

1 H.518

2 Senator Perchlik moves that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be  
3 amended as follows:

4 First: By adding a new section to be Sec. 3a to read as follows:

5 Sec. 3a. RENEWABLE AND EFFICIENCY HEATING SYSTEMS;  
6 SCHOOLS; GRANT PROGRAM

7 (a) Program established. In fiscal year 2023, there is established the  
8 Renewable and Efficiency Heating Systems Grant Program (Program) to  
9 award grants for renewable and efficient heating systems in schools.  
10 Renewable and efficient heating systems grants shall be used to make  
11 necessary improvements to address building systems in covered schools to  
12 improve health, safety, and efficiency in response to the COVID-19  
13 emergency.

14 (b) Definition. As used in this section, “covered school” means public  
15 schools and approved independent schools as defined under 16 V.S.A. § 11.

16 (c) Administration; implementation.

17 (1) The Agency of Education shall administer the Program, which shall:

18 (A) provide consulting services to covered schools;

19 (B) award grant funds to covered schools of not more than 50 percent  
20 of the total cost for the improvement or repair of existing heating systems, with

1 a focus on renewable energy systems, energy efficiency, and providing  
2 appropriate space conditioning; and

3 (C) award grant funds to covered schools for the installation of  
4 renewable or efficiency electric space heating and conditioning systems.

5 (2) Grant Program design. The Agency of Education, in consultation  
6 with the Vermont Superintendents Association and other State entities and  
7 experts in the fields of thermal enclosure, energy efficiency, and renewable  
8 building space systems, shall design the Program. The Program design shall  
9 establish:

10 (A) an outreach and education plan, including specific tactics to  
11 reach and support all covered schools;

12 (B) an equitable system for distributing grants statewide based on  
13 geographic location, school size, grant dollar amount, and assessed need, with  
14 an emphasis on schools that may not have administrative support to apply for  
15 grants; and

16 (C) guidelines for thermal enclosure and renewable and energy  
17 efficiency buildings systems resilience, durability, health, and efficiency  
18 measures and costs that will be eligible for grant funding.

19 (d) Costs and fees. The State is authorized to use up to \$150,000.00 of the  
20 amounts appropriated in Sec. 4 to the Program for administration costs.

1       (e) Coordination. The Agency of Education may coordinate with any other  
2       State entities and agencies working with public schools to provide grants for  
3       the Program.

4       Second: By striking out Sec. 4, Municipal Energy Resilience Grant  
5       Program; appropriation, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 4  
6       to read as follows:

7       Sec. 4. MUNICIPAL ENERGY RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM;  
8               RENEWABLE AND EFFICIENCY HEATING SYSTEMS GRANT  
9               PROGRAM; FY 2023 APPROPRIATIONS

10       (a) In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$40,000,000.00 shall be appropriated  
11       from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) from the State and Local Fiscal  
12       Recovery Fund to the Municipal Energy Resilience Grant Program for use as  
13       follows:

14               (1) The amount of \$2,400,000.00 shall be appropriated to the  
15       Department of Buildings and General Services for regional planning  
16       commissions to assist with grant and assessment applications and provide  
17       programming and technical assistance to covered municipalities. The funding  
18       to regional planning commissions shall be distributed as follows:

19               (A) Fifty-five percent of the funds shall be divided equally among the  
20       regional planning commissions.

1           (B) Forty-five percent of the funds shall be allocated according to the  
2           number of Vermont member municipalities in each regional planning  
3           commission as of July 1, 2022.

4           (2) The amount of \$37,600,000.00 shall be appropriated to the  
5           Department of Buildings and General Services to be used as follows:

6           (A) \$5,000,000.00 for hiring a contractor to conduct assessments  
7           pursuant to Sec. 2 of this act;

8           (B) \$1,000,000.00 for costs associated with administering the Grant  
9           Program; and

10           (C) \$31,600,000.00 for grants to covered municipalities for  
11           weatherization, for thermal efficiency, and to supplement or replace less  
12           efficient heating systems.

13           (b) In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$5,000,000.00 shall be appropriated  
14           to the Agency of Education from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) from  
15           the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for the Renewable and Efficiency  
16           Heating Systems Grant Program for grants to covered schools as described in  
17           Sec. 3a of this act.