

ESSB 5950, Section 222, subsection 159

Proviso Language:

(a) \$750,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 is provided solely to review and update the rules for school environmental health and safety. The state board of health and the department shall conduct the review in collaboration with a multi-disciplinary technical advisory committee. The proposed new rules shall establish the minimum statewide health and safety standards for schools. The state board of health shall consider the size of school districts, regional cost differences, the age of the schools, the feasibility of implementing the proposed rules by section or subject area, and any other variables that may affect the implementation of the rules. In developing proposed rules, the state board of health shall:

(i) Convene and consult with an advisory committee consisting of, at minimum, representatives from:

(A) The office of the superintendent of public instruction;

(B) Small and large school districts;

(C) The Washington association of school administrators;

(D) The Washington state school directors' association;

(E) The Washington association of maintenance and operations administrators; and

(F) The Washington association of school business officials;

(ii) After the development of the draft rules, the state board of health shall meet at least one time with the advisory committee and provide the opportunity for the advisory committee to comment on the draft rules;

(iii) Collaborate with the office of the superintendent of public instruction and develop a fiscal analysis regarding proposed rules that considers the size of school districts, regional cost differences, the age of the schools, range of costs for implementing the proposed rules by section or subject area, and any other variables that may affect costs as identified by the advisory committee; and

(iv) Assist the department in completing environmental justice assessments on any proposed rules.

(b) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, the department, the state board of health, the advisory committee, and local health jurisdictions shall work collaboratively to develop and provide a report to the office of the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature by June 30, 2025, detailing prioritized sections or subject areas of the proposed rules that will provide the greatest health and safety benefits for students, the order in which they should be implemented, and any additional recommendations for implementation.