

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

2 (a) Creation. The School Construction Aid Task Force is created to
3 examine, evaluate, and report on issues relating to school construction aid.

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

6 (1) two current members of the House of Representatives, who shall be
7 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

8 (2) two current members of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the
9 Committee on Committees;

10 (3) the State Treasurer or designee, who shall serve as co-chair;

11 (4) the Secretary of Education or designee, who shall serve as co-chair;

12 (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont National Education
13 Association or designee;

14 (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or
15 designee;

16 (7) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or
17 designee;

18 (8) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association
19 or designee;

20 (9) the Executive Director of the Municipal Bond Bank or designee;

1 (10) the President of the Vermont School Custodians and Maintenance
2 Association or designee;

3 (11) a person with expertise in historic preservation, appointed by the
4 Governor;

5 (12) a person with expertise in the construction industry specializing in
6 school facilities projects, appointed by the Governor; and

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

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

13 (1) the needs, both programmatic and health and safety, of statewide
14 school construction projects;

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

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

19 (4) the appropriate state action level for response to polychlorinated
20 biphenyl contamination in a school; and

21 (5) criteria for prioritizing school construction funding.

1 (d) Assistance.

2 (1) The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical, and legal
3 assistance of the Agency of Education, the Department of Health, and the
4 Office of the State Treasurer.

5 (2) The Office of the State Treasurer is authorized to contract for
6 services for the Task Force for technical assistance from a school construction
7 expert and any administrative, technical, financial, or legal assistance required
8 by the Task Force.

9 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2024, the Task Force shall submit a
10 written report to the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions, on
11 Education, and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Education,
12 on Finance, and on Institutions with its findings and any recommendations for
13 legislative action, including a recommendation on how the State should expend
14 the funding in the Education Fund reserved for future school construction.

15 (f) Meetings.

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

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

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

20 (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

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

7 (2) Other members of the Task Force shall be entitled to per diem
8 compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.
9 § 1010 for not more than 10 meetings. These payments shall be made from
10 monies appropriated to the Office of the State Treasurer.

11 (h) Appropriation. The sum of \$200,000.00 is appropriated to the Office of
12 the State Treasurer from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to retain any
13 administrative, technical, financial, legal, or construction experts required by
14 the Task Force as described in subdivision (d)(2) of this section.

15 Sec. Y. FUNDING OF POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCB)

16 REMEDIATION AND REMOVAL IN SCHOOLS

17 (a) Education Fund; PCB appropriations. Notwithstanding 2022 Acts and
18 Resolves No. 178, Sec. 2(b):

19 (1) the funds reserved within the Education Fund for purposes of
20 investigation, remediation, and removal of PCBs from schools are unreserved;
21 and

1 (2) the unexpended or unobligated amount of the \$2,500,000.00
2 transferred by the Emergency Board to the Agency of Education for PCB
3 remediation shall revert to the Education Fund for further allocation.

4 (b) Agency of Education; PCB remediation and removal reimbursement.

5 (1) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025(d), \$29,500,000.00 and the
6 unexpended funds identified under subdivision (a)(2) of this section shall be
7 appropriated from the Education Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal
8 year 2024 for one or more of the following purposes:

9 (A)(i) Grants to schools in the State that are required to conduct
10 remediation or removal of PCB contamination in the school after ANR testing
11 but have not received a grant from ANR for the costs of remediation or
12 removal. The grants shall be in an amount sufficient to pay for 100 percent of
13 the school’s remediation or removal costs, including the costs incurred when
14 necessary under State or federal law to relocate students to a facility during
15 remediation or removal activities.

16 (B) Grants to schools in the State that conducted remediation or
17 removal of PCBs in the school after ANR testing and received a grant from
18 ANR for 80 percent of the costs of remediation or removal from the Agency of
19 Natural Resources. The grants under this subdivision (b)(1)(B) shall be in an
20 amount that will reimburse the school for any remediation or removal costs not
21 paid by the Agency of Natural Resources.

1 (C) A grant of up to \$16,000,000.00 to the Burlington School District
2 to reimburse the school district for the costs of demolition and removal of PCB
3 contamination at Burlington High School.

4 (c) Grant criteria. The Secretary of Education, after consultation with the
5 Vermont School Boards Association, the Vermont Superintendents
6 Association, the Vermont School Custodian and Maintenance Association, and
7 other stakeholders, shall develop criteria for priority use of funds and criteria
8 for the the costs of remediation and removal of PCB contamination that will be
9 eligible for a grant under subsection (b) of this section.

10 Sec. Z. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This section and Sec. Y (funding of PCB remediation and removal in
12 schools) shall take effect on passage.