

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred Senate Bill No. 279
3 entitled “An act relating to radon testing in schools” respectfully reports that it
4 has considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking
5 out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

6 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 40 is added:

7 CHAPTER 40. RADON TESTING IN SCHOOLS

8 § 1791. DEFINITIONS

9 As used in this chapter:

10 (1) “Facility” means all or any part of a building on a school’s campus
11 deemed by the Commissioner of Health or designee to be at high risk for
12 elevated concentrations of radon.

13 (2) “School” means a public school or independent school as defined in
14 16 V.S.A. § 11.

15 § 1792. MANDATORY RADON TESTING IN SCHOOLS

16 (a) The Department of Health shall perform radon measurement in
17 accordance with the ANSI/AARST protocol for conducting Radon and Radon
18 Decay Products in Schools and Large Buildings (MALB-2014) on the facilities
19 of at least 40 schools each year until each school in the State has been tested.
20 Schools requesting that a radon test be performed by the Department shall be

1 among the first schools tested. A school shall have its facilities tested not less
2 frequently than every 15 years.

3 (b)(1) The Department shall provide a school’s principal or head of
4 school with:

5 (A) the results of the school’s radon test;

6 (B) information on the level at which the U.S. Environmental
7 Protection Agency recommends taking action to reduce radon concentrations at
8 school facilities; and

9 (C) information about the health effects of elevated radon
10 concentrations on children and adults.

11 (2) The school’s principal or head of school shall share the test results
12 and all information provided by the Department with parents, guardians,
13 students, school employees, school volunteers, the school board, and any
14 community representatives regularly present at the school.

15 § 1793. NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR EXPANSION

16 All new school construction, including the expansion of existing schools,
17 shall endeavor to employ radon-resistant new construction.

18 Sec. 2. SCHOOL RADON MITIGATION STUDY COMMITTEE

19 (a) Creation. There is created the School Radon Mitigation Study
20 Committee to explore funding opportunities for the mitigation of elevated

1 radon concentrations in schools and contingency plans for the loss of related
2 federal funding.

3 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following seven
4 members:

5 (1) the State Treasurer or designee;

6 (2) the Secretary of Education or designee;

7 (3) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

8 (4) a member appointed by the State School Boards Association;

9 (5) a member appointed by the Vermont Superintendents Association;

10 (6) a member appointed by the Vermont Independent Schools

11 Association; and

12 (7) a radon mitigation professional certified for testing and mitigation by
13 the National Radon Proficiency Program, appointed by the Director of the
14 Department of Labor's Workers' Compensation and Safety Division.

15 (c) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and
16 legal assistance of the Agency of Education.

17 (d) Report. On or before December 15, 2018, the Committee shall submit a
18 written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education containing
19 viable options for funding the mitigation of elevated radon concentrations in
20 schools.

21 (e) Meetings.

1 (1) The State Treasurer or designee shall call the first meeting of the
2 Committee to occur on or before October 1, 2018.

3 (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the
4 first meeting.

5 (3) The Committee shall cease to exist on December 31, 2018.

6 (f) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Committee who are
7 not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated
8 or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation
9 and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than
10 4 meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the
11 Agency of Education.

12 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

14

15 (Committee vote: _____)

16

17

Senator _____

18

FOR THE COMMITTEE