

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Ways and Means to which was referred House Bill No.
3 209 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. SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION; FACILITIES STANDARDS;
8 CAPITAL OUTLAY FINANCING FORMULA; AGENCY OF
9 EDUCATION; STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; UPDATE

10 (a) On or before [DATE?], the Secretary of Education, in consultation with
11 the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association, the Chair
12 of the State Board of Education, and the Commissioner of Buildings and
13 General Services, shall update the school construction facilities standards. The
14 update shall reflect:

- 15 (1) modern educational requirements and opportunities;
16 (2) health and safety standards for COVID-19 mitigation; and
17 (3) remote learning requirements.

18 (b) On or before [DATE?], pursuant to State Board Rule 6124.1, the State
19 Board shall update and adopt a formula to establish the maximum and
20 minimum square-footage parameters by school size and grade range through a
21 square-footage allowance per student or program. The formula shall also
22 establish an allowable cost per square foot of construction.

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

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

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

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

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

17 Sec. 3. SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION FUNDING; JOINT FISCAL OFFICE;
18 REPORT

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

- 1 (1) an overview of the recent history of Vermont’s school construction
2 funding;
3 (2) an analysis of the challenges and opportunities to the State, if any, of
4 funding school construction projects;
5 (3) review of the experience of other jurisdictions; and
6 (4) options to address the school construction needs of the State,
7 including funding, oversight, and setting priorities.

8 (b) The Joint Fiscal Office shall have the assistance of the Office of
9 Legislative Council, the State Treasurer, the Vermont Bond Bank, the Agency
10 of Education, and any other relevant State agency or department as needed. As
11 part of its work, the Joint Fiscal Office shall consult with the Vermont School
12 Boards Association, the Vermont Superintendents Association, and the
13 Vermont Board of Education.

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

17 Sec. 4. SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS; BONDING; FY 2021 to

18 FY 20XX

19 (a) Beginning on July 1, 2020 and ending on [DATE?], a school district
20 shall not approve a bond for a school construction project in an amount greater
21 than [XXXXXXXXXX] unless the school construction project is necessary to
22 address imminent threats to physical safety and health of students or
23 employees.

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

4 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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9 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE

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