This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

SENATE BILL 450:
Carbon Monoxide Detectors/School Bldgs.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Education/Higher Education. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	**Date:**	April 28, 2021
Introduced by:	Sens. Lee, Ballard, Barnes	**Prepared by:**	Drupti Chauhan Committee Counsel
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 450 requires the installation of carbon monoxide alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in all public schools in the State.

CURRENT LAW: Under G.S. 115C-525, public school buildings have to 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". The School Planning Section at the Department of Public Instruction confirmed that the North Carolina Building Code has specific requirements 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 450 directs the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt rules applicable to all public school units on the installation of adequate carbon monoxide alarms and adequate carbon monoxide detectors.

Existing school buildings must be equipped with adequate carbon monoxide alarms by July 1, 2023.

School buildings placed into service on after July 1, 2025, must be equipped with adequate carbon monoxide detectors.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill is effective when it becomes law.

BACKGROUND: A carbon monoxide alarm is a stand-alone unit and carbon monoxide detector is a part of a fire alarm system. An "adequate carbon monoxide alarm" meets the American National Standards Institute/Underwriters Laboratory standard ANSI/UL 2034 and installed per the National Fire Protection Association standard NFPA 720. An "adequate carbon monoxide detector" meets the American National Standards Institute/Underwriter Laboratory standard ANSI/UL 2075 and installed per the National Fire Protection Association standard NFPA 720.

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