

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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FISCAL NOTE

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H.426 An act relating to addressing the needs and conditions of public school facilities in the State – House Education Draft No. 1.7– as amended by the House Committee on Appropriations

Sec. 1 – Findings.

Sec. 2 – Requires the Secretary of Education to update the state’s school construction facilities standards. Authorizes the State Board of Education to use not more than \$100,000 of the amount appropriated in Section 3(d) of this bill to hire a consultant to provide technical assistance.

Sec. 3 – Requires the Secretary of Education to contract with an independent third party to conduct a public school facilities conditions assessment on or before September 1, 2021. The assessment must be completed on or before October 1, 2022.

Authorizes the use of not more than \$2.5 million of the amount allocated to the Agency of Education (AOE) for this purpose provided that:

- (1) Not more than \$627,500 shall be used from the amount allocated to AOE from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (ESSER I); and
- (2) Not more than \$1,872,500 shall be used from the amount allocated to the AOE from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) .

Sec. 4 – Requires the Secretary of Education to a submit a report to the General Assembly on the funding of school construction projects on or before January 15, 2023.

Sec. 5 – Requires the Secretary of Education to establish guidelines for the training and certification of each person responsibility for facilities management for a school district.

Sec. 6 – Requires each school district to develop and maintain a 5-year capital operations and improvement plan and to update the plan annually.

Sec. 7 – Create one limited-service position funded through January 15, 2023 in the Agency of Education. Authorizes AOE to use not more than \$127,500 from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II).

Sec. 8 – Provides that Section 6 of this bill becomes effective July 1, 2023. The remainder of the bill becomes effective on passage.