LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

HB452

Bill as Introduced

HB 452 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

22Mar2023... 1017h

2023 SESSION

23-0419
10/08

HOUSE BILL ***452***

AN ACT relative to the department of education procedures for school building aid applications.

SPONSORS: Rep. Ladd, Graf. 5; Rep. Cordelli, Carr. 7; Sen. Watters, Dist 4

COMMITTEE: Education

ANALYSIS

This bill revises the timelines and procedure for the department of education to review and approve applications for school building aid grants.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT relative to the department of education procedures for school building aid applications.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 School Building Aid; Amount of Grant; Approval of Plans. RSA 198:15-b and RSA 198:15-c are repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

198:15-b Amount of Grant.

I.(a) For construction authorized by a school district on or before July 1, 2013, the amount of the annual grant to any school district shall be the grant amount approved by the department of education at the time of final approval of the project.

(b) (1) For construction authorized by a school district after July 1, 2013, the amount of grant to the school district shall be calculated based on the criteria set forth in RSA 198:15-u through RSA 198:15-w.

(2) The state board of education shall approve the disbursement of 80 percent of the eligible grant amount upon approval of the application for school building aid grants by the state board of education, and shall disburse the balance of the grant amount upon completion of the construction and verification of the final cost of construction by the department of education.

(3) The amount of the grant to any chartered public school established in accordance with RSA 194-B:3-a shall be 30 percent of the eligible cost of construction.

(4) Funds received from federal grants or grants from other state programs shall be subtracted from total project costs when computing grants under this paragraph.

II. For the purposes of this subdivision, "eligible school construction projects" shall mean a project designed to be energy efficient and include any one or more of the following for the construction of instructional facilities:

(a) Construction of a new school building, including land acquisition and development of a site.

(b) Construction of an addition to an existing building, including land acquisition and development of a site.

(c) Substantial renovations approved by the commissioner of education.

(d) Purchase and renovation of existing buildings, including land acquisition and development of a site.

(e) Purchase or lease-purchase of mechanical, structural, or electrical equipment, including the cost of installation of such equipment, which is designed to improve energy efficiency or indoor air quality in school buildings. All grant amounts awarded under this subparagraph shall

be returned to the state if such equipment is removed from the school building by the vendor due to the school district's failure to comply with the terms of the lease-purchase agreement. Lease-purchase agreements shall be subject to the requirements of RSA 33:7-e.

III. The provisions of this paragraph shall apply to any school building aid grants made pursuant to RSA 198:15-a through RSA 198:15-w.

(a) The department of education shall issue annually maximum eligible cost standards for the eligible school construction projects, qualifying for a school building aid grant. These standards shall take into account the type, size, and location of the school and shall be based on an appropriate construction cost index developed or adopted by the department which shall reflect cost differences in the several regions of the state. Maximum cost standards shall be computed and published annually and expressed as a maximum cost per square foot.

(b) The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A relative to the maximum eligible size standards for the construction of school buildings qualifying for a school building aid grant. These standards shall take into account the type and size of the school and shall be based on the minimum size appropriate for the construction of a school. Maximum size standards shall be expressed as a maximum gross square footage per pupil. Space determined by the department to be excessive or unnecessary to fulfill educational needs shall not be eligible for state building aid grants.

(c) The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A relative to the maximum usable site size for land purchases qualifying for a school building aid grant. These standards shall take into account the type and size of the school and shall be based on the minimum site size appropriate for the construction of a school. Maximum size standards shall be expressed as a maximum acreage per pupil.

(d) For the purpose of calculating the total school building aid grants made under RSA 198:15-a through RSA 198:15-w, the final approved cost for an eligible school construction project shall not exceed the cost that would result if the project conformed to the maximum cost and size standards. The provisions of this section shall not preclude an eligible applicant from exceeding the maximum standards provided, however, the cost of the portion of the facilities which exceed the maximum standards shall not be eligible for school building aid grants.

(e) The commissioner of the department of education shall have the authority to waive eligible cost and size standards for an eligible school construction project for good reason shown.

198:15-c Approval of Plans; Specifications, and Costs of Construction or Purchase.

I.(a) A school district maintaining approved schools, desiring to avail itself of the grants herein provided shall submit schematic design plans, cost estimates, and other items determined by the department of education for an eligible school construction project prior to the start of the construction. Projects with approval from the school district's legislative body to construct, not subject to receiving building aid, are not eligible.

(b) Beginning January 1, 2025 and each year thereafter, to be considered for a school building aid grant, the complete building aid application shall be submitted no later than April 1 of the fiscal year that immediately precedes the fiscal year in which the school desires to seek the district's legislative body's approval for construction. The application shall include at a minimum, schematic design plans, cost estimates, educational needs assessment, existing facility conditions assessment including, but not limited to a review of the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and structural components of the building, proof of an annual school budget to support good maintenance, and other documentation as required by the department and identified in the department's school building construction rules.

(c) As deemed appropriate, emergency projects that are recommended by the commissioner of education shall be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the state board of education at any time during the school year. A school construction project requiring the replacement of all or a significant portion of a school facility which is declared uninhabitable or is identified as an imminent danger or substantial risk by the state fire marshal or a state or federal agency, and which results from an unanticipated and sudden natural or human disaster, shall qualify as an emergency project.

II.(a) The commissioner shall accept school building aid grant applications based upon completeness and submit a preliminary school building aid grant list, with applications ranked in accordance with subparagraph II(b) and rules of the department, to the school building authority established pursuant to RSA 195-C by August 1 each year. The school building authority shall verify the ranking submitted by the commissioner and submit a list in descending rank order to the state board of education for approval. If the ranking submitted to the school building authority differs from the preliminary school building aid grant list, the school building authority shall justify the new ranking using the same criteria in subparagraph II(b) and in rules of the department. The school building authority shall submit the school building aid rank order listing with written report of findings to the state board no later than October 15, each year. The state board of education shall verify the ranking submitted by the school building authority. If the ranking submitted to the state board of education differs from the preliminary school building aid grant list submitted by the commissioner, the state board of education shall justify the new ranking using the same criteria in subparagraph II(b) and rules of the department. The state board of education shall approve and publish the descending rank order list of approved eligible school construction projects by November 15 each year. School districts which have projects approved for funding shall be notified by the department of education of the projected amount to be funded within 10 days of approval. The project rating system and criteria used to rate project applications which shall include an administrative review process for appeal of a school district's project point rating, shall be developed by the department of education and approved by the state board of education.

(b) The commissioner of the department of education shall accept school building construction proposals based upon completeness. The department of education shall consider and score each proposal based on the following criteria:

(1) Unsafe conditions.

(2) Facilities not in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, or obsolete, inefficient, or unsuitable facilities or mechanical and building systems.

(3) Overcrowding and associated influences to instructional areas and programming.

(4) Enrollment projections and population shifts.

(5) A school district's fiscal capacity based on measurable criteria such as the percentage of pupils eligible for free and reduced price meals.

(6) School security design and integration of security systems.

(7) The project contributes to operational cost efficiencies, consolidation, or reduced property taxes.

(8) High performance of design that provides environments that are energy and resource efficient. Energy and resource efficient designs are those that improve indoor air quality, air temperature, or water quality; reduce heating costs; provide better lighting; and increase average attendance.

(9) Any other criteria that the state board of education may determine are necessary.

(c) Except as provided in subparagraph (d), applications on the approved ranked list the previous fiscal year, including the school construction projects on the descending rank order list approved by the state board of education on November 10, 2022, but did not receive a grant due to insufficient funds in the previous fiscal year, shall be ranked ahead of any application that was not on the list in the previous fiscal year provided that construction of the project has not started.

(d) Applications with critical needs pursuant to subparagraph II(b) and substantial deficiencies, as defined by the department of education's school construction rules, may be ranked ahead of applications received in the prior fiscal year.

(e) Projects that did not receive approval from the school district's legislative body may resubmit those projects to the department for future consideration.

III. A school district that accepts school building aid for construction shall engage the services of a project manager for construction or reconstruction projects of $1,000,000 or more, unless the commissioner waives such requirement as unnecessary. The school district 's project manager shall have his or her own comprehensive liability and auto insurance, worker's compensation coverage, and professional liability coverage. The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A relative to the required services, responsibilities, and qualifications for the school district 's project manager.

2 New Paragraph; School Building Aid; Definition Added. Amend RSA 198:15-a by inserting after paragraph I the following new paragraph:

I-a. For purposes of this subdivision, "school district" means any school district duly organized, any city maintaining a school department within its corporate organization, any cooperative school district as defined in RSA 195:1, any receiving district operating an area school as defined in RSA 195-A:1, or any receiving district providing an education to pupils from one or more sending districts under a contract entered into pursuant to RSA 194:21-a or RSA 194:22.

3 Reference Removed; School Building Authority. Amend RSA 195-C:1, IV(a) to read as follows:

IV.(a) The authority shall advise the state board of education by investigating matters concerning school facilities referred to them by the state board of education. Such matters shall include, but shall not be limited to, standards for school building construction pursuant to RSA 21-N:9, II(c), safety standards related to school buildings, financing of school construction projects, award of high performance school construction grants [~~under RSA 198:15-b, I-b~~], and any other specific concerns about particular school buildings that have been brought to the attention of the state board of education.

4 New Paragraph; Annual Grant for Leased Space. Amend RSA 198:15-hh by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. Any state aid for leased space pursuant to this section shall require a separate appropriation, and shall not be included in the state appropriation for school building aid.

5 Repeal; Use of Existing Buildings. RSA 198:15-h, relative to certain construction funds of a receiving district operating an area school, is repealed.

6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

HB 452 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

22Mar2023... 1017h

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CHAPTER 35
HB 452 - FINAL VERSION

22Mar2023... 1017h

2023 SESSION

23-0419
10/08

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(d) Applications with critical needs pursuant to subparagraph II(b) and substantial deficiencies, as defined by the department of education's school construction rules, may be ranked ahead of applications received in the prior fiscal year.

(e) Projects that did not receive approval from the school district's legislative body may resubmit those projects to the department for future consideration.

III. A school district that accepts school building aid for construction shall engage the services of a project manager for construction or reconstruction projects of $1,000,000 or more, unless the commissioner waives such requirement as unnecessary. The school district's project manager shall have his or her own comprehensive liability and auto insurance, worker's compensation coverage, and professional liability coverage. The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A relative to the required services, responsibilities, and qualifications for the school district's project manager.

35:2 New Paragraph; School Building Aid; Definition Added. Amend RSA 198:15-a by inserting after paragraph I the following new paragraph:

I-a. For purposes of this subdivision, "school district" means any school district duly organized, any city maintaining a school department within its corporate organization, any cooperative school district as defined in RSA 195:1, any receiving district operating an area school as defined in RSA 195-A:1, or any receiving district providing an education to pupils from one or more sending districts under a contract entered into pursuant to RSA 194:21-a or RSA 194:22.

35:3 Reference Removed; School Building Authority. Amend RSA 195-C:1, IV(a) to read as follows:

IV.(a) The authority shall advise the state board of education by investigating matters concerning school facilities referred to them by the state board of education. Such matters shall include, but shall not be limited to, standards for school building construction pursuant to RSA 21-N:9, II(c), safety standards related to school buildings, financing of school construction projects, award of high performance school construction grants [~~under RSA 198:15-b, I-b~~], and any other specific concerns about particular school buildings that have been brought to the attention of the state board of education.

35:4 New Paragraph; Annual Grant for Leased Space. Amend RSA 198:15-hh by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. Any state aid for leased space pursuant to this section shall require a separate appropriation, and shall not be included in the state appropriation for school building aid.

35:5 Repeal; Use of Existing Buildings. RSA 198:15-h, relative to certain construction funds of a receiving district operating an area school, is repealed.

35:6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

Approved: May 17, 2023
Effective Date: July 01, 2023

Committee Minutes

SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE
Education

Sen Ruth Ward, Chair
Sen Carrie Gendreau, Vice Chair
Sen Timothy Lang, Member
Sen Suzanne Prentiss, Member
Sen Donovan Fenton, Member

Date: March 28, 2023

HEARINGS

Tuesday	04/04/2023
(Day)	(Date)

Education	Legislative Office Building 101	9:00 a.m.
(Name of Committee)	(Place)	(Time)

9:00 a.m.		Hearing on proposed Amendment #1225s, relative to the chartered public school joint legislative oversight committee, and relative to chartered public school use of unused district facilities., to **HB 536**, relative to the chartered public school joint legislative oversight committee.
9:15 a.m.	**HB 275-LOCAL**	relative to schools approved for a school tuition program by a school board.
9:30 a.m.	**HB 349**	relative to a special purpose school district for Bridgewater, Hebron, and Groton.
9:45 a.m.	**HB 452**	relative to the department of education procedures for school building aid applications.
10:00 a.m.	**HB 207-FN**	relative to school district unanticipated funds.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Sponsors:

HB 536			
Rep. Tanner	Rep. Wallner	Rep. Luneau	Rep. Massimilla
Rep. Telerski			
HB 275-LOCAL			
Rep. Ladd	Rep. Coulon	Rep. Moffett	Rep. A. Lekas
Rep. Soti	Rep. Hobson	Sen. Ward	Sen. Avard
HB 349			
Rep. Ladd	Rep. Cordelli	Sen. Innis	Sen. Ward
HB 452			
Rep. Ladd	Rep. Cordelli	Sen. Watters	
HB 207-FN			
Rep. Plett	Rep. Cushman		

Peter Mulvey 271-4063

Ruth Ward
Chairman

Senate Education Committee

Peter Mulvey 271-4063

HB 452, relative to the department of education procedures for school building aid applications.

Hearing Date: April 4, 2023

Time Opened: 11:25 a.m. **Time Closed**: 11:35 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ward, Gendreau, Lang, Prentiss and Fenton

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill revises the timelines and procedure for the department of education to review and approve applications for school building aid grants.

Sponsors:
Rep. Ladd Rep. Cordelli Sen. Watters

Who supports the bill: Representative Rick Ladd (*Grafton, D-5*), Representative Hope Damon (*Sullivan, D-8*), and Paul S. Hazelton.

Who opposes the bill: None.

Who is neutral on the bill: Amy Clark (*Department of Education*).

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative Rick Ladd

Grafton – District 5

- Representative Rick Ladd introduced HB 452.
- HB 452 dealt with the timeline for school building aid applications.
- Rep. Ladd shared that Amy Clark of the Department of Education would go into detail on the changes presented by HB 452.
- Rep. Ladd said that the building aid applications would still be held to the same standards and criteria as before.
- The amended language within HB 452 was explained in detail to the committee.
    - RSA 198:15-b required that funds received from charitable trusts, bequests, gifts, insurance policies, and grants shall be subtracted from total project costs when computing grants.

- Under HB 452, charitable donations would no longer be subtracted from total project costs.
- Rep. Ladd explained that Colebrook School District received a contribution exceeding $2 million from a single donor and indicated that scenario as being the inspiration behind the amended language.
- Rep. Ladd clarified that the requirement for grants and federal or state moneys to be subtracted from total project costs would remain, to prevent 'double-dipping'.

Amy Clark

Administrator, School Facilities Bureau, Department of Education

- Ms. Clark said HB 452 addressed several problems with building aid applications, and suggested the legislation would streamline the process.
- Traditionally, building aid applications were considered on a biennial basis.
  - Following application submission, applications were subsequently ranked and published.
  - The School Building Authority determined the rankings, which were to be approved by the State Board of Education and published.
- Ms. Clark said the process did not change, merely the timeline.
- Towns typically voted in March. Because voting took place prior to budgetary approval, towns would be voting on projects in which they were uncertain of what the final appropriation would be.
- Ms. Clark said that by the time the budget was approved in July, it was far too late for school boards to adjust their projects in the event anticipated funds were not fulfilled as expected.
  - In those circumstances, construction would be delayed until the following spring as opposed to initiating in the summer.
  - The spring construction season would be 22 months after the initial application, which would result in higher project costs.
- Under HB 452, schools would not apply for building aid until April 1st, mere months prior to the budget's approval in July.
- The ranking of applications would be published on November 15th, followed by town voting in March.
- The new timeline presented by HB 452 would expedite construction since the town vote would be positioned months after the budget would be approved.
- HB 452 also changed the building aid application process from a biennial procedure to an annual procedure.
- In summary, HB 452 would open applications to be considered annually, would rank projects following appropriations being determined, would publish said rankings in November, and finally, would enable proper utilization of the spring construction season.

PM
Date Hearing Report completed: April 6, 2023

Speakers

Senate Education Committee
SIGN-IN SHEET

Date: Tuesday, April 4th, 2023 **Time:** 9:45 a.m.

HB 452 AN ACT relative to the department of education procedures for school building aid applications.

Name/Representing *(please print neatly)*

√ Rep Rick Ladd Sponsor	Support ☒	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☒	No ☐
Rep Hope Damon	Support ☒	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☒
Paul S. Hazelton	Support ☒	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☒
√ Amy Clark	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☒	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Support ☐	Neutral ☐	Oppose ☐	Speaking?	Yes ☐	No ☐

Senate Remote Testify

Education Committee Testify List for Bill HB452 on 2023-04-04

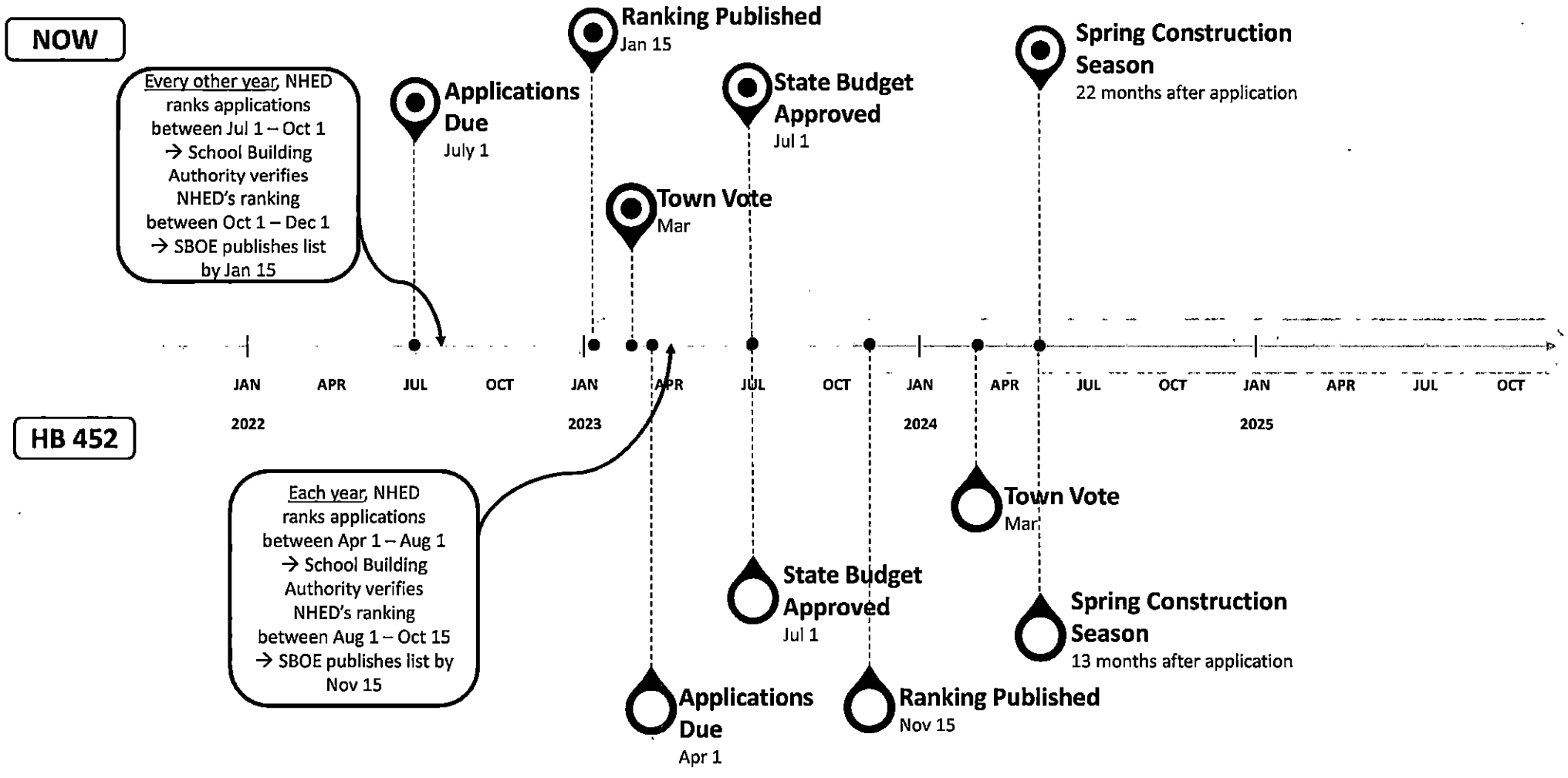
Support: 1 Oppose: 0

Name	Title	Representing	Position
Watters, David	An Elected Official	Myself	Support

Testimony

NH Department of Education
Bureau of School Safety & Facilities

School Building Aid Timeline Now vs HB 452



Senate Education Committee – Testimony HB452 – Rep Rick Ladd
March 4, 2023

Chairman Ward and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

HB452 as amended in the House revises the timelines and procedure for the department of education to review and approve applications for school building aid.

Revised Timelines beginning January 1, 2025.

- Completed building aid application submitted no later than **April 1** of the fiscal year immediately preceding the fiscal year the school seeks approval for construction from the district's legislative body. (accepted based on completeness)
- Emergency projects on a case by case basis
- Department rank orders applications, submits to School Building Authority by **August 1**....each year.
- School building authority – verifies or justifies any changes
- School Building Authority submits rank ordered listing with written report to the State Board by **October 15** each year.
- State Board approves and publishes rank ordered list of projects by November **15**, each year.
- **March Town Meeting**: Local fund are appropriated
- **Spring and Summer**: Renovation or construction begins

Process repeats every year; this is different from current process.

Accepted/ complete applications are considered and scored based upon criteria

- Unsafe conditions
- Compliance with Americans With Disabilities Act, obsolete, inefficient, unsuitable facility, mechanical and building systems
- Overcrowding...impact on instruction and programs
- Enrollment projections and shifts
- Fiscal Capacity: F/R and property valuation
- School security and safety: surveillance, access control, emergency alerting

- Project contributes to operational cost savings: efficiencies, consolidation, reduced property taxes
- High performance: environment that is energy and resource efficient (heating, lighting, sound, air quality...increases average attendance
- Other criteria set by the state board

Applications on the approved list that do not receive grant funding, shall be ranked ahead of any application that was not on the list in the previous year. Exception for new grants with SUBSTANTIAL DEFICIENCIES.

Projects may be resubmitted for future consideration

Any state aid for leased space pursuant "Annual Grant for Leased Space" shall not be included in the state appropriation for school building aid.

Last Amending Change to this Bill:

RSA 198:15 E (4) "*Funds received from charitable trusts, bequests, gifts, insurance policies, federal grants, or grants from other state programs shall be subtracted from total project costs when computing grants under this paragraph.*"

Changes to read: "*Funds received from ~~charitable trusts, bequests, gifts, insurance policies~~, federal grants, or grants from other state programs shall be subtracted from total project costs when computing grants under this paragraph.*"

See attached document from Dr. Debra Taylor, Supt of Schools, SAU 7

Summary:

- Annual Application Process
- Provides more time for annual review by DOE and SBA, and approval by SB
- More efficient construction schedule – Construction season not lost

March 10, 2023

To: Honorable Members of the Education Committee
Fr: Dr. Debra Taylor, Superintendent, Colebrook School District, School Administrative Unit #7
Re: Testimony - HB 452

Good Morning,

My name is Dr. Debra Taylor, I am the Superintendent of Schools of School Administrative Unit #7 encompassing Clarksville, Colebrook, Columbia, Pittsburg and Stewartstown School Districts. I have served for 15 years as Superintendent and 3 years in my current position.

I am here today to implore you to make a very necessary change to HB 452. A change that, with a stroke of your pen, will change the lives of the students in the Colebrook School District and surrounding communities. Allow me to briefly tell our story.

Last fall, the Colebrook School District was notified that we were ranked # 2 and eligible for school building aid. We presented a $16.5 million project and were approved for 60% state building aid up to $9.9 million dollars of building aid. Our School Board and District Building Committee, in conjunction with our architectural firm, created a modest design including HS classrooms and labs and our integrated North Point CTE Center on the same campus as the elementary school.

Our committee and a parent support group initiated a community information campaign. Colebrook is a small town with a low net assessed valuation of just over $193,000. The school district includes one Pk-12 School of 320 students housed in the elementary school as well as tuitioned students from six towns in the surrounding area. Our high school students transitioned to the elementary school when the Academy closed in 2019. The North Point CTE Center was approved in 2022. We need a replacement for the Colebrook Academy and the tech building.

The project includes a building addition of 28,300 square feet and renovation of 7,700 square feet. Renovation includes conversion of existing administrative spaces to classrooms, and locker rooms. The addition includes a health science lab, computer technology center, automotive technology bays and classroom, woodworking and welding areas, culinary kitchen and serving area, an administrative area and a new high school gym. Site development costs associated with the building addition, utility work, parking area and landscaping, as well as contingency funds were also included.

Charles Dickens, in the Tale of Two Cities, expresses our circumstances well.
"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us.. . ."

With inflation higher than in a generation, school taxes increasing due to reduced revenue, higher personnel and operating costs, our community expressed grave concern about the timing of the additional increased taxes that would be required as local match to the state building aid. In order to receive up to $10,000,000. (60% of the total cost) from the Building Aid Grant, the town had to make the local contribution of $6,500,000 (40% of the total cost). To accomplish this, a bond needed to be approved at the projected 5.25% interest rate. The annual cost to our taxpayers for the local contribution is $4.00 per thousand. Despite these challenges, However, many in our community were dazzled by the bright future the school addition would provide for the children in our community.

"I see a beautiful city and brilliant people rising from this abyss, and, in their struggles to be truly free, in their triumphs and defeats, through long years to come..."

Then on February 7, a generous donor offered $2 million dollars to offset the local taxpayers' cost for the building project. His generosity is unparalleled. Next a local general contractor offered to construct the building at a substantially reduced price, resulting in a reduction of $1.5 million in project costs while maintaining all aspects of the proposed project. Then, the Northern Borders Regional Commission informed us that we were eligible for a $1 million grant. On March 1 an additional 0.8 million dollars was offered by the donor.

However, unlike CTE building aid (75% aid / 25% match from any source), 198:15 E prohibits building aid recipients from contributing to the local match. The language is also contained in the proposed legislation HB 452 which states:

(4) Funds received from charitable trusts, bequests, gifts, insurance policies, federal grants, or grants from other state programs shall be subtracted from total project costs when computing grants under this paragraph.

Earlier this week, our legislative body, aware of the project budget and donation, failed to reach the 3/5 majority required to pass the bond. IF donations and grants could be directly applied to reduce the local contribution as it is in the case of CTE building aid, the tax burden would have been decreased substantially for the Colebrook Community.

Our community is proud, hardworking, and devoted to our children. However, they have reached their economic limit - through their vote on Tuesday, they expressed their inability to pay for the bond - their local contribution. Colebrook School District is located in far northern Coos County, a depressed community. Our children deserve the same facilities and educational opportunities our richest communities provide.

Colebrook citizens support their schools as evidenced by many years of passage of school budgets. We need your support to accept this bond and allow Colebrook students to grow and thrive now and in the future.

Our Request:

Please strike the language of this bill:

(4) Funds received from charitable trusts, bequests, gifts, insurance policies, federal grants, or grants from other state programs shall be subtracted from total project costs when computing grants under this paragraph.

OR

If you feel that is a bridge too far, consider adding a provision that waives the requirement for school districts eligible for 60% building aid to apply donations and grants directly toward the local contribution, after the building grant is calculated.

OR

Lastly, if you cannot support the above options, I request that Colebrook School District be identified specifically as exempt from this provision.

"It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done." Help us do this better thing - the right thing- for our children. The community of Colebrook needs your assistance, Colebrook children deserve your support. We are proud and hardworking. We need your support to build our high school and CTE Center. With the stroke of a pen, you will enable us to build our new school and CTE center in Colebrook School District and positively affect future generations in Colebrook and the North Country for years to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.

If you have any questions or require additional information, I can be reached at 603-237-5571 Ext 4105 or via email: dtaylor@sau7.org.

Voting Sheets

Senate Education Committee
EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD
2023-2024 Session

Bill # HB 452

Hearing date: 4/4

Executive Session date: 4/4

Motion of: OTP **Vote:** 5-0

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Ward, Chair				X	
Sen. Gendreau, Vice Chair			X	X	
Sen. Lang		X		X	
Sen. Prentiss				X	
Sen. Fenton				X	

Motion of: CONSENT **Vote:** 5-0

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Ward, Chair				X	
Sen. Gendreau, Vice Chair				X	
Sen. Lang		X		X	
Sen. Prentiss				X	
Sen. Fenton			X	X	

Motion of: _____ **Vote:** _____

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Ward, Chair					
Sen. Gendreau, Vice Chair					
Sen. Lang					
Sen. Prentiss					
Sen. Fenton					

Reported out by: Sen. Prentiss

Notes: _____

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

THE COMMITTEE ON Education

to which was referred **HB 452**

AN ACT relative to the department of education procedures for school building aid applications.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

Senator Suzanne Prentiss
For the Committee

HB 452 would modify the school building aid application process. Specifically, the timeline and sequence of events that composed the application and approval procedure would be adjusted. Under HB 452, building aid applications would be considered annually, as opposed to biennially. Additionally, the ranking process and subsequent town vote would occur following approval of the state budget; traditionally, this was done prior to budgetary approval. Finally, HB 452 would also ensure that charitable contributions towards building aid were no longer subtracted from total project costs.

Peter Mulvey 271-4063

FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

EDUCATION

HB 452, relative to the department of education procedures for school building aid applications.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.
Senator Suzanne Prentiss for the committee.

HB 452 would modify the school building aid application process. Specifically, the timeline and sequence of events that composed the application and approval procedure would be adjusted. Under HB 452, building aid applications would be considered annually, as opposed to biennially. Additionally, the ranking process and subsequent town vote would occur following approval of the state budget; traditionally, this was done prior to budgetary approval. Finally, HB 452 would also ensure that charitable contributions towards building aid were no longer subtracted from total project costs.

General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

Docket of HB452

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: relative to the department of education procedures for school building aid applications.

Official Docket of **HB452.**:

Date	Body	Description
1/11/2023	H	**Introduced** (in recess of) 01/05/2023 and referred to Education **HJ 3** P. 16
1/31/2023	H	Public Hearing: 02/08/2023 01:00 pm LOB 205-207
2/8/2023	H	Executive Session: 02/15/2023 09:00 am LOB 205-207
3/1/2023	H	Subcommittee Work Session: 03/10/2023 09:30 am LOB 205-207
3/1/2023	H	Executive Session: 03/15/2023 09:30 am LOB 205-207
3/16/2023	H	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment **#2023-1017h** 03/15/2023 (Vote 20-0; CC) **HC 16** P. 7
3/22/2023	H	Amendment **#2023-1017h**: AA VV 03/22/2023 **HJ 10**
3/22/2023	H	**Ought to Pass with Amendment** 2023-1017h: MA VV 03/22/2023 **HJ 10**
3/24/2023	S	Introduced 03/23/2023 and Referred to Education; **SJ 12**
3/28/2023	S	**Hearing:** 04/04/2023, Room 101, LOB, 09:45 am; **SC 16**
4/5/2023	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass, 04/13/2023; Vote 5-0; CC; **SC 17**
4/13/2023	S	**Ought to Pass**: MA, VV; OT3rdg; 04/13/2023; **SJ 13**
5/12/2023	S	Enrolled Adopted, VV, (In recess 05/11/2023); **SJ 15**
5/15/2023	H	Enrolled (in recess of) 05/04/2023
5/19/2023	H	Signed by Governor Sununu 05/17/2023; Chapter 35; Eff: 07/01/2023

NH House	NH Senate

Other Referrals

Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: HB 452 **Senate Committee:** Education

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

X Final docket found on Bill Status

Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides}

X Bill version as it came to the committee
X All Calendar Notices
X Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)
X Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing
X Hearing Report
X Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

Committee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

___ - amendment #_____ ___ - amendment #_____
___ - amendment #_____ ___ - amendment #_____

X Executive Session Sheet
X Committee Report

Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

___ - amendment #_____ ___ - amendment #_____
___ - amendment #_____ ___ - amendment #_____

Post Floor Action: (if applicable) {Clerk's Office}

___ Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):
___ Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)
___ Governor's Veto Message

All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}

___ as amended by the senate ___ as amended by the house
___ final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

_____ 7-31-23
Committee Aide **Date**

Senate Clerk's Office _____