



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL SERVICES
BURTON M. CROSS BUILDING, 3RD FLOOR
78 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0078

SERVING THE PUBLIC AND DELIVERING ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO STATE GOVERNMENT

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

KIRSTEN LC FIGUEROA
COMMISSIONER

*Testimony of Anya Trundy, Chief of Legislative and Strategic Operations
Department of Administrative and Financial Services
testifying neither for nor against*

**LD 1173, An Act Directing the Bureau of General Services to Ensure Adequate Air Quality in All
State-owned and State-leased Buildings**
Sponsored by Rep. Montell

To the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, I am Anya Trundy, Chief of Legislative and Strategic Operations for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. I am providing testimony neither for nor against LD 1173.

DAFS has direct responsibility to ensure the safety and wellness of our State employees. Our Bureau of Human Resources' statutory mission is "to establish within state government a high concern for state employees as people." Our Bureau of General Services is tasked specifically with ensuring "facilities are safe, sanitary and healthy for those who work in and visit them." This administration is committed to these responsibilities.

Recognizing that most members are new to this Committee this Legislature, I want to take this opportunity to highlight the extensive work that has been done in relation to indoor air-quality over the last four years.

Rep. Harnett sponsored LD 1969 in the 129th Legislature and this was a bill that DAFS worked closely with the sponsor and MSEA on, however, the bill died in possession of the House when the legislature adjourned due to COVID. But when the bill was reintroduced as LD 1042 in the 130th, DAFS was able to report back to the Committee on all of the progress we'd already made toward the bill's objective. COVID-19 had focused attention and financial resources on indoor air quality and using federal Coronavirus Relief Funds, BGS was able to:

- install bipolar ionization systems in State-owned and leased buildings;
- replace or upgrade mechanical equipment to improve air circulation within 16 State buildings;
- upgrade to higher density (MERV 13) air filters; and
- install air purifiers throughout buildings without central air systems.

The BGS team is diligent about ensuring that all facilities meet the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Condition Engineers (ASHRAE) standards, which are the U.S. CDC designated criteria for ventilation system design and indoor air quality.

As charged by PL 2021, c. 262, BGS has made a concerted effort to collect and catalog in a comprehensive file known data related to harmful contaminants contained in and around State workspaces (both owned and leased), including asbestos, lead, PCB and mold. This database includes all testing associated with the discovery and remediation, such as air and water testing, and including post clearance results. We also document the steps taken to remediate these items. This is an ongoing, dynamic effort and file, but we use and track this information to help ensure that facilities are safe, sanitary, and healthy for those who repair, maintain, work in, and visit them. Situations and findings are shared with the Building Labor-Management Committee as they arise.

Moreover, staffing within the Division of Safety and Environmental Services has been reconstituted to establish the in-house expertise necessary to immediately respond and conduct the appropriate battery of tests when possible contamination issues are reported.

The Department has met with Rep. Montell about the concerns that led her to sponsor this bill and it's our understanding that there will be a sponsor's amendment that captures the proposed solutions discussed during that conversation. The Bureau of General Services is an open and willing partner when it comes to ensuring the indoor air-quality of State-owned and leased buildings.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am happy to answer any questions.