



Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

Room 168 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3031
(717) 787-8524
FAX (717) 772-0576

Senator Patricia H. Vance
Chairman

Amy Powell Bolze, Esq.
Executive Director

Summary HB 264 PN 695

This legislation creates the Care Facility Carbon Monoxide Alarms Standards Act. A care facility is defined as a long-term care nursing facility, personal care home, or assisted living residence.

Carbon monoxide detectors are required to be installed in each care facility in close proximity but not less than 15 feet from any fossil fuel burning device or appliance. If the alarm cannot be heard in this location by all staff on duty, an additional alarm shall be installed. Similarly, a third alarm shall be installed if there are resident living units or bedrooms between the second alarm and the fossil fuel burning appliance. This alarm shall be installed in a central location on the same level as the resident living units or bedrooms.

Maintenance of carbon monoxide detectors shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines. Batteries must be replaced at least annually or if drained or failing, labeled with the date of installation and may not be removed from the detector longer than the time needed for replacement.

The Department of Health shall determine compliance with this act during the annual or initial licensure survey.

A care facility shall not be liable for false alarms or an alarm which fails to operate properly so long as the alarm is maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines and the failure to operate is not the fault of the facility or facility employees.

The State Fire Commissioner may work with care facilities and care facility residents on carbon monoxide awareness.

Effective Date

This act shall take effect in 90 days.

Amendment A05929

This amendment provides for care facility protocols should an alarm be activated.

It requires that fresh air be introduced into the care facility, that emergency services personnel be contacted, that residents be moved to the nearest sources of fresh air, and that residents be evacuated in accordance with fire safety standards if emergency personnel deem it necessary.

A care facility is not required to conduct drills specific to carbon monoxide.