

1 Introduced by Committee on Education

2 Date:

3 Subject: Education; school construction; funding

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to: (1) require  
5 the Secretary of Education to update school facilities standards, (2) require the  
6 State Board of Education to update and adopt the Capital Outlay Formula in  
7 State Board Rule 6124.1, (3) direct the Secretary of Education to hire an  
8 independent third party to conduct a school facilities conditions analysis, and  
9 (4) direct the Secretary of Education to submit a report on funding school  
10 construction projects.

11 An act relating to addressing the needs and conditions of school facilities in  
12 the State

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

14 Sec. 1. SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION; FACILITIES STANDARDS;

15 CAPITAL OUTLAY FINANCING FORMULA; AGENCY OF

16 EDUCATION; STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; UPDATE

17 (a) On or before January 15, 2022, the Secretary of Education, in

18 consultation with the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents

19 Association, the Chair of the State Board of Education, and the Commissioner

20 of Buildings and General Services, shall update the school construction

1 facilities standards. The update shall reflect modern educational requirements  
2 and opportunities.

3 (b) On or before January 15, 2022, the State Board of Education shall  
4 update and adopt the Capital Outlay Financing Formula. Pursuant to State  
5 Board Rule 6124.1, the Formula shall establish the maximum and minimum  
6 square footage parameters by school size and the grade range through a square  
7 footage allowance per student or program. The Formula shall also establish an  
8 allowable cost per square foot of construction.

9 Sec. 2. SCHOOL FACILITIES CONDITIONS ANALYSIS; AGENCY OF  
10 EDUCATION; DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS AND GENERAL  
11 SERVICES

12 (a) On or before February 15, 2022, the Secretary of Education, in  
13 coordination with the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, shall  
14 issue a request for proposal for a school facilities conditions analysis to inform  
15 the Agency of Education of the statewide school facilities needs and costs.  
16 The analysis shall include a review of both school facilities conditions and  
17 space needs.

18 (b) The Secretary of Education shall contract with an independent third  
19 party to conduct the analysis described in subsection (a) of this section. The  
20 analysis shall be completed on or before June 15, 2024.

1        (c) The Secretary is authorized to use not more than \$1,500,000.00 of the  
2        amount allocated to the Agency of Education from the Elementary and  
3        Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund pursuant to Sec. 313 from the  
4        Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260.

5        (d) As used in this section, “school” has the same meaning as in 16 V.S.A.  
6        § 3447.

7        Sec. 3. SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION FUNDING; AGENCY OF  
8        EDUCATION; REPORT

9        (a) On or before December 15, 2024, the Secretary of Education, in  
10       consultation with the State Treasurer and the Executive Director of the  
11       Vermont Bond Bank, shall submit a report to the House Committees on  
12       Corrections and Institutions and on Education and the Senate Committees on  
13       Education and on Institutions that shall include the following:

14        (1) an analysis of the challenges and opportunities to the State, if any, of  
15        funding school construction projects;

16        (2) recommendations for a funding source, if any, for school  
17        construction projects that are linked to the inventory, needs, and conditions of  
18        all Vermont schools; and

19        (3) an analysis of how other states are funding school construction  
20        projects.

1        (b) As used in this section, “school” has the same meaning as in 16 V.S.A.

2        § 3447.

3        Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

4        This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.