

§ 2651. Public protection**(a) Public protection**

No State or local educational agency may discriminate against a person in any way, including firing a person who is an employee, because the person provided information relating to a potential violation of this subchapter to any other person, including a State or the Federal Government.

(b) Labor Department review

Any public or private employee or representative of employees who believes he or she has been fired or otherwise discriminated against in violation of subsection (a) may within 90 days after the alleged violation occurs apply to the Secretary of Labor for a review of the firing or alleged discrimination. The review shall be conducted in accordance with section 660(c) of title 29.

(Pub. L. 94-469, title II, §211, as added Pub. L. 99-519, §2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2987.)

§ 2652. Asbestos Ombudsman**(a) Appointment**

The Administrator shall appoint an Asbestos Ombudsman, who shall carry out the duties described in subsection (b).

(b) Duties

The duties of the Asbestos Ombudsman are—

- (1) to receive complaints, grievances, and requests for information submitted by any person with respect to any aspect of this subchapter,
- (2) to render assistance with respect to the complaints, grievances, and requests received, and
- (3) to make such recommendations to the Administrator as the Ombudsman considers appropriate.

(Pub. L. 94-469, title II, §212, as added Pub. L. 99-519, §2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2987.)

§ 2653. EPA study of asbestos-containing material in public buildings

Within 360 days after October 22, 1986, the Administrator shall conduct and submit to the Congress the results of a study which shall—

- (1) assess the extent to which asbestos-containing materials are present in public and commercial buildings;
- (2) assess the condition of asbestos-containing material in commercial buildings and the likelihood that persons occupying such buildings, including service and maintenance personnel, are, or may be, exposed to asbestos fibers;
- (3) consider and report on whether public and commercial buildings should be subject to the same inspection and response action requirements that apply to school buildings;
- (4) assess whether existing Federal regulations adequately protect the general public, particularly abatement personnel, from exposure to asbestos during renovation and demolition of such buildings; and
- (5) include recommendations that explicitly address whether there is a need to establish

standards for, and regulate asbestos exposure in, public and commercial buildings.

(Pub. L. 94-469, title II, §213, as added Pub. L. 99-519, §2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2987.)

§ 2654. Transitional rules

Any regulation of the Environmental Protection Agency under subchapter I which is inconsistent with this subchapter shall not be in effect after October 22, 1986. Any advanced notice of proposed rulemaking, any proposed rule, and any regulation of the Environmental Protection Agency in effect before October 22, 1986, which is consistent with the regulations required under section 2643 of this title shall remain in effect and may be used to meet the requirements of section 2643 of this title, except that any such regulation shall be enforced under this chapter.

(Pub. L. 94-469, title II, §214, as added Pub. L. 99-519, §2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2988.)

§ 2655. Worker protection**(a) Prohibition on certain activities**

Until the local educational agency with authority over a school has submitted a management plan (for the school) which the State Governor has not disapproved as of the end of the period for review and revision of the plan under section 2645 of this title, the local educational agency may not do either of the following in the school:

- (1) Perform, or direct an employee to perform, renovations or removal of building materials, except emergency repairs, in the school, unless—

(A) the school is carrying out work under a grant awarded under section 4014 of title 20; or

(B) an inspection that complies with the requirements of regulations promulgated under section 2643 of this title has been carried out in the school and the agency complies with the following sections of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations:

(i) Paragraphs (g), (h), and (i) of section 763.90 (response actions).

(ii) Appendix D to subpart E of part 763 (transport and disposal of asbestos waste).

- (2) Perform, or direct an employee to perform, operations and maintenance activities in the school, unless the agency complies with the following sections of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations:

(A) Section 763.91 (operations and maintenance), including appendix B to subpart E of part 763.

(B) Paragraph (a)(2) of section 763.92 (training and periodic surveillance).

(b) Employee training and equipment

Any school employee who is directed to conduct emergency repairs involving any building material containing asbestos or suspected of containing asbestos, or to conduct operations and maintenance activities, in a school—

- (1) shall be provided the proper training to safely conduct such work in order to prevent potential exposure to asbestos; and

(2) shall be provided the proper equipment and allowed to follow work practices that are

necessary to safely conduct such work in order to prevent potential exposure to asbestos.

(c) "Emergency repair" defined

For purposes of this section, the term "emergency repair" means a repair in a school building that was not planned and was in response to a sudden, unexpected event that threatens either—

- (1) the health or safety of building occupants; or
- (2) the structural integrity of the building.

(Pub. L. 94-469, title II, §215, as added Pub. L. 100-368, §4(a), July 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 832.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 100-368, §4(c), July 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 833, provided that: "Section 215 of the Toxic Substances Control Act [this section], as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on October 12, 1988."

§ 2656. Training grants

(a) Grants

The Administrator is authorized to award grants under this section to nonprofit organizations that demonstrate experience in implementing and operating health and safety asbestos training and education programs for workers who are or will be engaged in asbestos-related activities (including State and local governments, colleges and universities, joint labor-management trust funds, and nonprofit government employee organizations) to establish and, or, operate asbestos training programs on a not-for-profit basis. Applications for grants under this subsection shall be submitted in such form and manner, and contain such information, as the Administrator prescribes.

(b) Authorization

Of such sums as are authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 4021(a) of title 20 for the fiscal years 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995, not more than \$5,000,000 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section in each such fiscal year.

(Pub. L. 94-469, title II, §216, as added Pub. L. 101-637, §16(a)(1), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4597.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 101-637, §16(b), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4598, provided that: "Section 216 of the Toxic Substances Control Act [this section], as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 28, 1990]."

SUBCHAPTER III—INDOOR RADON
ABATEMENT

§ 2661. National goal

The national long-term goal of the United States with respect to radon levels in buildings is that the air within buildings in the United States should be as free of radon as the ambient air outside of buildings.

(Pub. L. 94-469, title III, §301, as added Pub. L. 100-551, §1(a), Oct. 28, 1988, 102 Stat. 2755.)

REPORT ON RECOMMENDED POLICY FOR DEALING WITH
RADON IN ASSISTED HOUSING

Pub. L. 100-628, title X, §1091, Nov. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 3283, provided that:

"(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

"(1) to require the Department of Housing and Urban Development to develop an effective departmental policy for dealing with radon contamination that utilizes any Environmental Protection Agency guidelines and standards to ensure that occupants of housing covered by this section are not exposed to hazardous levels of radon; and

"(2) to require the Department of Housing and Urban Development to assist the Environmental Protection Agency in reducing radon contamination.

"(b) PROGRAM.—

"(1) APPLICABILITY.—The housing covered by this section is—

"(A) multifamily housing owned by the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

"(B) public housing and Indian housing assisted under the United States Housing Act of 1937 [42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.];

"(C) housing receiving project-based assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 [42 U.S.C. 1437f];

"(D) housing assisted under section 236 of the National Housing Act [12 U.S.C. 1715z-1]; and

"(E) housing assisted under section 221(d)(3) of the National Housing Act [12 U.S.C. 1715f(d)(3)].

"(2) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall develop and recommend to the Congress a policy for dealing with radon contamination that specifies programs for education, research, testing, and mitigation of radon hazards in housing covered by this section.

"(3) STANDARDS.—In developing the policy, the Secretary shall utilize any guidelines, information, or standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency for—

"(A) testing residential and nonresidential structures for radon;

"(B) identifying elevated radon levels;

"(C) identifying when remedial actions should be taken; and

"(D) identifying geographical areas that are likely to have elevated levels of radon.

"(4) COORDINATION.—In developing the policy, the Secretary shall coordinate the efforts of the Department of Housing and Urban Development with the Environmental Protection Agency, and other appropriate Federal agencies, and shall consult with State and local governments, the housing industry, consumer groups, health organizations, appropriate professional organizations, and other appropriate experts.

"(5) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 7, 1988] that describes the Secretary's recommended policy for dealing with radon contamination and the Secretary's reasons for recommending such policy. The report shall include an estimate of the housing covered by this section that is likely to have hazardous levels of radon.

"(c) COOPERATION WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.—Within 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 7, 1988], the Secretary and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall enter into a memorandum of understanding describing the Secretary's plan to assist the Administrator in carrying out the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to assess the extent of radon contamination in the United States and assist in the development of measures to avoid and reduce radon contamination.

"(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

"(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

"(2) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

"(e) AUTHORIZATION.—Funds available for housing covered by this section shall be available to carry out this section with respect to such housing."