

1 H.151

2 Introduced by Representatives Clarkson of Woodstock, Cheney of Norwich,

3 Ellis of Waterbury, Masland of Thetford, and Potter of

4 Clarendon

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Education; public schools; emergency shelters

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to assist school  
9 buildings to serve as community emergency shelters by: amending the 100  
10 percent construction aid currently provided for limited purposes to be 50  
11 percent aid for all construction costs related to creation of an emergency  
12 shelter; excluding emergency shelter-related construction costs from the  
13 definition of “education spending” when calculating excess spending and  
14 determining if a budget must be presented as a divided vote; and authorizing a  
15 municipality to help fund construction costs necessary to designate a school  
16 building as a community emergency shelter.

17 An act relating to public schools serving as community emergency shelters

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

1 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 3453a is amended to read:

2 § 3453a. EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTERS AND SHELTERS

3 Any school building ~~which~~ that may be designated as a local, regional, or  
4 state emergency operation center or shelter shall be designed for use as an  
5 emergency operations center or shelter. ~~For this purpose, the proposed project~~  
6 ~~shall include the installation of a wiring harness capable of being connected to~~  
7 ~~emergency electric power generation to provide for emergency heating,~~  
8 ~~lighting, and communications. The wiring installation cost to upgrade~~  
9 ~~emergency facilities shall be included in the budgets submitted to the~~  
10 ~~legislature for capital funding pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 309. The state shall pay~~  
11 ~~100 percent of such costs, which shall at the department level be itemized and~~  
12 ~~accounted for separately from those costs in which the state only shares in the~~  
13 ~~project cost. The state shall not pay for the costs of purchasing the generator.~~  
14 The State shall pay 50 percent of all approved construction costs necessary to  
15 designate a public school building as an emergency operations center or  
16 emergency shelter, including the costs of purchasing a generator, installing  
17 related wiring, and providing any required sanitary facilities. The State Board  
18 shall include amounts to be paid under this section as a separate item in its  
19 request for a legislative appropriation.

1       Sec. 2. EMERGENCY SHELTERS; EXEMPTION FROM SUSPENSION  
2                   OF STATE AID FOR SHOOOL CONSTRUCTION

3           The suspension of state aid for school construction pursuant to 2008 Acts  
4           and Resolves No. 200, Sec. 45(b) as amended by 2009 Acts and Resolves  
5           No. 54, Sec. 22 shall not apply to grants awarded under 16 V.S.A. § 3453a  
6           (emergency operation centers and shelters).

7       Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6)(A) is amended to read:

8           (A) For purposes of determining whether a proposed budget shall be  
9           presented by means of a divided question pursuant to subdivision 563(11)(A)  
10          of this title, “education spending” shall not include:

11           (i) Spending during the budget year for approved school capital  
12          construction for a project that received preliminary approval under section  
13          3448 of this title, including interest paid on the debt; provided the district shall  
14          not be reimbursed or otherwise receive state construction aid for the approved  
15          school capital construction.

16           (ii) For a project that received final approval for state construction  
17          aid under chapter 123 of this title:

18           (I) Spending for approved school capital construction during  
19          the budget year that represents the district’s share of the project, including  
20          interest paid on the debt;



