



SENATE BILL 384: Carbon Monoxide Detectors/School Bldgs.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Education/Higher Education.	If Date:	April 18, 2023
	favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate		
Introduced by:	Sens. Lee, Galey, Mayfield	Prepared by:	Kara McCraw
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 384 would require a survey and report on the need and cost of installing carbon monoxide alarm and detection systems and radon testing in unequipped existing public school buildings.

CURRENT LAW: Under G.S. 115C-525, public school buildings must be inspected at least twice each year to ensure that the building and all heating, mechanical, electrical, gas, and other equipment and appliances are properly installed and maintained in a "safe and serviceable manner as prescribed by the North Carolina Building Code". Section 915 of the North Carolina Building Code has specific requirements in new buildings for carbon monoxide detectors or alarms in schools with gas-fired equipment, such as boilers and forced air furnaces or gas-fired appliances such as stoves. Each alarm signal is required to be automatically transmitted to an on-site location that is staffed by school personnel.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 384 would direct the State Board of Education (SBE) to survey identified public schools to determine (i) the number of existing school buildings not currently equipped with carbon monoxide alarms and detection systems that would be out of compliance if required to comply with Section 915 of the North Carolina State Building Code, Fire Prevention Code, and (ii) the need and implementation of radon gas testing. Identified public schools would be all existing buildings in public schools other than charter schools and schools operated by the University of North Carolina System, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety.

The SBE would report the following to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by December 15, 2023:

- The number of existing buildings statewide, and by identified public school, that are not equipped with carbon monoxide alarms and detection systems.
- The estimated cost, statewide and by identified public school, to permit, install, and inspect those unequipped buildings with carbon monoxide alarm and detection systems and radon gas testing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: SB 384 would become effective when it becomes law.

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