

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 January 15, 2021, the Secretary of Education, in
5 consultation with the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents
6 Association, the Chair of the State Board of Education, and the Commissioner
7 of Buildings and General Services, shall update the school construction
8 facilities standards. The update shall reflect modern educational requirements
9 and opportunities.

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; AGENCY OF
16 EDUCATION; DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS AND GENERAL
17 SERVICES

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

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

4 (c) The amount of \$1,500,000.00 is appropriated from the Education Fund
5 to the Secretary of Education 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 December 15, 2020, 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 authorized to spend not
5 more than \$30,000.00 [SOURCE OF FUNDS?] for consultants or study
6 expenses for the report described in subsection (a) of this section.

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

9 Beginning on July 1, 2020 and ending on January 1, 20XX, a school district
10 shall not approve a bond for a school construction project unless the bond is
11 not more than \$XXXXXXXXXX.

12 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

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