

H.R. 1435 (Perkins) and H.R. 2106 (Carter) - to House Labor

- inspection of schools for presence of asbestos materials
- establishes HEW task force to direct efforts to ascertain extent of danger to health of school children from asbestos materials; would include representatives of "public organizations concerned with education and health"
- federal grants for up to one-half the costs of surveying and testing of school buildings to determine presence of "hazardous concentrations"
- federal loan program for mitigation or removal of asbestos materials which pose "imminent hazard"
- leaves intact other remedies and rights to litigation

H.R. 1524 (Miller) - to House Labor

- inspection of schools for presence of asbestos materials
- same as H.R. 1435 except
 - instead of federal grant program, surveying and testing would be paid for by a fund from contributions from asbestos miners, importers or manufacturers
 - imposes January 1, 1980 deadline for identification of imminent hazards

H.R. 497 (Howard) - to Interstate Commerce

- amends Clean Air Act
- grants to states to pay costs of carrying out programs for reduction of asbestos levels in interior of school buildings

H.R. 656 (Richmond) - to Interstate Commerce

- grants to public and private agencies for costs of screening individuals to the extent the individual is not otherwise eligible under workers comp., health insurance, et al.

S. 420 (Williams/Javits) - to Human Resources

- comprehensive workers compensation

TOXIC SUBSTANCES

ASBESTOS BILL HEADS FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL - Following hard on the heels of its schools subcommittee, House Education and Labor is expected Wednesday, March 14, to clear legislation setting up a fund to help schools remove potentially dangerous asbestos. Markup is scheduled at 10 a.m. in 2175 Rayburn.

Last week, the Elementary, Secondary and Vocational Education Subcommittee reported HR 1246, a bill sponsored by Rep. Miller (D-Calif.), after changing the fund and making several other adjustments.

Under the subcommittee bill, the federal government would set up a \$30 million fund to help school districts survey, detect and test for hazardous asbestos situations.

Grants from the fund would be matched on a 50 percent basis by the schools, unless the school districts qualified as "poor," in which case, the 50 percent matching requirement

could be waived.

Asbestos companies then would be required to reimburse the federal government for payments made out of the fund. A company's payments would be based on its asbestos production from 1946 to 1972, the years during which the substance was used in school construction.

The payback requirement appears to be one of the most controversial elements of the legislation.

Schools that have imminently dangerous asbestos situations would then be eligible for long-term no interest loans for 50 percent of the cost of removing or sealing off the asbestos. Poor schools would be able to receive higher amounts.

Although the Carter administration opposes the bill on the grounds that it is inflationary and unwarranted, it has not made real efforts to stop the bill, a source said. Subcommittee contacts: John Jennings, majority, x54368; Edith Baum, minority, x57101. Miller contact: John Lawrence, x52095.

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NOISE

SENATE MOVING ON AVIATION NOISE - Sen. Cannon (D-Nev.), Commerce Committee Chairman, plans to move directly into markup this week on his new aviation noise and safety bill (S 413).

He has foregone public hearings on the bill since hearings were held last year on a similar measure, but he has kept the record open until March 12 for written comments.

The markup will be Tuesday, March 13, at 10 a.m. in 235 Russell. Staff contact: Chip Barclay, majority, x40423; Mary McAuliffe, minority, x41251.

Meanwhile, House Public Works Chairman Johnson (D-Calif.) has introduced a similar bill (HR 2458),

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