



SENATE BILL 450: Carbon Monoxide Detectors/School Bldgs.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	May 5, 2021
Introduced by:	Sens. Lee, Ballard, Barnes	Prepared by:	Drupti Chauhan
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 450 requires the installation of carbon monoxide alarm and detection systems in existing public school buildings.*

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 that require existing school buildings to be equipped with carbon monoxide alarm and detection systems in accordance with the requirements for new buildings as provided in the Fire Prevention Code of the State Building Code. Existing buildings are not required to be equipped with carbon monoxide and detection systems if such a system would not be required for a new building under the Fire Prevention Code of the State Building Code. The rules adopted by the SBE must require the requirement for carbon monoxide and detection systems to take place no later than July 1, 2023.

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

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578