

1 Sec. X. 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 the needs of school
5 facilities, with an emphasis on high-quality facilities and modern learning
6 environments. As the General Assembly continues to examine this issue, the
7 State aid for school construction remains suspended pursuant to the terms of
8 2008 Acts and Resolves No. 200, Sec. 45 as amended by 2009 Acts and
9 Resolves No. 54, Sec. 22, as further amended by 2013 Acts and Resolves No.
10 51, Sec. 45.

11 Sec. Y. SCHOOL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP; REPORT

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

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

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

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

22 (3) the Secretary of Education or designee;

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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
20 educators, facilities staff, architects, and any other interested stakeholders,
21 address topics relating to school facilities needs, including the following:

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

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

11 (A) high quality learning environments;

12 (B) environmental, health, and safety issues and concerns;

13 (C) physical security and control of school facilities;

14 (D) energy efficiency improvements; and

15 (E) potential modifications to the physical space requirements and
16 use of space in existing school facilities in response to demographic forecasts
17 and school governance changes.

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

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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 (5) The Working Group shall cease to exist on July 1, 2020.

18 (g) Compensation and reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during
19 adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Working
20 Group serving in his or her capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per
21 diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A.

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1 § 406 for not more than five meetings. These payments shall be made from
2 monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

3 Sec. Z. STATE AID FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION; STUDY;
4 REPORT

5 (a) The State Treasurer shall analyze options for the State to assist in
6 funding school construction projects. The analysis shall consider various
7 funding options, including through grants, loans and bonds.

8 (b) On or before January 15, 2020, the State Treasurer shall submit a
9 written report based on the analysis described in subsection (a) of this section
10 to the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Education,
11 and the Senate Committees on Education and on Institutions. The report
12 shall include recommendations for a legislative proposal for funding school
13 construction projects.