

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, based in Vermont, representing the field of
16 architecture, planning, and design, with specific knowledge of education
17 facilities, appointed by the Governor.

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

22 (1) a recommendation for a cost-effective, comprehensive assessment
23 tool of public school buildings in Vermont for utilization by school district

1 personnel. This assessment would be used to obtain a general understanding
2 of the age, condition, proximity, design, and expectations for future
3 renovation and utilization of each specific school building;

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

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

10 (A) modernization of learning environments;

11 (B) environmental safety issues and concerns;

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

13 (D) energy efficiency improvements.

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

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

22 (e) Report. On or before November 15, 2019, the Working Group shall
23 submit a written report to the House Committees on Corrections and

1 Institutions and on Education, and the Senate Committees on Education and
2 on Institutions with its findings and any recommendations for legislative
3 action.

4 (f) Meetings.

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

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

9 (3) A majority of the membership of the Working Group shall
10 constitute a quorum.

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

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