



SF 2262 – School Radon Testing (LSB 5918SV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

Senate File 2262 requires radon gas testing in each school district attendance center by June 30, 2016, and each 10-year period thereafter. If the results of the testing process exceed the specified levels, this Bill requires school districts to perform an additional test within 90 days of the initial test. Failure to pass the second test will require the school district to implement a mitigation plan within one year and provide for additional testing and monitoring following the mitigation process.

This Bill specifies that the use of Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) funds and Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) funds may be used for radon testing and radon mitigation.

Assumptions

Assumptions for the estimated fiscal impact include:

- Any additional radon measurement certification fees (averaged at \$700 per licensee) collected by the Department of Public Health (DPH) will be deposited in the General Fund. The DPH estimates that an additional 228 radon measurement licenses will be issued beginning in FY 2015. Additionally, the DPH will require an additional FTE position due to the increased radon licensees.
- Public school districts will be required to test schoolrooms within each school building. The Legislative Services Agency (LSA) estimates that approximately 10.0% to 15.0% of school districts currently do some radon testing in their school buildings (all currently test for radon in preschool rooms). Based on the 2012-2013 Department of Education address file, there are 1,372 public school buildings in the state (not including the early childhood centers).
- Radon tests will be administered by a licensed professional. Based on information from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the cost of testing schools by radon professionals may range up to \$1,500 for an entire building. The Department of Education reports that in some cases, a radon test kit may be implemented by a licensed professional at a cost of \$30 per room.
- Cost of radon mitigation will vary, and may range between \$5,000 and \$15,000. Additionally, in some cases, ventilation adjustments can lead to radon reduction.
- The mitigation costs resulting from positive radon testing are unknown. Public school districts may use PPEL funding to pay costs associated with the radon mitigation process. Additionally, in some cases (based on each school district's revenue purpose statement), school districts may use funds from the SAVE Fund to pay costs associated with the radon mitigation process.

Fiscal Impact

This Bill has the following fiscal impacts:

- Beginning in FY 2015, an increase in General Fund revenue totaling \$160,000 annually resulting from additional radon license fees.

- The DPH indicates the provisions of this Bill will increase General Fund expenditures by an estimated \$74,000 in FY 2015 and \$70,000 in FY 2016 and future fiscal years to cover costs associated with staff and administration. This is an increase of \$65,000 compared to current law.
- The LSA estimates the statewide additional cost of initial radon testing in public school districts may range between \$700,000 and \$1.9 million. The cost per district will vary but average cost per district is estimated between \$2,025 and \$5,500. Testing and costs will be incurred in FY 2015 and FY 2016. Additionally, there will be additional costs of testing for second tests. Those total testing costs are anticipated to be less than the total cost incurred for initial testing. As noted above, these costs will be paid with district PPEL and/or SAVE funds.
- The cost estimate for radon mitigation to public school districts is currently unknown and will depend on the number of radon tests that provide positive radon results. Any costs associated with the radon mitigation process may lead to property tax increases through the additional use of PPEL funds or any additional modified allowable growth amounts granted by the School Budget Review Committee for radon mitigation purposes. However, the use of SAVE funds (if allowed based on the district's revenue purpose statement) may offset any property tax increases resulting from the radon mitigation process.

Sources

Iowa Department of Public Health

Iowa Department of Education

Iowa Association of School Boards

United States Environmental Protection Agency:

[http://www.epa.gov/iag/schools/tfs/guideq.html#Testing and Mitigation Costs](http://www.epa.gov/iag/schools/tfs/guideq.html#Testing%20and%20Mitigation%20Costs)

LSA analysis and calculations

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
