

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 opportunities of school facilities in
14 Vermont 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
22 opportunities, 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 framework for defining the components of a modern school
7 facility in the context of learning in the 21st century. This framework shall
8 include opportunities and needs relating to:

9 (A) high quality learning environments;

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

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

12 (D) energy efficiency improvements; and

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

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

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

1 on Institutions with its findings and any recommendations for legislative
2 action.

3 (f) Meetings.

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

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

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

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

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