



Emily Mohr

Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 480

126th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Chandler, Skindell, Healy, Ujvagi, Miller, Garrison, Beatty, Williams, Harwood, Yuko, Allen, Carano, Brown

BILL SUMMARY

- Creates the Children's Environmental Health and Safety Advisory Committee with 14 required members and up to four optional members.
- Requires the Committee to review existing statutes, administrative rules, regulations, and standards to determine whether they adequately protect children's health from environmental and safety hazards.
- Requires the Committee to prepare a report of its findings and submit it to all members of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Children's Environmental Health and Safety Advisory Committee

Membership

The bill creates the Children's Environmental Health and Safety Advisory Committee consisting of the following members:

(1) A member of the Ohio Environmental Council, who is to serve as the Committee's chairperson;¹

(2) Two members of the Senate, one appointed by the Senate President and one appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;

¹ *The Council is a nonprofit organization that advocates for environmental protection and the conservation of natural resources.*

- (3) Two members of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the Speaker and one appointed by the House Minority Leader;
- (4) The Director of Agriculture, or the Director's designee;
- (5) The Director of Environmental Protection, or the Director's designee;
- (6) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
- (7) The Director of Job and Family Services, or the Director's designee;
- (8) The Director of Youth Services, or the Director's designee;
- (9) The following members appointed by the Governor:
 - (a) Two licensed pediatric health care providers with expertise in children's environmental health;
 - (b) One representative from a research university or hospital who has expertise in studying the impact of environmental allergies on childhood asthma;
 - (c) One representative from a research university or hospital who has expertise in the effects that different toxicity standards have on children;
- (10) Up to four other members appointed by the Governor, as needed according to their expertise;
- (11) One member of the public, appointed by the Committee chairperson.

Appointments to the Committee must take place not later than 60 days after the bill takes effect. The bill specifies that the chairperson is to cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie, but does not indicate whether the chairperson can vote in other circumstances.

Vacancies on the Committee are to be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. Members serve without compensation,² and the Governor's office must supply all resources necessary to complete the Committee's duties, including meeting space.

Responsibilities

The bill requires the Committee to review existing statutes, administrative rules, regulations, and standards to determine whether they adequately protect

² *The bill does not specify whether members will be reimbursed for expenses.*

children's health from environmental and safety hazards. The scope of the Committee's review includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Whether current toxicity standards and other rules and regulations adequately protect children from acute health risks, including, but not limited to, risks from air and water, measured according to the effects of those risks on an adult;

(2) Whether children are adequately protected from toxic flame retardant in children's clothing;

(3) Whether children are adequately protected from chemicals, including, but not limited to, mercury, lead, arsenic, and pesticides in and around schools and homes;

(4) Whether current regulations sufficiently ensure children's safety in motor vehicles and on school buses in case of accidents;

(5) Any and all issues of children's health and safety that come to the attention of the Committee.

The bill requires all state agencies that promulgate rules regarding children's health and safety to cooperate with the Committee regarding information concerning the rules.

The Committee is required by the bill to prepare a report that summarizes the results of its review and recommends changes to statutes, rules, and regulations to better protect children's health from environmental and safety hazards. This report must be submitted to all members of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Committee ceases to exist after it submits the report.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	01-24-06

H0480-I-126.doc/jc

