

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, silicosis is a lung disease caused by inhaling silica dust, mainly affecting workers in stone fabrication and related jobs; and

WHEREAS, cutting, grinding, sanding, drilling, or polishing these materials can release dangerous silica dust, risking workers' health when inhaled; and

WHEREAS, workplace exposure to silica dust causes lung inflammation, scarring, and stiffening, leading to rising cases of silicosis, a severe lung disease, among workers cutting engineered stone countertops; and

WHEREAS, enforcement has been uneven and some shops still use dry cutting, which exposes stone workers to dangerous dust; and

WHEREAS, by July 1, 2028, AB 2137 (Chen) would establish a certification process for businesses that fabricate slab solid surface products, such as countertops made from engineered stone or natural materials like granite and marble, to protect workers from exposure to respirable crystalline silica; and

WHEREAS, this bill would require stone fabrication shops to hold a valid three-year certification or have a pending application to legally perform fabrication activities; and

WHEREAS, to qualify for the three-year certification, a fabrication shop must demonstrate compliance with strict workplace safety standards designed to prevent silicosis, including proper dust control, air monitoring, and valid workers' compensation; and

WHEREAS, the bill would require the California Department of Industrial Relations, in consultation with the Division of Occupational Safety and Health and the California Department of Public Health, to collect and maintain data on fabrication shops, including the number of citations issued to any of the fabrication shops for failure to comply with any temporary or future standards relating to respirable crystalline silica;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2025-2026 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 2137 (Chen), which aims to protect countertop and stone slab workers by enforcing controlled working conditions, requiring proper certification, regulating business practices, and enforcing accountability.

PRESENTED BY: 
 IMELDA PADILLA
 Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY: 

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