

SENATE BILL SB-35

Introduced by Senator Sasha Renee Perez (D-25)

An act relating to K-12 Smoke Preparedness Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB-35, Sasha Renee Perez (D-25). K-12 Smoke Preparedness Act.

Under current law, the California Schools Healthy Air, Plumbing and Efficiency Program, run by the California Energy Commission, provides grants for repairs, maintenance, and improvements to school ventilation systems. (PUC, §1621) This bill would create a 3-year pilot program, known as the K-12 Smoke Preparedness Pilot Act, run by the California Department of Education with guidance from the Air Resources Board. Made to give up to 50 public schools grants to buy portable HEPA air cleaners, filter replacements, and staff trained for these tasks. The bill aims to prioritize schools known for smoke exposure due to fires, limited resources, weak filtration, and requires maintenance plans and spending reports. Participation in the pilot program would be voluntary. This bill would appropriate \$10,000,000 from the state's general fund to provide up to 50 K-12 public schools with the resources that were previously mentioned.

Vote: Majority. **Appropriations/fiscal:** yes. **Local program:** no.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

- a. The K-12 Smoke Preparedness Pilot Program is intended to help K-12 public schools reduce indoor exposure to airborne particles caused by fires.
- b. The pilot program will begin its operation for three school years, starting with the 2027-28 school session and concluding with the 2029-30 school year.

SEC. 2

- a. Public school districts may apply for grants under the pilot program on behalf of their K-12 school sites. Participation in the program is voluntary.
- b. The California Department of Education will select up to 50 schools statewide. Priority to the program will be given to public schools with notable smoke exposure, poor air filtration systems, and underfunded schools.
- c. Depending on how many classes there are per school, 40 classrooms max from each school will be receiving HEPA air filters.
- d. Applications to the program must include itemized bills to provide the exact amount for what is needed, but each participating school is eligible to receive a grant not exceeding \$150,000.
- e. The sum of \$10,000,000 is a one-time allocation for the entirety of the 3-year pilot program.

SEC.3

- a. By Jan 1st 2031, a final report will be presented and published to the Legislature detailing the program's total cost, challenges, results, and plans for further expansion.
- b. Unused funds after the 2029-30 school year is over will be returned to the General Fund.