

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No.
3 426 entitled “An act relating to addressing the needs and conditions of public
4 school facilities in the State” respectfully reports that it has considered the
5 same and recommends that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be
6 amended as follows:

7 First: In Sec. 3, school facilities inventory and conditions assessment;
8 agency of education; department of buildings and general services; report, in
9 subsection (c), in subdivision (1), in subdivision (B), by striking out “and”; in
10 subdivision (C), at the end of the sentence, by striking out the “.” and inserting
11 in lieu thereof “; and”; and by adding a subdivision (D) to read as follows:

12 (D) a review of any information collected by Efficiency Vermont
13 about school building systems as part of the School Indoor Air Quality
14 Program, as established in established in 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 120, Sec.
15 A.51.

16 Second: In Sec. 10, in the section title, by striking out “Municipal Energy
17 Loan Pilot Program” and inserting in lieu thereof “State Energy Management
18 Program”

19 Third: By striking out Sec. 11, school indoor air quality grant program;
20 grants for renewable efficient heating systems in schools; appropriation, and
21 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

1 Sec. 11. RENEWABLE AND EFFICIENT HEATING SYSTEMS IN
2 SCHOOLS; GRANT PROGRAM; EFFICIENCY VERMONT

3 (a) Program established. In fiscal year 2022, there is established the
4 Renewable and Efficiency Heating Systems Grant Program (Program) to
5 award grants for renewable and efficient heating systems in schools.
6 Renewable and efficient heating systems grants shall be used to make
7 necessary improvements to address building systems in covered schools to
8 improve health, safety, and efficiency in response to the COVID-19
9 emergency.

10 (b) Definition. As used in this section, “covered school” means public
11 schools and approved independent schools as defined under 16 V.S.A. § 11.

12 (c) Administration; implementation.

13 (1) Efficiency Vermont shall administer the Program, which shall:

14 (A) provide consulting services to covered schools;

15 (B) award grant funds to covered schools of not more than 50 percent
16 of the total cost for the improvement or repair of existing heating systems, with
17 a focus on renewable energy systems, energy efficiency and providing
18 appropriate space conditioning; and

19 (C) award grant funds to covered schools for the installation of
20 renewable or efficiency electric space heating and conditioning systems.

1 (2) Grant program design. Efficiency Vermont, in consultation with the
2 Agency of Education, the Vermont Superintendents Association, and experts in
3 the field of thermal enclosure, energy efficiency, and renewable building space
4 systems, shall design the Program. The Program design shall establish:

5 (A) an outreach and education plan, including specific tactics to
6 reach and support all covered schools;

7 (B) an equitable system for distributing grants statewide based on
8 geographic location, school size, grant dollar amount, and assessed need, with
9 an emphasis on schools that may not have administrative support to apply for
10 grants; and

11 (C) guidelines for thermal enclosure and renewable and energy
12 efficiency buildings systems resilience, durability, health, and efficiency
13 measures and costs that will be eligible for grant funding.

14 (d) Costs and fees.

15 (1) Efficiency Vermont is authorized to use up to \$150,000.00 of the
16 any amounts appropriated to the Program for direct labor costs.

17 (2) As the entity appointed to serve as Efficiency Vermont, the Vermont
18 Energy Investment Corp. (VEIC) is also authorized to collect their federal
19 approved indirect rate of 9.3 percent on the funds expended in this section.

20 (3) Nothing shall prohibit Efficiency Vermont from supplementing total
21 project costs completed under this section with a portion of its Public Utility

1 Commission-approved budget for the purpose of achieving higher levels of
2 efficiency and claiming efficiency savings toward completing of performance
3 targets pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 209(d).

4 (e) Coordination. Efficiency Vermont shall coordinate with the Agency of
5 Education and any other State entities and agencies working with covered
6 schools to provide grants for the Program.

7 (f) Disclosures. Efficiency Vermont shall require that any school that
8 receives a grant through the Program shall authorize Efficiency Vermont to
9 release the school name and grant amount in any report requested by the
10 General Assembly.

11 (g) Funding. During the 2022 legislative session, the General Assembly
12 shall determine the source of funding for the Program and the necessary
13 reporting requirements.

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19 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE