

New law provides a legislative declaration that it is in the best interest of the public health, welfare, and safety to establish a task force to lead development of comprehensive policies and promote best practices concerning mitigation of toxic mold and the adverse health effects caused by this unique threat to public health.

New law establishes the La. Toxic Mold Task Force, comprised of the following fifteen members:

- (1) One pediatric environmental health specialist selected and appointed by the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH).
- (2) One person with expertise in toxicology selected and appointed by the secretary of DHH.
- (3) The assistant secretary of the office of public health of DHH or his designee.
- (4) One member designated by the office of health affairs and medical education of the LSU System.
- (5) One member designated by the La. State Medical Society.
- (6) One member designated by the La. Primary Care Association.
- (7) One member with expertise in consumer protection designated by the La. attorney general.
- (8) One member designated by the Southern University Law Center.
- (9) One member designated by the Paul M. Hebert Law Center of LSU.
- (10) One member with expertise in toxic mold remediation designated by the La. State Licensing Board for Contractors.
- (11) One member designated by the La. Housing Corporation.
- (12) One member designated by the dean of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine of Tulane University.
- (13) One member designated by the La. Realtors Association.
- (14) One member designated by the La. Home Builders Association.
- (15) One member designated by the Apartment Association of La.

New law provides that on or before Jan. 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the task force shall prepare and submit to the governor and the legislature a report on the status of public health risks from toxic mold in La. Requires that the report include the following:

- (1) An assessment, based on scientific evidence, of the nature, scope, and magnitude of the adverse environmental and health impacts caused by toxic mold in the state.
- (2) Measurement, based on scientific evidence, of the adverse health effects of exposure to molds on the general population, including specific effects on any subgroups identifiable as being at greater risk of adverse health effects when exposed to molds.
- (3) Identification of actions taken by the state, local governments, and any other public or private organizations that have made a positive impact on mitigating the harm to public health of toxic mold.
- (4) Identification of best practices for the control of mold in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner.

New law provides that the task force shall terminate on Jan. 1, 2018.

Effective Aug. 1, 2014.

(Adds R.S. 40:1300.381-1300.385)