HB 1570-FN-A-LOCAL - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

8Feb2024... 0336h
11Apr2024... 1037h

2024 SESSION

24-2114
02/10

HOUSE BILL ***1570-FN-A-LOCAL***

AN ACT requiring the department of education to conduct a facility assessment of public schools and public chartered schools.

SPONSORS: Rep. Ladd, Graf. 5

COMMITTEE: Education

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill directs the department of education to contract with a vendor to conduct a facility assessment of public schools and public chartered schools and directs the department to request additional funding for this purpose.

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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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Four

AN ACT requiring the department of education to conduct a facility assessment of public schools and public chartered schools.

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

1 Grant for School Construction; Facility Assessment Required. Amend RSA 198:15-a, V to read as follows:

V.***(a)*** The department of education shall develop and maintain a 10-year school facilities plan of potential school building grant projects. Potential projects shall include, but not be limited to, criteria pursuant to RSA 198:15-c, II(b). The 10-year plan is intended to create a method to identify and enhance school facilities in a safe, healthy, and efficient manner while providing adequate learning environments for New Hampshire's students. The 10-year plan shall be updated every biennium to provide the department a summary of projects and school facility capital expenditures that are anticipated for the next 10 years. The plan shall identify new construction, renovation, and emergency projects, and describe the overall condition of projects contained in the plan. In support of the 10-year plan, it is recommended that each district have in place and provide the department a long-range capital improvement program that identifies school facility goals, provides projected expenditures, and outlines procedures and guidelines to be followed to accomplish goals. Each district is encouraged to review and update the district's anticipated school facility capital improvement plan on a 2-year recurring basis or as needed. The department shall use this information to better plan, prioritize, and project new anticipated capital construction and renovation expenditures relative to the state building aid program. The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A relative to this paragraph.

(b) To comply with requirements in subparagraph V(a), the department of education shall contract with a vendor to conduct a facility assessment of public schools and chartered public schools, and to create a ranked list of schools most in need of construction or renovation. The contractor will be selected through the statewide contracting process, pursuant to RSA 4:15.

2 Appropriations.

I. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the commissioner of education may request the fiscal committee of the general court authorize additional funding for the purpose of meeting the requirements of RSA 198:15-a, V(a) and (b), relative to contracting with an outside vendor to conduct a facility assessment of public schools and public chartered schools, and to create a ranked list of schools most in need of construction or renovation. Amounts requested under this paragraph shall be

a charge to the education trust fund. For funds requested and approved, the governor is authorized to draw a warrant from any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

II. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each year thereafter, the department may include in its efficiency expenditure request under RSA 9:4 sufficient funds for the continued cost of complying with the provisions of RSA 198:15-a, V(a) and (b).

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

LBA
24-2114
Amended 5/13/24

HB 1570-FN-A-LOCAL- FISCAL NOTE

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2024-1037h)

AN ACT requiring the department of education to conduct a facility assessment of public schools and public chartered schools.

FISCAL IMPACT: [X] State [ ] County [ ] Local [ ] None

Estimated State Impact - Increase / (Decrease)				
	FY 2024	**FY 2025**	**FY 2026**	**FY 2027**
Revenue	$0	$0	$0	$0
Revenue Fund(s)	None			
Expenditures	$0	Initial cost estimated to be between $5,000,000 and $10,000,000, with ongoing costs estimated to be between $250,000 and $500,000 per year		
Funding Source(s)	Education Trust Fund			
Appropriations	$0	Authorization to Request Funds Through the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee	$0	$0
Funding Source(s)	Education Trust Fund			

- Does this bill provide sufficient funding to cover estimated expenditures? [X] See Below
- Does this bill authorize new positions to implement this bill? [X] N/A

METHODOLOGY:

Under current law (RSA 195:15-a, V), the Department of Education is required to develop and maintain a 10-year school facilities plan of potential school building grant projects. This bill requires the Department to comply with RSA 198:15-a, V, by contracting with an outside vendor to conduct a facility assessment of public schools and chartered public schools, and to create a ranked list of schools most in need of construction or renovation. This bill also permits the Department to request funding from the education trust fund through the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee, in FY 2025 only, with the expectation that funding in FY 2026 and beyond would be considered as part of the state operating budget process. The Department states the initial assessment could cost anywhere between $5,000,000 and $10,000,000, and an additional $250,000 to $500,000 in each year thereafter to update.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Education