

Health Administration; and

WHEREAS, Asbestos materials have been determined to constitute a potential health hazard in State-owned buildings and facilities; and

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland recognizes its responsibility to protect its employees, as well as occupants and other visitors to State-owned buildings and facilities, from asbestos health hazards; and

WHEREAS, The Governor has charged the Secretary of Personnel with the responsibility for implementation of an Asbestos Safety and Health Program; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of Personnel, pursuant to his charge, formed a committee including management, employee representatives, and other experts in the field whose findings and recommendations are set forth in the Asbestos Safety and Health Program, copies of which have been presented to the Governor for his approval;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HARRY HUGHES, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND DO HEREBY, UNDER THE POWER AND AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS OF MARYLAND, ISSUE THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

Section 1. General Policy

(a) The Asbestos Safety and Health Program is approved for implementation.

(b) State employees shall be required to work with asbestos only when that work is incidental, but necessary, for the performance of their normal duties and responsibilities and where the amount of asbestos to which the employees are exposed is less than 160 square feet, or less than 260 linear feet if the asbestos is in the form of pipe insulation.

Section 2. Coordination and Implementation

(a) the Secretary of Personnel, or his designee, is responsible for coordinating, implementing, and administering this Executive Order.

(b) The Secretary of Personnel, or his designee shall interpret the policies and requirements of this Executive Order. The Secretary of Personnel shall furnish an adequate number of copies of the Asbestos Safety and Health Program to all Secretaries of principal departments and the heads of other State agencies.