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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Representatives Silva, and Edwards

Date Introduced: March 23, 2010

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 16 of the General Laws entitled "EDUCATION" is hereby amended  
2 by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 21.6

4 GREEN CLEANING ACT OF 2010

5 **16-21.6-1. Title.** – This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Green Cleaning  
6 Act of 2010."

7 **16-21.6-2. Legislative findings and intent.** – It is hereby found and declared as follows:

8 (1) Research shows a clear link between poor indoor air quality, sick students and  
9 teachers, and poor academic and occupational performance. While an effective cleaning program  
10 has been scientifically proven to protect against the spread of a variety of diseases and  
11 contaminants, some traditional cleaners contain chemicals that may have a greater impact on the  
12 environment or a vulnerable population.

13 (2) Cleaning and maintenance products and procedures that are more sustainable in terms  
14 of human and environmental health are increasingly being developed, are commonly available  
15 and have become cost competitive.

16 (3) School districts, public and private elementary and secondary schools should  
17 implement green cleaning programs which utilize environmentally preferable cleaning and  
18 maintenance products and which promote practices for sustainable cleaning, including paper and  
19 equipment procurement.

1           (4) There is a widespread benefit from a marketplace that encourages innovation to  
2 develop products that perform effectively while reducing their environmental impact.

3           **16-21.6-3. Definitions.** – The following words and phrases as used in this chapter, unless  
4 a different meaning is plainly required by the context, shall have the following meanings:

5           (1) "Elementary or secondary school" means a facility used for instruction of elementary  
6 or secondary students by:

7           (i) Any school district;

8           (ii) Any charter school;

9           (iii) Any school for students with disabilities;

10           (iv) Any other private or parochial elementary or secondary school with greater than  
11 twenty-five (25) students.

12           (2) "Environmentally preferable cleaning and maintenance products" means those  
13 cleaning and maintenance products and equipment intended to clean surfaces within a school  
14 facility (such as, but not limited to: glass cleaners, bathroom cleaners, carpet cleaners and general  
15 surface cleaners) that perform effectively and simultaneously meet the cleaning needs of the  
16 school while minimizing adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

17           (3) "Environmentally preferable paper" means janitorial paper products that minimize the  
18 environmental impact resulting from their use, production transport and disposal.

19           (4) "Facility" means any school building or facility used for instructional purposes and  
20 the surrounding grounds or other sites used for playgrounds, athletics or other instructional  
21 purposes.

22           **16-21.6-4. Green cleaning supply guidelines and specifications.** – (a) The department  
23 of secondary and elementary education (which shall be designated the lead agency for the  
24 purposes of this chapter) shall, in consultation with the department of health, and a panel of  
25 stakeholders (to be appointed by the director of secondary and elementary education which shall  
26 include cleaning industry representatives, nongovernmental organization, and others) establish  
27 and amend on a biennial basis guidelines and specifications for environmentally preferable  
28 cleaning and maintenance products, equipment and paper, for use in school facilities. The  
29 department of secondary and elementary education shall provide multiple avenues by which  
30 cleaning and maintenance products, equipment and paper may be determined to be  
31 environmentally preferable under the guidelines. At a minimum, the guidelines shall include the  
32 United States Environmental Protection Agency's Design for the Environment (DfE) Program,  
33 the EcoLogo program administered by TerraChoice, Green Seal as avenues, as well as alternative  
34 means of qualification, such as: a submission of testing by an accredited third-party verifying that

1 the product meets the criteria of one of the recognized standards and others as determined  
2 appropriate by the department of elementary and secondary education.

3 (b) The guidelines and specifications established under this section shall not prohibit the  
4 use of disinfectants, disinfecting cleaners, sanitizers, or any other antimicrobial product regulated  
5 by the federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. Sec. 136 et seq.), when  
6 necessary to protect public health; provided, that the use of these products is in accordance with  
7 responsible cleaning procedures requirements. The guidelines and specifications may stipulate  
8 environmentally preferable requirements preferability (including, but not limited to, the use of  
9 third-party certifications of environmental preferability) to be made in reference to such products.

10 (c) The guidelines and specifications established under this section shall permit the use of  
11 products outside the scope of the guidelines developed under this section, and those products  
12 otherwise excluded from the environmental standards established by any of the generally  
13 recognized third-party entities listed in the guidelines developed herein.

14 (d) Guidelines and specifications must be established after a review and evaluation of  
15 existing research and must be completed no later than one hundred eighty (180) days after the  
16 effective date of this act. Guidelines and specifications should include implementation practices,  
17 including inspection and evaluation. The completed guidelines and specifications must be posted  
18 on the department of elementary and secondary education website.

19 **16-21.6-5. Use of environmentally preferable cleaning supplies.** – No later than ninety  
20 (90) days after implementation of the guidelines and specifications established under section 16-  
21 21.6-4 herein, all elementary and secondary schools shall establish a sustainable cleaning policy  
22 and exclusively purchase and use environmentally preferable cleaning products, equipment and  
23 paper pursuant to said guidelines and specifications; provided, however, that schools shall not  
24 dispose of existing products, equipment or paper, but rather shall be permitted to deplete existing  
25 supplies and implement the new requirements in the procurement cycle for the following year.

26 **16-21.6-6. Dissemination.** – (a) Within thirty (30) days of the completion of the  
27 guidelines and specifications pursuant to section 16-21.6-4 herein, the department of secondary  
28 and elementary education shall determine and implement a method for disseminating to each  
29 elementary or secondary school in the state, a copy of said guidelines and specifications. The  
30 department of elementary and secondary education shall maintain a website that promotes the use  
31 of environmentally preferable cleaning and maintenance programs, which provides information  
32 on how procurement officials and others can determine which cleaning products, paper and/or  
33 equipment meet the criteria for environmental preferability, and that will include best practices  
34 for covered schools regarding environmentally preferable cleaning and maintenance products.

1 Said website should contain prominent language stating that the guidelines do not apply to  
2 products excluded under subsections 16-21.6-4(b) and (c). The department of secondary and  
3 elementary education shall also provide on-going assistance to schools to carry out the  
4 requirements of this chapter.

5 (b) In the event that the guidelines and specifications under section 16-21.6-4 herein are  
6 updated by the department of secondary and elementary education, the department shall provide a  
7 copy of updates to each school and shall post all updated materials on its website.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

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- 1 This act would require the use of environmentally preferable cleaning supplies in all
- 2 elementary and secondary schools.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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