



Shaping Tomorrow's Global Built Environment Today

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Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

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January 28, 2026

The Honorable Representative Kaylee Tuck
Chair
Health Professions and Programs Subcommittee
Florida House of Representatives
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Re: House Bill 1377, “Water Safety for Cooling Towers, Domestic Water Holding Tanks, and Supplemental Disinfection Systems”

Dear Chair Tuck, Vice Chair Bracket, and Members of the Health Professions and Programs Subcommittee,

I am contacting you from ASHRAE, which is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 53,000 members, including over 1,800 in Florida, focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and refrigeration. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today.

ASHRAE is a nonprofit professional and technical society that has developed industry-leading standards for Legionnaires' Disease risk management, as part of our comprehensive guidance on water system risks:

- ASHRAE Standard 188-2021, *Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems*, provides minimum legionellosis risk management requirements for new and existing buildings and their associated water systems and components. The standard applies to commercial, institutional, multi-unit residential, and industrial buildings.
- ASHRAE Guideline 12-2023, *Managing the Risk of Legionellosis Associated with Building Water Systems*, is a supplement to this standard and provides detailed guidance for water management program teams to develop the necessary elements of an effective water management plan.

We support HB 1377's provisions requiring building water maintenance programs and management plans that are consistent with ASHRAE Standard 188. However, we request that the bill reference the most up-to-date edition of the standard, which is the 2021 edition, rather than the 2018 edition.

Additionally, ASHRAE Standard 188 applies to many types of buildings, including commercial, institutional, multi-unit-residential, and industrial buildings. **We recommend the bill's requirements be expanded to apply to all buildings covered by Standard 188, not only buildings with cooling towers.** Legionella is a waterborne illness that can infect building occupants in many ways. Faucets, showers, toilets, decorative fountains, ice machines, hot tubs, and other equipment can all be a source of legionella contamination once in the water system. Standard 188 and Guideline 12 address all these sources with a comprehensive building water management plan.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff email GovAffairs@ashrae.org with any questions. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and for working to ensure the health and well-being of building occupants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill McQuade".

Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

CC: The Honorable Representative Gallop Franklin