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H.470

Introduced by Representatives Ode of Burlington, Christie of Hartford, Dunn
of Essex, Gannon of Wilmington, Lefebvre of Newark,
O’Sullivan of Burlington, Poirier of Barre City, Potter of
Clarendon, Rachelson of Burlington, Stuart of Brattleboro,
Sullivan of Burlington, Walz of Barre City, Wood of
Waterbury, and Wright of Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; school construction

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to end the period
of suspension of State aid for school construction projects. This bill also
proposes to expand the State aid for the school construction program by
awarding aid for food preparation and service area upgrades and renovations.

An act relating to ending the suspension of State aid for school construction
projects

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

2 Sec. 1. 2007 Acts and Resolves No. 52, Sec. 36 is amended to read:

3 Sec. 36. STATE AID FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION; SUSPENSION

4 (a) The commissioner of education shall not accept, review, or act on any
5 applications for state aid under chapter 123 of Title 16 submitted after
6 March 7, 2007 unless, prior to March 7, 2007, the electorate voted funds or
7 authorized bonds, and thereafter all periods for reconsideration of the vote
8 have expired, except for those projects which are:

9 (1) eligible to be assigned first priority under 16 V.S.A. § 3448(a)(3);

10 (2) necessary to ensure the health and safety, as determined by the
11 commissioner, of students and employees using the building; or

12 (3) school consolidation projects eligible for 50 percent aid under
13 16 V.S.A. § 3448(a)(7)(C).

14 (b) It is the intent of the general assembly to use the time that state aid for
15 school construction is suspended to review the recommendations of the
16 commissioner of education and the commissioner of finance and management
17 reported under Sec. 38 of this act and, based on those recommendations,
18 develop a sustainable plan for state aid to school construction. If no plan is in
19 place by July 1, 2008, the general assembly will extend the period of
20 suspension until a plan is in place; provided, however, that any extension of the
21 period of suspension shall end on or before June 30, 2017.

1 (b) In 2008 Acts and Resolves No. 200, Sec. 45, as amended by 2009 Acts
2 and Resolves No. 54, Sec. 22, the General Assembly, in the absence of a
3 recommendation, extended the suspension until a sustainable plan for state aid
4 for school construction is developed and adopted.

5 (c) State aid remains suspended ~~pursuant to the terms of 2008 Acts and~~
6 ~~Resolves No. 200, Sec. 45 as amended by 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 54,~~
7 ~~Sec. 22~~ until on or before June 30, 2017.

8 * * *

9 Sec. 4. STATE AID FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION; END OF

10 SUSPENSION

11 (a) Beginning in fiscal year 2017, the Secretary of Education shall accept
12 and review any applications for State aid pursuant to 16 V.S.A. chapter 123
13 submitted after March 7, 2017.

14 (b) Beginning on January 15, 2018, the State Board of Education shall
15 present its annual capital construction funding request to the House Committee
16 on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

17 Sec. 5. 16 V.S.A. § 3448 is amended to read:

18 § 3448. APPROVAL AND FUNDING OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

19 PROJECTS; RENEWABLE ENERGY

20 (a) Construction aid.

1 relating to fuel delivery, and other ancillary costs as determined by the
2 Secretary.

3 (C) The amount of an award shall be 50 percent of the approved cost
4 of a project or applicable portion of a project that results in consolidation of
5 two or more school buildings and that will serve the educational needs of
6 students in a more cost-effective and educationally appropriate manner as
7 compared to individual projects constructed separately. A decision of the
8 Secretary as to eligibility for aid under this subdivision (C) shall be final. This
9 subdivision (C) shall apply only to a project that has received preliminary
10 approval by June 30, 2013.

11 (D) The amount of an award shall be 75 percent of the approved cost
12 of a project that results in an upgrade or renovation of food preparation and
13 food service areas in a school building, including a kitchen or cafeteria.

14 * * *

15 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on passage.