

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

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

7 Sec. 1. STATE AID FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION; STUDY; CAPITAL
8 NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY; APPROPRIATION

9 (a) On or before January 15, 2021, the State Treasurer, in consultation with
10 the Executive Director of the Vermont Bond Bank, the Executive Director of
11 the Vermont Superintendents Association, the Chair of the State Board of
12 Education, and the Joint Fiscal Office, shall analyze and report to the House
13 Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Education and the Senate
14 Committees on Education and on Institutions on options for the State to assist
15 in funding school construction projects. The analysis shall consider:

16 (1) the estimated annual impact to the Education Fund if no State aid is
17 provided;

18 (2) how other states are funding school construction projects;

19 (3) various general and capital funding options, including through
20 grants, loans, and bonds, and the creation of a reserve fund;

21 (4) whether to limit the scope of eligible project costs; and

1 (5) what cost-share amount would be sustainable for the State.

2 (b)(1) The Secretary of Education, in consultation with interested
3 stakeholders, shall develop a school capital needs assessments survey for
4 school districts and a plan for distributing and maximizing response rates to the
5 survey.

6 (2) On or before January 15, 2021, the Secretary shall submit the results
7 of the survey described in subdivision (1) of this subsection to the House
8 Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Education and the Senate
9 Committees on Education and on Institutions.

10 (3) The amount of \$1,500,000.00 in general funds is appropriated to the
11 Secretary of Education to conduct the survey described in this subsection (b).

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

14 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act
15 relating to State aid for school construction projects”

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17 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE