TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee on Education to which was referred House Bill No. 209 entitled “An act relating to ending the suspension of State aid for school construction projects” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION; FACILITIES STANDARDS; CAPITAL OUTLAY FINANCING FORMULA; AGENCY OF EDUCATION; STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; UPDATE

(a) On or before January 15, 2021, the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association, the Chair of the State Board of Education, and the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, shall update the school construction facilities standards. The update shall reflect modern educational requirements and opportunities.

(b) On or before January 15, 2021, the State Board of Education shall update and adopt a Capital Outlay Financing Formula. Pursuant to State Board Rule 6124.1, the Formula shall establish the maximum and minimum square footage parameters by school size, and grade range through a square footage allowance per student or program. The Formula shall also establish an allowable cost per square foot of construction.
Sec. 2. SCHOOL FACILITIES CONDITIONS ANALYSIS; AGENCY OF EDUCATION; DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS AND GENERAL SERVICES

(a) On or before February 15, 2021, the Secretary of Education, in coordination with the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, shall issue a request for proposal for a school facilities conditions analysis to inform the Agency of Education of the statewide school facilities needs and costs. The analysis shall include a review of both school facilities conditions and space needs.

(b) The Secretary of Education shall contract with an independent third party to conduct the analysis described in subsection (a) of this section. The analysis shall be completed on or before June 15, 2023.

(c) The amount of $1,500,000.00 is appropriated from the Education Fund to the Secretary of Education to conduct the analysis described in this section.

(d) As used in this section, “school” has the same meaning as in 16 V.S.A. § 3447.

Sec. 3. SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION FUNDING; AGENCY OF EDUCATION; REPORT

(a) On or before December 15, 2023, the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the State Treasurer and the Executive Director of the Vermont Bond Bank, shall submit a report to the House Committees on
Corrections and Institutions and on Education and the Senate Committees on Education and on Institutions that shall include the following:

(1) an analysis of the challenges and opportunities to the State, if any, of funding school construction projects;

(2) recommendations for a funding source, if any, for school construction projects that are linked to the inventory, needs, and conditions of all Vermont schools; and

(3) an analysis of how other states are funding school construction projects.

(b) As used in this section, “school” has the same meaning as in 16 V.S.A. § 3447.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

(Committee vote: ___________)

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Representative ____________

FOR THE COMMITTEE