

1 S.10

2 Introduced by Senators Chittenden, Gulick, Lyons and Perchlik

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; school buildings; health and safety; water

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require water
7 bottle filling stations to be installed in any newly constructed public school
8 building or regional CTE center or in any public school building or regional
9 CTE center undergoing an addition or major renovation. This bill also requires
10 the Agency of Education to adopt a rule relating to the requirements for the
11 installation of water bottle filling stations in public school buildings and
12 regional CTE centers.

13 An act relating to the installation of water bottle filling stations in schools

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 1433 is added to read:

16 § 1433. WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS

17 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

18 (1) “Major renovation” means:

19 (A) a renovation project of which the total estimated cost is

20 \$500,000.00 or more; or

1 (B) a renovation that involves the substantial repair, replacement, or
2 upgrading of the plumbing system or plumbing fixtures, regardless of cost.

3 (2) “Public school” has the same meaning as in subdivision 11(7) of this
4 title.

5 (3) “Regional CTE center” has the same meaning as in subdivision
6 1522(4) of this title.

7 (4) “Water bottle filling station” means a water dispenser accessible to
8 all persons in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C.
9 § 12101 et seq.) that dispenses clean drinking water directly into a bottle or
10 other drinking container. Water bottle filling stations may be integrated into
11 drinking fountains and may be touchless for sanitary reasons.

12 (b) Requirements on construction and renovation projects. A water bottle
13 filling station shall be installed in a public school building or regional CTE
14 center as part of the following construction or major renovation projects:

15 (1) any project for the construction of a new public school building or
16 regional CTE center for which construction commences on or after July 1,
17 2023; or

18 (2) any addition or major renovation of a public school building or
19 regional CTE center for which construction commences on or after July 1,
20 2023.

21 (c) Water bottle filling station requirements.

1 (1) Number of stations. The plans for a water bottle filling station
2 installed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall meet the following
3 requirements:

4 (A) a minimum of one water bottle filling station for every 200
5 persons projected to occupy the building upon completion of the proposed
6 construction or renovation project;

7 (B) a minimum of one water bottle filling station on each floor or
8 wing of each building; and

9 (C) a minimum of one water bottle filling station located near
10 cafeterias, gymnasiums, or outdoor recreation spaces and other high-traffic
11 areas.

12 (2) Maintenance. A water bottle filling station installed pursuant to
13 subsection (b) of this section shall:

14 (A) dispense clean, cooled, and filtered drinking water;

15 (B) be regularly cleaned to maintain sanitary conditions; and

16 (C) be regularly maintained to ensure proper functioning.

17 (d) Water bottles permitted. Public schools and regional CTE centers shall
18 permit students and employees to bring to school water bottles that:

19 (1) are made of a material that is not easily breakable;

20 (2) have lids to prevent spills; and

21 (3) are filled exclusively with water.

1 (e) Disciplinary action. The State Board may enact a disciplinary policy
2 regarding the misuse of water bottles by students or employees.

3 Sec. 2. AGENCY OF EDUCATION; SCHOOL DISTRICT QUALITY

4 STANDARDS; RULE; WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS IN
5 SCHOOLS

6 On or before July 1, 2024, the Agency of Education shall amend its school
7 district quality standards rule required under 16 V.S.A. § 165(g) to include
8 requirements for the installation of water bottle filling stations in newly
9 constructed public school buildings or regional CTE centers or in public school
10 buildings or regional CTE centers undergoing an addition or major renovation.

11 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.