



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Anna M. Kaplan

Senator Anna M. Kaplan Calls for Investigation, Legislation to Address Mercury Exposure in Schools

SENATOR ANNA M. KAPLAN May 20, 2019

| ISSUE: **SCHOOL SAFETY, TOXIC CHEMICALS**



(Albany, NY) -- In the wake of the recent discovery of mercury vapor in three Long Island schools, **Senator Anna M. Kaplan** is calling for a full investigation of the issue by the State Education Department, and is urging the passage of legislation ([S6145](#)) that will set an exposure limit for mercury in schools and prevent use of the hazardous material in future construction.

Senator Anna M. Kaplan said "As lawmakers, we have a solemn duty to ensure that we take every step necessary to ensure the safety of our children when they are at school. So when we have a situation where students and faculty on Long Island are being exposed to dangerous mercury vapor emanating from gym flooring material, we have a crisis on our hands that demands immediate attention."

Senator Kaplan is joining with her colleagues Senator Kaminsky and Senator Mayer in calling for a full investigation of the issue by the State Education Department, in order to assess the scope and magnitude of the problem.

The legislation, [S6145](#), which was recently introduced by Senator Todd Kaminsky and co-sponsored by **Senator Anna M. Kaplan**,

- Eliminates the installation or covering of mercury-containing flooring in elementary and secondary schools.
- Sets a time-weighted average mercury vapor exposure limit for employees or students do not exceed 750 ng/m³

Senator Kaplan concluded "This investigation, and legislation, are the first steps we need to take to understand just how serious and widespread of a problem we are facing. As potentially more schools are found to be out of compliance with the new exposure standard, I will work with my colleagues in the legislature to ensure that remediation takes place quickly and thoroughly, without placing undue burden on local taxpayers.

RELATED LEGISLATION

2019-S6145

-
- Introduced

 - - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate

 - - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

 - - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate

 - Delivered to Governor

 - Signed By Governor

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Eliminates the installation or covering of mercury-containing flooring in elementary and secondary schools

May 17, 2019

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **Todd Kaminsky**

Do you support this bill?