

# STRATEGIC BRIEF: VIRGINIA HB 2618 / SB 1413

## New Indoor Air Quality Law: Statutory Mandates & Public Accountability

Status: ENACTED (Chapter 668) | Effective: July 1, 2025

### I. THE NEW STATUTORY STANDARD

**A Paradigm Shift:** Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) is no longer an internal facilities issue. By law, IAQ performance is now a **public record** that must be defended in front of your School Board and community. This brief outlines the statutory requirements of this **unfunded mandate**, and the strategic risks/opportunities they create for your division.

### II. MANDATORY COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

**The "Uniform Inspection" Mandate:** Every public-school building must undergo an "industry-recognized uniform inspection and evaluation" of its HVAC system at least once **every four years**.

1. **Authorized Evaluators Only:** To be legally valid, inspections must be performed by specific **licensed professionals**. General maintenance staff cannot self-certify compliance. **You must use:**
  - Certified TAB Technician (AABC, NEBB, or TABB certified)
  - ABIH-Certified Industrial Hygienist
  - Master HVAC License holder (DPOR)
  - Or a Mechanical Engineer
2. **Required Technical Benchmarks:** The evaluation is not a visual check; it requires quantitative data verified against the **ASHRAE's most recent standards**. Testing must include:
  - **Quantitative Airflow:** Physical measurement of outside air delivery, supply/return rates, and static pressures.
  - **Filtration & CO<sub>2</sub>:** Verification of CO<sub>2</sub> sensors, concentration levels, and maximum filter efficiency.
  - **System Integrity:** Validation of component operation and maintenance history against ASHRAE standards.
  - **Infrastructure Gaps:** Collection of field data for mechanical ventilation installation in unequipped buildings.
3. **The Transparency Trigger:** A written report identifying necessary **corrective actions** must be:
  - a. Presented at a **"regularly scheduled local school board meeting"** (preventing closed-session or special-session burial of data).
  - b. Published on the **division's public website**.

### III. STRATEGIC & FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

1. **The "Comparison Risk":** Because reports are public and standard-based, your division's air quality data will be instantly **comparable to neighboring divisions**. Proactive leadership ensures your reports demonstrate active management and progress, effectively neutralizing potential negative press.
2. **Legislative Funding Leverage:** This is an **unfunded mandate**. However, it transforms "deferred maintenance" into "statutory compliance". Proactive leaders use these mandated corrective action reports as **defensible data** to justify immediate capital funding requests to local and state appropriators.
3. **Fiscal Resilience:** Identifying ventilation deficits **before** the 4-year public inspection cycle prevents the **"Budget Hijack"**—emergency, unbudgeted system replacements that would have been caught by early detection.

Turn this Mandate into a Strategic Advantage.

See the Solution on the Reverse Side →



## New Virginia Law Makes School Air Quality Public. Own the Story.

Citadel Expertise, powered by Airthings technology. Get ahead of **HB 2618 / SB 1413** with continuous data, early fixes, and smart budget moves—so inspection reports **build public trust, not public pressure.**

### Precision Diagnosis

- **Gain Control.** Replace reactive spending with objective data. Justify every dollar and make targeted, cost-effective improvements.
- **Unlock Funding.** Use defensible data to justify maintenance priorities, capital requests, and budget protection—especially under the new law's scrutiny.
- **Immediate Insight, Zero Disruption.** Rapid, wireless deployment delivers clear, actionable baseline data from day one, without impacting instruction or facilities.
- **Quantify the Full Profile.** Go beyond CO<sub>2</sub> to see the complete picture of health risk: Ventilation Performance, PM2.5, VOCs, Mold Risk & more.

### Expert Execution

- **Your Owner's Advocate.** We are your dedicated expert, translating data into strategy and coordinating all facility partners on your behalf.
- **Navigate Regulatory Pressure.** We track Virginia's HB 2618 / SB 1413 requirements and emerging standards like ASHRAE 241, turning compliance into your strategic advantage.
- **From Diagnosis to Resolution.** We manage the entire building health lifecycle, ensuring verified, resilient performance without adding to your workload.



### Strategic Resilience

- **Fiscal Resilience.** Protect scarce maintenance and capital dollars by fixing the right issues first—before they show up in public reports.
- **Operational Stability.** Reduce staff turnover and complaints with verifiably healthy classrooms, creating a stronger workplace.
- **Reputational Leadership.** Build community trust by showing visible progress and clean inspection results—turning mandated transparency into an advantage, not a risk.



**Let's Discuss Your Resilient Air Quality Strategy.**

[CitadelSciences.com](http://CitadelSciences.com) | [info@citadelsciences.com](mailto:info@citadelsciences.com)

# New Virginia Air Quality Law

**HB 2618 / SB 1413**

Effective July 1, 2025

## The Bottom Line:

**Mandatory:** Certified HVAC/IAQ inspections required every 4 years.

**Documented:** Corrective action plans must be presented at a **School Board Meeting**.

**Open:** All reports must be published on the division website.

## VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - 2025 RECONVENED SESSION

### CHAPTER 668

*An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 9 of Title 22.1 an article numbered 4, consisting of sections numbered [22.1-141.3](#), [22.1-141.4](#), and [22.1-141.5](#), relating to public school buildings; indoor air quality; inspection and evaluation.*

[H 2618]

Approved April 2, 2025

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 9 of Title 22.1 an article numbered 4, consisting of sections numbered [22.1-141.3](#), [22.1-141.4](#), and [22.1-141.5](#), as follows:

#### *Article 4.*

#### *Indoor Air Quality; Inspection and Evaluation.*

##### **§ 22.1-141.3. Scope of article.**

*The provisions of this article apply to matters relating to **indoor air quality in public school buildings** occupied by school board employees and students during regular work and school hours.*

##### **§ 22.1-141.4. Definitions.**

*As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:*

*"Certified testing, adjusting, and balancing technician" means (i) a technician, tradesperson, or apprentice certified to perform testing, adjusting, and balancing of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems by the Associated Air Balance Council, the National Environmental Balancing Bureau, or the Testing, Adjusting and Balancing Bureau or (ii) a person certified to perform ventilation assessments of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems through a certification body accredited by the American National Standards Institute.*

*"Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system" means the equipment, distribution network, controls, and terminals that provide, either collectively or individually, heating, ventilation, or air conditioning to a building.*

*"Indoor air quality" means air quality within buildings and structures, especially as it relates to the health and comfort of building occupants.*

##### **§ 22.1-141.5. Industry-recognized uniform inspection and evaluation.**

*A. At least once every four years, each local school division shall provide for an **industry-recognized uniform inspection and evaluation** of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system in each public school building in the local school division. Such inspection and evaluation shall be performed by a **certified testing, adjusting, and balancing technician**, an **industrial***

hygienist certified by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene, a technician with a Master HVAC License from the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, or a mechanical engineer. Such heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems inspection and evaluation shall include:

1. Testing for maximum filter efficiency;
2. Physical measurements of outside air delivery rate;
3. Verification of the appropriate condition and operation of ventilation components;
4. Measurement of air distribution system outside air, return air, and supply air and static pressure readings across all air handling unit components, including filters, coils, and fans;
5. Verification of unit operation and that required maintenance has been performed in accordance with the most recent indoor ventilation standards promulgated by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers;
6. Verification of carbon dioxide sensors and acceptable carbon dioxide concentrations indoors; and
7. Collection of field data for the installation of mechanical ventilation if none exists.

B. The portion of the uniform inspection and evaluation required pursuant to subsection A that relates to the ventilation system shall identify the extent to which each school's current ventilation system components, including any existing central or noncentral mechanical ventilation system, are operating in such a manner as to provide appropriate ventilation to the school building in accordance with the most recent indoor ventilation standards promulgated by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

C. Each local school division shall prepare a written report of the results of the uniform inspection and evaluation required pursuant to subsection A that includes any corrective actions necessary to be performed on the mechanical ventilation system or the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning infrastructure, including installation of filters meeting the most optimal level of filtration available for a given heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system, installation of carbon dioxide sensors, and additional maintenance, repairs, upgrades, or replacement. Each local school division shall make such report available for public inspection at a regularly scheduled local school board meeting and on the local school board's public website.

D. No local school division is required to provide for a uniform inspection and evaluation pursuant to subsection A for any school building that will cease to be used as a school within one year of such a planned inspection and evaluation.



## Compliance Without the Surprise.

Don't let inspection surprises hijack your budget. Get ahead with continuous data and early fixes—so your inspection reports **build public trust, not public pressure.**

**Take Control Today.**

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