

1 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 3442 is added to read:

2 § 3442. STATE AID FOR CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

3 The Agency of Education shall be responsible for implementing the State
4 Aid for Capital Construction Program according to the provisions of this
5 chapter. The Agency shall be responsible for:

6 (1) reviewing all preliminary applications for State school construction
7 aid and issuing an approval or denial in accordance with section 3448 of this
8 chapter;

9 (2) adopting rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 pertaining to school
10 construction and capital outlay;

11 (3) developing a prequalification and review process for project delivery
12 consultants and architecture and engineering firms specializing in kindergarten
13 through grade 12 school design and construction and maintaining a list of such
14 prequalified firms and consultants;

15 (4) providing technical assistance and guidance to school districts and
16 supervisory unions on all phases of school capital projects;

17 (5) providing technical advice and assistance, training, and education to
18 school districts, supervisory unions, general contractors, subcontractors,
19 construction or project managers, designers, and other vendors in the planning,
20 maintenance, and establishment of school facility space;

- 1 (6) maintaining a current list of school construction projects that have
2 received preliminary approval, projects that have received final approval, and
3 the priority points awarded to each project;
- 4 (7) collecting and maintaining readily available data on all public school
5 facilities in the State;
- 6 (8) collecting, maintaining, and making publicly available quarterly
7 progress reports of all ongoing school construction projects that shall include,
8 at a minimum, the costs of the project and the time schedule of the project;
- 9 (9) recommending policies and procedures designed to reduce
10 borrowing for school construction programs at both State and local levels;
- 11 (10) conducting a needs survey at least every five years to ascertain the
12 capital construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and other capital needs for
13 all public schools;
- 14 (11) developing a formal enrollment projection model or using
15 projection models already available;
- 16 (12) encouraging school districts and supervisory unions to investigate
17 opportunities for the maximum utilization of space in and around the district or
18 supervisory union;
- 19 (13) collecting and maintaining a clearinghouse of prototypical school
20 plans that may be consulted by eligible applicants;

1 (14) retaining the services of consultants, as necessary, to effectuate the
2 roles and responsibilities listed within this section; and

3 (15) notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), annually on or before December
4 15, submitting a written report to the General Assembly regarding the status
5 and implementation of the State Aid for Capital Construction Program,
6 including the data required to be collected pursuant to this section.

7 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 3443 is added to read:

8 § 3443. STATE AID FOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

9 ADVISORY BOARD

10 (a) Creation. There is hereby created the State Aid for Capital School
11 Construction Advisory Board, which shall advise the Agency on the
12 implementation of the State Aid for Capital Construction Program in
13 accordance with the provisions of this chapter, including the setting of
14 statewide priorities, criteria for project approval, and recommendations for
15 project approval and prioritization.

16 (b) Membership.

17 (1) Composition. The Advisory Board shall be composed of the
18 following seven members:

19 (A) three members who shall serve as ex officio members:

20 (i) the State Treasurer or designee;

1 (ii) the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services or
2 designee;

3 (iii) the Executive Director of the Vermont Bond Bank or
4 designee; and

5 (B) four members of the general public who shall serve four-year
6 terms as follows:

7 (i) two members appointed by the Speaker of the House, each of
8 whom shall have expertise in education or construction, real estate, or finance
9 and one of whom shall represent a supervisory union; and

10 (ii) two members appointed by the Committee on Committees,
11 each of whom shall have expertise in education or construction, real estate, or
12 finance and one of whom shall be an educator.

13 (2) Members with four-year terms.

14 (A) A member with a term limit shall serve a term of four years and
15 until a successor is appointed. A term shall begin on January 1 of the year of
16 appointment and run through December 31 of the last year of the term. Terms
17 of these members shall be staggered so that not all terms expire at the same
18 time.

19 (B) A vacancy created before the expiration of a term shall be filled
20 in the same manner as the original appointment for the unexpired portion of the
21 term.

1 (C) A member with a term limit shall not serve more than two
2 consecutive terms. A member appointed to fill a vacancy created before the
3 expiration of a term shall not be deemed to have served a term for the purpose
4 of this subdivision.

5 (c) Duties. The Advisory Board shall advise the Agency on the
6 implementation of the State Aid for Capital Construction Program in
7 accordance with the provisions of this chapter, including:

8 (1) project priorities;

9 (2) proposed legislation the Advisory Board deems desirable or
10 necessary related to the State Aid for Capital Construction Program, the
11 provisions of this chapter, and any related laws;

12 (3) policies and procedures designed to reduce borrowing for school
13 construction programs at both State and local levels;

14 (4) development of a formal enrollment projection model or the
15 consideration of using projection models already available;

16 (5) processes and procedures necessary to apply for, receive, administer,
17 and comply with the conditions and requirements of any grant, gift,
18 appropriation of property, services, or monies;

19 (6) the collection and maintenance of a clearinghouse of prototypical
20 school plans that may be consulted by eligible applicants and recommended
21 incentives to utilize such prototypes;

1 (7) the determination of eligible cost components of projects for funding
2 or reimbursement, including partial or full eligibility for project components
3 for which the benefit is shared between the school and other municipal and
4 community entities;

5 (8) development of a long-term vision for a statewide capital plan in
6 accordance with needs and projected funding;

7 (9) collection and maintenance of data on all public school facilities in
8 the State, including information on size, usage, enrollment, available facility
9 space, and maintenance;

10 (10) advising districts on the use of a needs survey to ascertain the
11 capital construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and other capital needs for
12 schools across the State; and

13 (11) encouraging school districts and supervisory unions to investigate
14 opportunities for the maximum utilization of space in and around the district or
15 supervisory union.

16 (d) Meetings.

17 (1) The State Treasurer shall call the first meeting of the Advisory
18 Board to occur on or before August 15, 2025.

19 (2) The Advisory Board shall select a chair from among its members.

20 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

21 (4) The Advisory Board shall not meet more than six times per year.

1 (e) Assistance. The Advisory Board shall have the administrative,
2 technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Education.

3 (f) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Advisory Board
4 shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as
5 permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings per year.