



FROM THE OFFICE OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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SENATOR 33<sup>RD</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

## SB 1308 (Gonzalez) Ozone Safe Air Cleaners

### SUMMARY

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Senate Bill (SB) 1308 would direct the California Air Resource Board (CARB) to update and adopt regulations that will reduce the allowable level of ozone emissions from air cleaners sold in California from 0.05 parts per million (ppm) to 0.005 ppm.

### EXISTING LAW

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Assembly Bill (AB) 2276 (Pavely, Chapter 770, Statutes of 2006) directed CARB to regulate indoor air cleaners for ozone safety by requiring all portable indoor air cleaning devices sold in California to meet an ozone emission limit of 0.05 ppm.

### BACKGROUND/PROBLEM

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According to data from the Environmental Protection Agency, over 4.2 million children in the US currently have asthma, and over 840,000 new cases are diagnosed each year.<sup>1</sup> In California, 1 in 7 people have asthma.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, with the growing environmental and health impacts of climate change, asthma cases are projected to increase by 4%.<sup>3</sup> With the COVID-19 Pandemic, wildfire smoke, and air pollution, vulnerable communities often experience an exacerbation of asthma and other health complications. The state sees around 165,000 asthma-related emergency department visits yearly.

One helpful tool that helps Californians living with respiratory conditions is mechanical and electronic air-cleaning devices. Mechanical air cleaners filter out

particles using HEPA filters that need to be changed regularly, whereas electronic air cleaners rely on electrostatic attraction to trap charged particles.

Today's advanced mechanical air cleaners are now able to remove approximately 99.7% of harmful air particulate matter and hazardous pollutants with a size of 0.3 microns.<sup>4</sup> Unfortunately, electronic air cleaners use technology that can produce a gaseous byproduct known as ozone, along with other byproducts that are harmful to our health. Exposure to low ozone levels can be associated with health impacts that aggravate asthma, chronic bronchitis, and emphysema.<sup>5</sup>

A recent white paper published by the University of California, Davis, and sponsored by CARB, found concerns about the health effects of electronic air cleaners and how they react with ozone, formaldehyde, and ultra-fine particles. The UC Davis research recommended adopting a more stringent ozone emission standard of 0.005 ppm to reduce these harmful byproduct formations.<sup>6</sup> The current federal ozone emission standard for indoor air cleaners used as medical devices is 0.05 ppm, which no longer aligns with these new scientific findings.

### SOLUTION

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SB 1308 would direct CARB to develop and adopt regulations that reflect new scientific research findings to protect public health from ozone emitted by indoor air cleaning devices.

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<sup>1</sup> [\\*Rulemaking: 2007-9-27 Final regulation-order \(ca.gov\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Asthma in California Infographic](#)

<sup>3</sup> [\\*Climate Change and Children's Health and Well-Being in the United States \(epa.gov\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [What is a HEPA filter? | US EPA](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Microsoft Word - Policy Concept Safe and Healthy Air Cleaners November 14 \(rampasthma.org\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Air Pollutant Emissions and Possible Health Effects Associated with Electronic Air Cleaners](#)

SB 1308 will set a more stringent ozone emission standard that limits emission to no higher than 0.005 ppm for indoor air cleaner devices and ensure that these devices continue to serve their intended purpose of improving public health and protecting Californians living with respiratory conditions.

#### **SUPPORT**

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Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (Sponsors)

U.S. Green Building Council

Watts Healthcare Corporation

Vision Y Compromiso (UNREG)

Somali Family Service of San Diego

Alameda Alliance for Health

American Lung Association in California

Breathe California of the Bay Area, Golden Gate and

Central Coast

Natural Resources Defense Council

#### **CONTACT**

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