

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

4 (a) On or before [DATE?], the Secretary of Education, in consultation with
5 the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association, the Chair
6 of the State Board of Education, and the Commissioner of Buildings and
7 General Services, shall update the school construction facilities standards. The
8 update shall reflect modern educational requirements and opportunities,
9 including infrastructure needed for remote learning.

10 (b) On or before January 15, 2021, pursuant to State Board Rule 6124.1,
11 the State Board shall update and adopt a formula to establish the maximum and
12 minimum square-footage parameters by school size and grade range through a
13 square-footage allowance per student or program. The formula shall also
14 establish an allowable cost per square foot of construction.

15 Sec. 2. SCHOOL FACILITIES CONDITIONS ANALYSIS; JOINT FISCAL
16 OFFICE; COVID-19 EMERGENCY

17 (a) On or before August 15, 2020, the Joint Fiscal Office, in consultation
18 with the Secretary of Education and the Commissioner of Buildings and
19 General Services, shall issue a request for proposal for a statewide school
20 facilities needs and costs analysis resulting from the COVID-19 emergency.
21 The analysis may include a review of the health and safety facilities conditions,
22 an assessment of infrastructure needs to meet social distancing requirements,
23 and an assessment of the adequacy of facilities for remote learning.

1 (b) The Joint Fiscal Office shall contract with an independent third party to
2 conduct the analysis described in subsection (a) of this section. The analysis
3 shall be completed on or before December 18, 2020.

4 (c) The amount of \$800,000.00 is appropriated from the Coronavirus Relief
5 Fund to the Joint Fiscal Office to conduct the analysis described in this section.

6 (d) As used in this section, “school” has the same meaning as in 16 V.S.A.
7 § 3447.

8 Sec. 3. SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION FUNDING; JOINT FISCAL OFFICE;
9 REPORT

10 (a) On or before January 15, 2022, the Joint Fiscal Office shall submit a
11 report to the House Committees on Education, on Corrections and Institutions,
12 and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Education, on Finance,
13 and on Institutions that shall include the following:

14 (1) an overview of the recent history of Vermont’s school construction
15 funding;

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

18 (3) review of the experience of other jurisdictions; and

19 (4) options to address the school construction needs of the State,
20 including funding, oversight, and setting priorities.

21 (b) The Joint Fiscal Office shall have the assistance of the Office of
22 Legislative Council, the State Treasurer, the Vermont Bond Bank, the Agency
23 of Education, and any other relevant State agency or department as needed. As

1 part of its work, the Joint Fiscal Office shall consult with the Vermont School
2 Boards Association, the Vermont Superintendents Association, and the
3 Vermont Board of Education.

4 (c) To the extent needed, the Joint Fiscal Office is appropriated \$30,000.00
5 [SOURCE OF FUNDS?] for consultants or study expenses for the report
6 described in subsection (a) of this section.

7 Sec. 4. SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS; BONDING; FY 2021 to
8 FY 20XX

9 (a) Beginning on July 1, 2020 and ending on January 1, 20XX, a school
10 district shall not approve a bond for a school construction project in an amount
11 greater than [XXXXXXXXXX] unless the school construction project is
12 necessary to address imminent threats to physical safety and health of students
13 or employees.

14 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a school district is
15 authorized to approve a bond or accept any other available funds to address
16 infrastructure needs attributable to the COVID-19 emergency.

17 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

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