

1       Sec. XX. PURPOSE AND INTENT

2           In 2007, the General Assembly placed a moratorium on the State aid for  
3 school construction program. With this moratorium in place, it is the intent of  
4 the General Assembly to examine ways to address and support the needs and  
5 operations of school facilities, with an emphasis on high-quality facilities and  
6 modern learning environments. As the General Assembly continues to  
7 examine this issue, the State aid for school construction remains suspended  
8 pursuant to the terms of 2008 Acts and Resolves No. 200, Sec. 45 as amended  
9 by 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 54, Sec. 22, as further amended by 2013 Acts  
10 and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 45.

11       Sec. XX. SCHOOL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP; REPORT

12           (a) Creation. There is created the School Facilities Working Group to  
13 address and support the needs and operations of school facilities in Vermont  
14 schools.

15           (b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following  
16 members:

17           (1) Two current members of the House of Representatives, one from  
18 the Committee on Corrections and Institutions and one from the Committee  
19 on Education, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

20           (2) Two current members of the Senate, one from the Committee on  
21 Education and one from the Committee on Institutions, who shall be  
22 appointed by the Committee on Committees;

23           (3) the Secretary of Education or designee;

1           (4) the executive director of the Vermont Superintendents Association  
2 or designee;

3           (5) the president of the Vermont School Custodians and Maintenance  
4 Association or designee;

5           (6) the president of the Vermont Association of School Business  
6 Officials or designee

7           (7) the executive director of the Vermont School Boards Association  
8 or designee;

9           (8) the executive director of the Vermont Principals' Association or  
10 designee;

11           (9) the executive director of the Vermont-National Education  
12 Association or designee;

13           (10) the president of the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust or  
14 designee; and

15           (11) one member, who is a Vermont-based architect knowledgeable in  
16 the field of school facility-related architecture, planning, and design,  
17 appointed by the President of the Vermont Chapter of the American Institute  
18 of Architects.

19           (c) Powers and duties. The Working Group shall, in consultation with the  
20 State Treasurer, educators, facilities staff, architects, and any other interested  
21 stakeholders, address topics relating to school facilities needs and operations,  
22 including the following:

1           (1) a recommendation for a cost-effective, comprehensive assessment  
2 tool of public school buildings in Vermont for utilization by school district  
3 personnel. This assessment would be used to obtain a general understanding  
4 of the age, condition, proximity, design, and expectations for future  
5 renovation and utilization of each specific school building;

6           (2) a comprehensive review and discussion of existing and potential  
7 capital funding sources, methods, and options for constructing, renovating, or  
8 repurposing school buildings and facilities in Vermont; and

9           (3) a framework for defining the components of a modern school  
10 facility in the context of learning in the 21st century. This framework shall  
11 include opportunities and needs relating to:

12                   (A) modernization of learning environments;

13                   (B) environmental safety issues and concerns;

14                   (C) security and control of physical space; and

15                   (D) energy efficiency improvements.

16           (4) a Vermont-specific approach to school buildings and facilities to  
17 address school mergers, consolidations, and potential repurposing of space  
18 resulting from the reorganization of school districts in Vermont, occurring in  
19 response to demographic forecasts and school district governance changes.

20           (d) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the administrative and  
21 technical assistance of the Agency of Education and the Department of  
22 Buildings and General Services. The Working Group shall also have the  
23 assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office.

1        (e) Report. On or before November 15, 2019, the Working Group shall  
2        submit a written report to the House Committees on Corrections and  
3        Institutions and on Education, and the Senate Committees on Education and  
4        on Institutions with its findings and any recommendations for legislative  
5        action.

6        (f) Meetings.

7            (1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first meeting of the  
8        Working Group to occur on or before June 15, 2019.

9            (2) The Working Group shall select a chair from among its members at  
10       the first meeting.

11           (3) A majority of the membership of the Working Group shall  
12       constitute a quorum.

13           (4) The Working Group is authorized to meet up to five times prior to  
14       the issuance of the report described in subsection (e) of this section. To the  
15       extent feasible, meetings shall be scheduled in diverse categories of schools  
16       and geographic locations throughout the State.

17           (g) Compensation and reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during  
18       adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Working  
19       Group serving in his or her capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per  
20       diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A.  
21       § 406 for not more than five meetings. These payments shall be made from  
22       monies appropriated to the General Assembly.