

1 S.124

2 Introduced by Senate Committee on Education

3 Date:

4 Subject: Education; property; school buildings; State aid for school  
5 construction

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish the  
7 School Construction Aid Task Force to examine, evaluate, and report on issues  
8 relating to school construction aid. This bill also proposes, on or before  
9 January 15, 2024, to require the Task Force to submit a written report with its  
10 findings and recommendations for legislative action to the House Committees  
11 on Corrections and Institutions, on Education, and on Ways and Means and the  
12 Senate Committees on Education, on Finance, and on Institutions.

13 An act relating to the creation of the School Construction Aid Task Force

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

15 Sec. 1. SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AID TASK FORCE; REPORT

16 (a) Creation. There is created the School Construction Aid Task Force to  
17 examine, evaluate, and report on issues relating to school construction aid.

18 (b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following  
19 members:

- 1           (1) one current member of the House of Representatives, who shall be  
2           appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 3           (2) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the  
4           Committee on Committees;
- 5           (3) the State Treasurer or designee, who shall serve as chair;
- 6           (4) the Secretary of Education or designee;
- 7           (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont National Education  
8           Association or designee;
- 9           (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or  
10           designee;
- 11           (7) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or  
12           designee;
- 13           (8) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association  
14           or designee;
- 15           (9) the Executive Director of the Municipal Bond Bank or designee;
- 16           (10) the President of the Vermont School Custodians and Maintenance  
17           Association or designee;
- 18           (11) a person with expertise in historic preservation, appointed by the  
19           Governor;
- 20           (12) a person with expertise in the construction industry specializing in  
21           school facilities projects, appointed by the Governor; and

1           (13) a member of the American Industrial Hygiene Association,  
2           appointed by the Governor.

3           (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall review the results of the  
4           statewide school facilities inventory and conditions assessment and the school  
5           construction funding report required by 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 72 and  
6           study the following issues relating to school construction aid:

7           (1) the needs, both programmatic and health and safety, of Statewide  
8           school construction projects;

9           (2) funding options for a statewide school construction program,  
10          including any incentive plans;

11          (3) a governance structure for the oversight and management of a school  
12          construction aid program; and

13          (4) criteria for prioritizing school construction funding.

14          (d) Assistance.

15          (1) The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical, and legal  
16          assistance of the Agency of Education and the Office of the State Treasurer.

17          (2) The Office of the State Treasurer is authorized to contract for  
18          services for the Task Force for technical assistance from a school construction  
19          expert.

20          (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2024, the Task Force shall submit a  
21          written report to the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions, on

1 Education, and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Education,  
2 on Finance, and on Institutions with its findings and any recommendations for  
3 legislative action.

4 (f) Meetings.

5 (1) The State Treasurer shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to  
6 occur on or before July 15, 2023.

7 (2) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

8 (3) The Task Force shall cease to exist on July 1, 2024.

9 (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

10 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General  
11 Assembly, a legislative member of the Task Force serving in the member's  
12 capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and  
13 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than 10  
14 meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the  
15 General Assembly

16 (2) Other members of the Task Force shall be entitled to per diem  
17 compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.  
18 § 1010 for not more than 10 meetings. These payments shall be made from  
19 monies appropriated to the Office of the State Treasurer.

20 (h) Appropriation. The sum of \$200,000.00 is appropriated to the Office of  
21 the State Treasurer from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to hire a school

1 construction expert as described in subdivision (d)(2) of this section and for  
2 any administrative, technical, and legal assistance for the Task Force.

3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage.