

School Environmental Health and Safety Rule Newsletter

Issue #6—October 22, 2008



Status of State Board of Health School Rule

On August 27 and September 10, 2008, the State Board of Health heard public testimony on a proposed modernization of its school environmental health and safety rule, chapter 246-366 WAC. The proposal, published in the State Register as [WSR 08-15-174](#), would repeal the current rule chapter and adopt a reorganized and updated set of provisions in a new chapter 246-366A WAC.

The Board began its deliberations on the proposal on September 10. On October 8, it continued its deliberations and considered three motions:

- First it adopted by unanimous consent a motion to amend some of the language in the rule proposal ([see attachment](#)).
- The Board then considered a motion to adopt the rule proposal as amended. The Board deliberated on the motion for more than an hour. Board members spoke strongly and emotionally of the need for the rules. All ten members supported the rule as drafted; however, there was concern that the rules would not be well implemented without adequate funding.
- The Board then acted on a subsidiary motion to defer a vote on the motion to adopt until the Legislature had an opportunity during the 2009 session to consider providing funding to support rule implementation. The motion to delay a vote passed on a 7-2 vote with one abstention.

The motion to defer adoption that passed contained three parts:

1. The Board defers the vote on adopting the rule proposal, as amended at the Board's October 8 meeting, until no later than June 2009;
2. The Board directs staff to file any needed CR-102 documents; and
3. The Board directs staff to carefully craft a letter or memorandum for the Chair's signature with Board input that:
 - Defines the process the Board has gone through to develop this rule;
 - Defines the level of detail in terms of characterizing the school environment and what it means for kids;
 - Defines the scientific basis for the relationships between students, their health, and school environments; and
 - Clearly states the Board has addressed every issue it could possibly address and the only one that remains that is not clear to the Board is how it will be funded.

For additional information about the Board's history of proceedings regarding the proposed school rule revision, view documents at the following web site: <http://www.sboh.wa.gov/rules/schooleh/MtgMaterials.htm>.

School Rule Revision Web Site

<http://www.sboh.wa.gov/rules/schooleh>