



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Bill No. 5524

LCO No. 6080



Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

REP. RITTER M., 1st Dist.

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

REP. ROJAS, 9th Dist.

SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE
AND CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO STATE AND
MUNICIPAL TAX ADMINISTRATION, GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND
SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) The State Bond Commission shall
2 have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section and
3 sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act, from time to time to authorize the
4 issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal
5 amounts in the aggregate not exceeding \$100,100,000.

6 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) The proceeds of the sale of bonds
7 described in sections 1 to 7, inclusive, of this act, to the extent hereinafter
8 stated, shall be used for the purpose of acquiring, by purchase or
9 condemnation, undertaking, constructing, reconstructing, improving or
10 equipping, or purchasing land or buildings or improving sites for the

6350 Sec. 100. Section 10-292v of the general statutes is repealed and the
6351 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

6352 Any school building committee established by a town or regional
6353 school district to undertake a school building project, as defined in
6354 section 10-282, shall include (1) at least one member who has experience
6355 in the construction industry, and (2) the chairperson of the local or
6356 regional board of education, or the chairperson's designee, for the school
6357 district of such school building project.

6358 Sec. 169. Section 10-265r of the 2024 supplement to the general
6359 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
6360 (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

6361 (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year
6362 thereafter, the Department of Administrative Services shall administer
6363 a heating, ventilation and air conditioning system grant program to
6364 reimburse local and regional boards of education, regional educational
6365 service centers, incorporated or endowed high schools or academies
6366 approved by the State Board of Education, pursuant to section 10-34,
6367 and state charter schools for costs associated with projects for the
6368 installation, replacement or upgrading of heating, ventilation and air
6369 conditioning systems or other improvements to indoor air quality in
6370 school buildings.

6371 (b) (1) A local or regional board of education, [or a] regional
6372 educational service center, incorporated or endowed high school or
6373 academy or state charter school may apply, at such time and in such
6374 manner as the Commissioner of Administrative Services prescribes, for
6375 a grant for a project involving the installation, replacement or upgrading
6376 of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems or other
6377 improvements to indoor air quality in school buildings. A local or
6378 regional board of education may submit an application for any such
6379 project that (A) was commenced on or after March 1, 2020, and

CHAPTER 173*

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS

Sec. 10-282. Definitions. As used in this chapter, section 10-65 and section 10-76e:

(1) "Elementary school building" means any public school building designed to house any combination of grades below grade seven or children requiring special education who are described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 10-76d;

(2) "Secondary school building" means any public school building designed to house any combination of grades seven through twelve or any regional agricultural science and technology education center established under the provisions of part IV of chapter 164, and may also include any separate combination of grades five and six or grade six with grades seven and eight in a program approved by the State Board of Education when the use of special facilities generally associated with secondary schools is an essential part of the program for all grades included in such school;

(3) "School building project", except as used in section 10-289, means (A) the construction, purchase, extension, replacement, renovation or major alteration of a building to be used for public school purposes, including the equipping and furnishing of any such construction, purchase, extension, replacement, renovation or major alteration, the improvement of land therefor, or the improvement of the site of an existing building for public school purposes, but shall not include the cost of a site, except as provided in subsection (b) of section 10-286d; (B) the construction and equipping and furnishing of any such construction of any building which the towns of Norwich, Winchester and Woodstock may provide by lease or otherwise for use by the Norwich Free Academy, Gilbert School and Woodstock Academy, respectively, in furnishing education for public school pupils under the provisions of section 10-34; and (C) the addition to, renovation of and equipping and furnishing of any such addition to or renovation of any building which may be leased, upon the approval of the Commissioner of Education or the Commissioner of Administrative Services, to any local or regional board of education for a term of twenty years or more for use by such local or regional board in furnishing education of public school pupils;

(4) "Extension" of an existing school building means the addition to an existing building or remaining portion of an existing building damaged by fire, flood or other natural catastrophe, or the erection of a new structure or group of structures on the same site which, together with the existing building, is designed to house pupils in an educational program under the supervision of one school principal;

- (5) "Replacement" of a school building means the erection of a new structure on the same or another site to replace a school building totally destroyed by fire, flood or other natural catastrophe or one to be abandoned for school use upon completion of its replacement;
- (6) "Major alteration" means a capital improvement of an existing building, the total project costs of which exceed ten thousand dollars except for projects approved pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-65, for public school purposes resulting in improved educational conditions;
- (7) "Code violation" means the correction of any condition in an existing building for public school purposes, the total project costs of which exceed ten thousand dollars, and which condition is in violation of the requirements of the State Building, Fire Safety or Public Health Codes, state or federal Occupational, Safety and Health Administration Codes, federal or state accessibility requirements or regulations of the federal Environmental Protection Agency or the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, state Department of Public Health regulations for radon or federal standards for lead contamination in school drinking water;
- (8) "Completed school building project" means a school building project declared complete by the applicant board of education as of the date shown on the final application for grant payment purposes as submitted by said board to the Commissioner of Administrative Services or an agent of the commissioner;
- (9) "Date of beginning of construction" means the date on which the general construction contract or the first phase thereof, purchase agreement or leasing agreement is signed by the authorized agent of the town or regional school district;
- (10) "Standards" means architectural, engineering and education space specifications and standards for facility eligibility;
- (11) "Application" or "grant application" means formal notification of intention to apply for a state grant-in-aid for a particular school building project;
- (12) "Net eligible costs" means eligible project costs adjusted for the state standard education space specifications;
- (13) "Regional educational service center" means a body corporate and politic established pursuant to the provisions of part IVa of chapter 164;
- (14) "Regional educational service center administrative or service facility" means a building designed for administrative offices or residential facilities, operated by a regional educational service center;

(15) "Agricultural science and technology education" includes vocational aquaculture and marine-related employment;

(16) "Bonds or municipal bonds", except as used in section 10-289, means (A) any bond, note, certificate or other evidence of indebtedness, and (B) any energy conservation lease purchase agreement;

(17) "Energy conservation lease purchase agreement" means any lease purchase agreement, installment sale agreement or other similar agreement providing for periodic payments by a town or regional school district which (A) has as its purpose the financing of a school building project concerning energy conservation, (B) separately states the principal and interest components of the periodic payments to be made under the agreement, and (C) provides that the town or regional school district acquire title to the school building project upon payment of the total amount outstanding under the agreement;

(18) "Renovation" means a school building project to refurbish an existing building that was not renovated in accordance with this subdivision during the twenty-year period ending on the date of application, and of which not less than seventy-five per cent of the facility to be renovated is at least twenty years old, and that results in at least fifty-five per cent of the square footage of the completed building project being so renovated and the entire completed project having a useful life comparable to that of a new construction, and for which the total project costs of the renovation are less than the total project costs of a new construction;

(19) "Certified school indoor air quality emergency" means the existence of a building condition determined by the Department of Public Health to present a substantial and imminent adverse health risk that requires remediation in an amount greater than one hundred thousand dollars;

(20) "Turn-key purchase" means the purchase of a facility that a party has agreed to construct or renovate and deliver as fully completed in accordance with an agreement between that party and a purchasing school district.

Sec. 10-292q. School Building Projects Advisory Council. (a) There is established a School Building Projects Advisory Council. The council shall consist of: (1) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, (2) the Commissioner of Administrative Services, or the commissioner's designee, (3) the Commissioner of

Education, or the commissioner's designee, and (4) six members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a person with experience in school building project matters, one of whom shall be a person with experience in architecture, one of whom shall be a person with experience in engineering, one of whom shall be a person with experience in school safety, one of whom shall be a person with experience with the administration of the State Building Code, and one of whom shall be a person with experience and expertise in construction for students with disabilities and the accessibility provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC 12101 et seq. The chairperson of the council shall be the Commissioner of Administrative Services, or the commissioner's designee. A person employed by the Department of Administrative Services who is responsible for school building projects shall serve as the administrative staff of the council. The council shall meet at least quarterly to discuss matters relating to school building projects.

(b) The School Building Projects Advisory Council shall (1) develop model blueprints for new school building projects that are in accordance with industry standards for school buildings and the school safety infrastructure criteria, developed pursuant to section 10-292r, (2) conduct studies, research and analyses, (3) make recommendations for improvements to the school building projects processes to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, education and finance, revenue and bonding, and (4) periodically review and update, as necessary, the school safety infrastructure criteria developed pursuant to section 10-292r.