for indoor air quality in government buildings, rather than only in public school buildings. H.B. 2008 authorizes the board to set different air quality guidelines for buildings that are regularly occupied or visited by children. The bill provides that neither current law nor the provisions of this bill create liability for a governmental entity for an injury caused by a failure to comply with the established voluntary guidelines.

Effective date: September 1, 2001.