



# Shaping Tomorrow's Global Built Environment Today

Bill McQuade  
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

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April 13, 2026

The Honorable Monique Limón,  
President pro Tempore  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 8518  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas,  
Speaker of the Assembly  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 8330  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John Laird, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Budget  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: RN 26-09129, Extension of the CalSHAPE Program

Dear President pro Tempore, Speaker, and Budget Committee Chairs,

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 54,000 members, including over 3,100 members in California, focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today.

I am writing regarding the proposed amendment to RN 26-09129 to extend the CalSHAPE program. **ASHRAE supports the goal of extending the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program, also known as California Schools Healthy Air, Plumbing, and Efficiency Program (CalSHAPE.)** Since it was established in 2020, this program has begun the work of reducing energy use in schools and protecting the health of California's students, but upgrades to many school HVAC and plumbing systems are still needed. The CalSHAPE program is currently set to end on January 1, 2027. We respectfully request the extension of this program and the reopening of applications for the program, to allow schools in need that have not yet been able to secure funding for HVAC and plumbing upgrades the opportunity to apply.

The use of modern, energy efficient HVAC systems in schools will reduce energy use and save money for taxpayers. In addition to the financial savings, these HVAC upgrades would make students and educators healthier and more comfortable, reduce absenteeism, and improve learning outcomes. There are substantial academic and health benefits to be gained from updating school

HVAC systems. Evidence suggests that student health and student learning outcomes are directly linked to indoor air quality, temperature, and humidity.<sup>1</sup>

We also want you to be aware of the relevant ASHRAE standards that can help guide CalSHAPE's work in updating both HVAC and plumbing systems. Using these standards would help ensure that improvements are made according to the most up-to-date editions of these consensus-based standards. These are:

- ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2025, *Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality*, which specifies minimum ventilation rates and measures intended to provide indoor air quality that is acceptable to occupants and minimizes adverse health effects, such as breathing difficulties.
- ASHRAE Standard 241-2023, *Control of Infectious Aerosols*. This standard for buildings focuses on airborne infection risk mitigation. It establishes minimum requirements for building owners, operators and professionals to improve indoor air quality by reducing the risk of airborne disease transmission by infectious aerosols.
- ASHRAE Standard 180-2018, *Standard Practice for Inspection and Maintenance of Commercial Building HVAC Systems*, will help ensure that the improvements made by this program will continue to be well operated and maintained. Standard 180 gives details on how to implement inspection and maintenance practices, a list of the necessary tasks, and includes informative appendices with examples of situations in which a maintenance plan should be reviewed.
- ASHRAE Guideline 44-2024, *Protecting Building Occupants from Smoke During Wildfire and Prescribed Burn Events*, includes tailored recommendations for spaces occupied by at-risk groups, including children; best practices for new buildings and retrofits; and guidance for the installation, commissioning, operation and maintenance of building envelopes, ventilation systems and air-cleaning technologies to mitigate smoke infiltration.
- ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 55-2023, *Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy*, specifies the methods for determining acceptable thermal environmental conditions such as temperature and humidity. The most recent edition of this standard includes new addenda with a focus on the application of the standard in clear, enforceable language.
- ASHRAE Standard 188, *Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems*, and Standard 514, *Risk Management for Building Water Systems*, provide minimum requirements to reduce the risks to human health from physical, chemical, and microbial hazards in building water systems. These hazards can include disinfectants, disinfection

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<sup>1</sup> <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0136165>

byproducts, corrosion products, and chemicals that leach from pipes. These standards help reduce the incidence of illnesses such as Legionnaires' Disease, which is a serious bacterial respiratory infection for which those with weakened immune systems or chronic respiratory conditions are at greater risk. ASHRAE Guideline 12-2023, *Managing the Risk of Legionellosis Associated with Building Water Systems*, is a supplement to this standard that provides more detailed guidance.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff email [GovAffairs@ashrae.org](mailto:GovAffairs@ashrae.org). Thank you for the work you are doing to protect the health and well-being of students, teachers, and other school staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill McQuade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "M".

Bill McQuade  
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026