

REVENUE:

FISCAL:

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: James LaBar, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Director of Department of Consumer and Business Services to establish uniform standards for hand dryers installed in public restrooms, including standards that impose limit on decibel level of operating hand dryer.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

(-2 amendment) Replaces original measure. Defines hand dryer. Requires hand dryer in public restroom to operate at a noise level of not more than 84 decibels. Requires downward blowing hand dryer to not blow air at an air velocity that exceeds 115 miles per hour.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 488 is drafted to meet the needs of populations that have sensory sensitivities. It is not an issue of the decibel level of hand dryers being dangerously high. SB 488-2 makes it so that new construction will only be allowed to have installed in their restrooms hand dryers with a decibel level of no more than 84 decibels as identified on the manufacturer's label. The same is true for existing buildings when they renovate their restrooms and purchase new hand dryers. Hand dryer specifications will be added to the walkthrough list for inspections done by DCBS.

Some of the vulnerable subgroups include: Fetuses, infants and children, pregnant women, the elderly, people with particular diseases or medical problems like high blood pressure, people on the autism spectrum, Alzheimer's patients, hearing aid users, and more.