



H.R. 6309 – Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act of 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6309 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN) on June 19, 2008. The bill was ordered to be reported, as amended, by voice vote of the House Committee on Financial Services on June 24, 2008.

H.R. 6309 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 29, 2008.

SUMMARY

This bill amends the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act (P.L. 102-550) to require the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to issue regulations that 10 micrograms per deciliter will be the new environmental intervention blood lead level for children under the age of six, which is a reduction from 20 micrograms per deciliter in the original statute. H.R. 6309 also permits lead hazard screening of toys and materials in a child's environment to be conducted by an appropriate agency.

H.R. 6309 requires the Secretary of HUD to report to Congress within 90 days on the status of a HUD program known as the Big Buy program, as well as other voluntary programs related to lead assessments of pre-1978 assisted housing. This report must include descriptions of these programs, timelines for their completion, financial reporting, and a description of enforcement actions against housing owners for non-compliance with the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act (P.L. 102-550).

The bill authorizes such sums as may be appropriated for fiscal year 2009 to carry out the Act. H.R. 6309 does not require any new costs for compliance on the part of housing owners, public housing agencies or other parties, unless the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development makes such amounts available to those parties for compliance costs.

BACKGROUND

The Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act (P.L. 102-550) was enacted in 1992 and established Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations for the evaluation of lead hazards. HUD subsequently established an "environmental intervention blood lead level" of 20 micrograms per deciliter for a single test. The environmental intervention blood lead level is the level at which property owners and managers must take certain steps, such as reporting the incident to health agencies and providing notices to residents. The Centers for Disease Control recommends that public health actions be initiated for children under the age of six with blood lead levels over 10 micrograms per deciliter.

Children under the age of six are at a high risk of lead poisoning because of their high growth rate and tendency to put items in their mouths. Lead-based paint and lead dust found in deteriorating buildings is a major source of lead exposure for children in the United States. Lead poisoning is known to cause behavioral problems, learning disabilities, and in rarer instances seizures, coma, and death.

In 1978, lead-based paint was banned for use in housing. Nonetheless, about 24 million homes in the U.S. still contain leaded paint and lead-contaminated dust.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing H.R. 6309 would "cost \$21 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts."



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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[Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)

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