Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

FISCAL NOTE

Date: June 19, 2020
Prepared by: Mark Perrault

H.209 An act relating to ending the suspension of State aid for school construction projects – Draft 1.6 (As amended by the House Committee on Ways & Means)

https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/WorkGroups/House%20Ways%20and%20Means/Bills/H.209/W~Rebecca%20Wasserman~H.209%20-%20As%20Recommended%20out%20of%20House%20Committee%20on%20Ways%20and%20Means~6-17-2020.pdf

This bill addresses school construction

Section 1 – Facility Standards; Capital Outlay financing Formula
By January 2021, Secretary of Education will update school construction facilities standards, and the Board of Education will update the capital outlay financing formula. No additional funds are appropriated in the bill to support this work; it is assumed that these updates will be done by current staff at the Agency of Education.

Section 2 – School Facilities Conditions Analysis; JFO; COVID-19 Emergency
This study, performed by a third party consultant to review school facilities needs and costs in light of the COVID-19 emergency, is due by Dec 18, 2020 will cost $800,000 from the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

Section 3 – School Construction Funding: JFO
This report that includes a review of funding, an analysis of challenges and opportunities, a review of the experience of other jurisdictions and options to address the needs is due January 2022 and will cost $30,000 in General Funds.

Section 4 – School Construction Projects; Bonding; FY2021
This section limits projects that can be approved for school construction beginning July 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2021 and will not cost additional state funds.

Section 5 – Effective Dates and Title
The section provides that the bill becomes effective of July 1, 2020 and amends the bill's title to "An act relating to assessing State school construction needs."