

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study on mercury vapor released from synthetic flooring made using phenylmercuric acetate, and for other purposes.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

---

Mr. BOOKER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

---

**A BILL**

To require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study on mercury vapor released from synthetic flooring made using phenylmercuric acetate, and for other purposes.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3        **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4        This Act may be cited as the “Mercury Vapor Study  
5        Act of 2020”.

6        **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        Congress finds that—

1           (1) PMA flooring, a type of rubberized poly-  
2           urethane flooring, was widely installed in schools,  
3           hospitals, retirement homes, community centers, and  
4           other public spaces starting in the 1960s;

5           (2) PMA flooring may release mercury vapor  
6           into the air as the flooring deteriorates;

7           (3) mercury is a persistent bioaccumulative  
8           neurotoxin with great potential for harm, particu-  
9           larly for children and other vulnerable populations;

10          (4) there have been no studies examining the  
11          effects on children and other vulnerable populations  
12          from mercury vapor emitted from PMA flooring;

13          (5) several States have issued guidance on max-  
14          imum acceptable levels of mercury vapor from PMA  
15          flooring, but the guidance levels vary from State to  
16          State and there is currently no national standard;

17          (6) thousands of school districts and other pub-  
18          lic spaces across the United States are unaware of  
19          the risk of mercury vapor exposure from PMA floor-  
20          ing; and

21          (7) as of February 2020, it is not known—

22                 (A) how many schools and public spaces  
23                 have PMA flooring installed;

24                 (B) which schools and public spaces may  
25                 have PMA flooring installed; and

1 (C) whether PMA flooring is still being in-  
2 stalled in school districts and public spaces  
3 across the United States.

4 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
7 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-  
8 mental Protection Agency.

9 (2) PMA FLOORING.—The term “PMA floor-  
10 ing” means synthetic flooring made using  
11 phenylmercuric acetate as a catalyst.

12 **SEC. 4. STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF MERCURY VAPOR**  
13 **FROM PMA FLOORING ON HUMAN HEALTH.**

14 (a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
15 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consulta-  
16 tion with the Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Sub-  
17 stances and Disease Registry, the Consumer Product  
18 Safety Commission, and the heads of other appropriate  
19 Federal agencies, shall conduct a study—

20 (1) on the potential exposure to mercury vapor  
21 from PMA flooring, including by collecting existing  
22 data and obtaining new data on mercury vapor con-  
23 centrations in facilities with PMA flooring;

24 (2) on the prevalence of PMA flooring in  
25 schools; and

1           (3) to establish appropriate industrial hygiene  
2           monitoring steps to prevent or interdict mercury  
3           vapor exposure.

4           (b) REPORT.—Not later than 540 days after the date  
5 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit  
6 to Congress and make publicly available on the website  
7 of the Environmental Protection Agency a report that in-  
8 cludes—

9           (1) a description of the results of the study con-  
10          ducted under subsection (a);

11          (2) a calculation of the minimal risk level for  
12          exposure to mercury vapor from PMA flooring;

13          (3) a registry of schools with PMA flooring;

14          (4) guidance on best practices to properly ad-  
15          dress and mitigate the risk of mercury vapor expo-  
16          sure from PMA flooring;

17          (5) a plan to communicate the potential haz-  
18          ards of PMA flooring to school districts and the gen-  
19          eral public; and

20          (6) a recommendation as to whether to ban,  
21          phase out, or otherwise restrict the future installa-  
22          tion of PMA flooring.