

1 Introduced by Senator Gulick

2 Referred to Committee on

3 Date:

4 Subject: Education; property; school buildings; state aid for school  
5 construction

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish the  
7 School Construction Aid Task Force to examine, evaluate, and report on issues  
8 relating to school construction aid. This bill also proposes, on or before  
9 February 1, 2024, to require the Task Force to submit a written report with its  
10 findings and recommendations for legislative action to the House Committees  
11 on Corrections and Institutions, on Education, and on Ways and Means, and  
12 the Senate Committees on Education, on Finance, and on Institutions.

13 An act relating to the creation of the School Construction Aid Task Force

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AID TASK FORCE; REPORT

16 (a) Creation. There is created the School Construction Aid Task Force to  
17 examine, evaluate, and report on issues relating to school construction aid.

18 (b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following  
19 members:

- 1           (1) one current member of the House of Representatives, who shall be  
2           appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 3           (2) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the  
4           Committee on Committees;
- 5           (3) the State Treasurer or designee, who shall serve as co-chair;  
6           (4) the Secretary of Education or designee, who shall serve as co-chair;  
7           (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont National Education  
8           Association or designee;
- 9           (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or  
10           designee;
- 11           (7) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or  
12           designee;
- 13           (8) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association  
14           or designee;
- 15           (9) the Executive Director of the Municipal Bond Bank or designee;  
16           (10) a person with expertise in the construction industry, appointed by  
17           the Governor; and
- 18           (11) a person with expertise in environmental or public health issues,  
19           appointed by the Governor;
- 20           (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall review the results of the  
21           Statewide school facilities inventory and conditions assessment and the school

**Commented [RW1]:** The proposed language included JFO. JFO can provide assistance to committees with legislators but do not usually serve on committees. Is there another member you'd like to add instead?

1 construction funding report required by 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 72 and  
2 study the following issues relating to school construction aid:

3 (1) the needs, both programmatic and health and safety, of Statewide  
4 school construction projects;

5 (2) funding options for a Statewide school construction program,  
6 including any incentive plans; and

7 (3) a governance structure for the oversight and management of a school  
8 construction aid program.

9 (d) Assistance.

10 (1) The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical, and legal  
11 assistance of the Agency of Education and the Office of the State Treasurer.

12 (2) The Office of the State Treasurer is authorized to contract for  
13 services for the Task Force for technical assistance from a school construction  
14 expert.

15 (e) Report. On or before February 1, 2024, the Task Force shall submit a  
16 written report to the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions, on  
17 Education, and on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committees on Education,  
18 on Finance, and on Institutions, with its findings and any recommendations for  
19 legislative action.

20 (f) Meetings.

1           (1) The State Treasurer shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to  
2           occur on or before July 15, 2023.

3           (2) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

4           (3) The Task Force shall cease to exist on July 1, 2024.

5           (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

6           (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General  
7           Assembly, a legislative member of the Task Forceserving in his or her capacity  
8           as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of  
9           expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than [X] meetings. These  
10           payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly

**Commented [RW2]:** How many meetings would you like the Task force to have?

11           (2) Other members of the Task Force shall be entitled to [per diem  
12           compensation/reimbursement of expenses/both] as permitted under 32 V.S.A.  
13           § 1010 for not more than [ X] meetings [or Other members of the  
14           [Committee/Working Group/Task Force] shall not be entitled to per diem  
15           compensation or reimbursement of expenses.]. These payments shall be made  
16           from monies appropriated to [which State entity] [or use subdiv. (3) if all  
17           members will be paid from one source ].

**Commented [RW3]:** Will non legislative members get per diems and reimbursements? If so, whose budget will pay for it? Treasurer/AOE/or GF appropriation?

18           (h) Appropriation. The sum of \$100,000.00 is appropriated to the Office of  
19           the State Treasurer from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to hire a school  
20           construction expert to assist the Task Force as described in subdivision (e)(2)  
21           of this section.

(dr req 23-0450 – draft 1.1)  
1/17/2023 - RDW - 11:08 AM

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1      Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

2      This act shall take effect on passage.