

H.426 Side-by-Side Comparison

House Sec. #	Section Title	Senate Sec. #	Section Title	H. 426, As Passed by Senate
1	Findings; Intent	1	Findings; Intent; Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adds “Purpose” to Section heading • Adds subsection (e) setting forth the purpose for the funding in the bill as the State and schools using their ESSER funds to address health and safety needs and the backlog of school facilities’ needs
2	School Construction; Facilities Standards; Capital Outlay Financing Formula; Agency of Education; State Board of Education; Update	2	No change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriates \$100,000 to the Agency of Education (rather than the State Board) to hire a consultant to provide technical assistance to the State Board to update the Capital Outlay Financing Formula Rule
3	School Facilities Conditions Assessment; Agency of Education; Department of Buildings and General Services	3	School of Facilities Inventory and Conditions Assessment; Agency of Education; Department of Buildings and General Services; Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strikes out Sec. 3 of the House passed version of H.426 • Subsection (a) directs the Secretary of Education in coordination with the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services to issue an RFP by September 1, 2021 for a school facilities inventory and conditions assessment to ascertain the extent of need for additional support to school districts as a result of COVID-19 and to inform AOE of the statewide school facilities needs and costs • Subsection (b) authorizes the Secretary to contract with a third party for the inventory and assessment. It requires that the inventory is completed by January 15, 2022, and the assessment is completed by October 1, 2022 • Subsection (c) requires that the project is done in two phases – the inventory and the assessment phase. The inventory phase requires the contractor to collect information about the current state of school facilities and immediate plans to invest in those facilities, and the assessment phase requires plans for evaluating and collecting information to develop a ranking system to prioritize schools with the highest needs for future school construction funding • Subsection (d) appropriates \$2.5 million from the State’s ESSER III allocation for the inventory and assessment • Subsection (e) directs the Agency of Education to create a database to enter information from the assessment • Subsection (f) requires the Secretary of Education to submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Education by the January 15, 2022 to present the findings of the inventory and a progress update on the assessment • Subsection (g) defines “school” to mean a public school, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11

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4	School Construction Funding; Agency of Education; Report	4	No change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change
5	16 V.S.A. § 837 (School Facilities Management; Training and Certification)	5	No change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change
6	16 V.S.A. § 838 (Capital Improvement Plan)	6	No change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change
7	Agency of Education; Creation of Positions	7	No change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change
8	Effective Date	8	16 V.S.A. § 559 (Public Bids)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amends the threshold requiring schools to go out to bid for school construction projects from \$15,000.00 to \$40,000.00
		9	School Facilities; Health and Safety Projects; Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsection (a) authorizes the Secretary of Education to hire a consultant until September 30, 2023 to assist schools in using ESSER III funds allocated to them to improve the overall health and safety of any district's school facilities as a result of COVID-19. The consultant's duties shall include project coordination and acting as a liaison between the schools and the Agency Subsection (b) authorizes the Agency of Education to allocate \$500,000.00 of the State's ESSER III funds to pay for the consultant described in subsection (a). Subsection (b) also authorizes the Agency to reserve \$1,000,000.00 of the State's ESSER III funds to pay for projects where a school district requires additional funding to implement improvements
		10	State Energy Management Program; Financing for Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directs the Agency of Education to coordinate with the Department of Buildings and General Services and report back to the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Education and the Senate Committees on Education and on Institutions by January 15, 2023 on how to use the State Energy Management Program to support schools to implement energy efficiency and conservation needs identified in the inventory and assessment required by Sec. 3

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		11	Renewable and Efficient Heating Systems in Schools; Grant Program; Efficiency Vermont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsection (a) establishes the Renewable and Efficiency Heating Systems Grant Program • Subsection (b) defines a “covered school” as a public school and an approved independent school under 16 V.S.A. § 11 • Subsection (c) sets forth that Efficiency Vermont shall administer the Program • Subsection (d) authorizes Efficiency Vermont to use up to \$150,000.00 of the amount appropriated to the Program for direct labor costs and to collect certain fees • Subsection (e) requires Efficiency Vermont to coordinate with the Agency of Education to provide grants • Subsection (f) requires Efficiency Vermont to require any schools receiving a grant to release the name of the school and grant amount • Subsection (g) directs the General Assembly to determine how to fund the Program during the 2022 legislation session
		12	Effective Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective on passage