



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

SECOND SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

Bill 995

**An Act to ensure student health and
safety in the classroom by regulating
ambient air quality in schools**

Introduction

**Introduced by
Madam Marwah Rizqy
Member for Saint-Laurent**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The purpose of this bill is to ensure student health and safety by regulating air quality in schools. To that end, it prescribes the maximum measured concentration of carbon dioxide in the air in classrooms.

The bill requires that every classroom of a school or private educational institution be equipped with a sensor enabling the concentration of carbon dioxide in the air to be measured continuously. It also provides that the data thus collected must be sent to the Minister of Education, who is responsible for making them public on the website of the Minister's department.

The bill also provides that the Minister prepares, keeps up to date and makes public an action protocol to reduce the concentration of carbon dioxide in classrooms. The action protocol is sent to school service centres and private educational institutions before the beginning of the school year and must be implemented by them when the concentration of carbon dioxide exceeds the standard prescribed by the Act.

The bill further requires that every classroom be equipped with an air exchanger or purifier. It provides that the Minister is responsible for providing air exchangers and purifiers in sufficient number.

The bill makes school service centres and private educational institutions responsible for the maintenance of the air exchangers and purifiers, which must be inspected at least once every six months. It provides that the inspection reports must be sent to the Minister, who must make them public on the website of the Minister's department. Lastly, it makes the Minister responsible for ensuring follow-up regarding actions taken to correct the failings revealed by the inspection reports and to make public, on the website of the Minister's department, the information relating to those actions.

Bill 995

AN ACT TO ENSURE STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE CLASSROOM BY REGULATING AMBIENT AIR QUALITY IN SCHOOLS

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER I

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1. The purpose of this Act is to ensure student health and safety by regulating ambient air quality in schools.

To that end, it specifies, among other things, the maximum permissible measured concentration of carbon dioxide in the air.

2. This Act applies to schools within the meaning of section 36 of the Education Act (chapter I-13.3) and to private educational institutions within the meaning of paragraphs 1 to 3 of section 1 of the Act respecting private education (chapter E-9.1).

CHAPTER II

MEASURES RELATING TO AIR QUALITY

3. Not later than (*insert the date that is six months after the date of assent to this Act*), every classroom of a school or private educational institution must be equipped with a sensor enabling the concentration of carbon dioxide in the air to be measured continuously.

4. Each week, schools and private educational institutions must send the data collected by the carbon dioxide sensors to the Minister.

The Minister makes the data referred to in the first paragraph public on the website of the Minister's department.

5. The measured concentration of carbon dioxide in a classroom of a school or private educational institution must not exceed 1,000 parts per million in volume.

Despite the first paragraph, during a pandemic declared by the World Health Organization, the concentration of carbon dioxide must not exceed 700 parts per million in volume.

6. The Minister of Education prepares, keeps up to date and makes public an action protocol to reduce the concentration of carbon dioxide in classrooms of a school or private educational institution.

The Minister sends the action protocol to school service centres and private educational institutions before the beginning of the school year.

7. When the measured concentration of carbon dioxide in a classroom exceeds the standard prescribed in section 5, the school service centre or, as the case may be, private educational institution is responsible for implementing the action protocol established by the Minister under the first paragraph of section 6.

8. The Minister keeps a public register in which the Minister indicates the name of the school or private educational institution, the measured concentrations for each classroom and the period during which the action protocol was implemented.

9. Each year, the Minister sends the data collected by the carbon dioxide sensors to the national public health director appointed under the Act respecting the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (chapter M-19.2).

CHAPTER III

AIR EXCHANGERS OR PURIFIERS

DIVISION I

REQUIREMENT FOR EACH CLASSROOM TO BE EQUIPPED WITH AN AIR EXCHANGER OR PURIFIER

10. Not later than (*insert the date that is 12 months after the date of assent to this Act*), every classroom of a school or private educational institution must be equipped with the number of air exchangers or purifiers determined by a regulation made by the Minister.

To determine the number of air exchangers or purifiers required, the Minister takes into account, among other things, the size of the classroom and the number of students who use it.

11. The Minister is responsible for providing air exchangers or purifiers in sufficient number to schools and private educational institutions. To that end, the Minister assumes the acquisition and installation costs of air exchangers or purifiers in classrooms.

12. Not later than 30 September of each year, each school and each private educational institution must count the number of air exchangers or purifiers that it has to ensure that its needs are met.

The data are sent to the Minister within 30 days of the count.

DIVISION II

MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION

13. School service centres and private educational institutions are responsible for the maintenance of the air exchangers and purifiers.

The filters of the air exchangers and purifiers must be replaced in accordance with the standards prescribed by the equipment suppliers.

14. At least once every six months, school service centres and private educational institutions must have the air exchangers and purifiers inspected by a person they designate for that purpose.

The inspection reports are sent to the Minister within 15 days after they are received by the school service centre or private educational institution.

Within 15 days after they are received, the Minister makes the inspection reports public on the website of the Minister's department.

15. The Minister must ensure follow-up regarding actions taken to correct the failings revealed by the inspection reports obtained following the inspections carried out under section 14.

Not later than 30 June of each year, the Minister makes public the information relating to the actions taken under the first paragraph on the website of the Minister's department.

CHAPTER IV

REGULATORY POWER

16. The Minister may, by regulation, prescribe the format in which the data referred to in the first paragraph of section 4 and in sections 12 and 14 must be sent.

CHAPTER V
FINAL PROVISIONS

- 17.** The Minister of Education is responsible for the administration of this Act.
- 18.** This Act comes into force on (*insert the date of assent to this Act*).

