



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 569**

January Session, 2023

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1198

*Senate, April 13, 2023*

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. MCCRORY, D. of the 2nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOOL INDOOR AIR QUALITY WORKING GROUP.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 370 of public act 22-118 is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There is established a working group to study and make  
4 recommendations related to indoor air quality within school buildings.  
5 Such recommendations shall include, but need not be limited to:

6 (1) The optimal humidity and temperature ranges to ensure healthy  
7 air and promote student learning;

8 (2) Threshold school air quality emergency conditions warranting  
9 temporary school closures based on the presence of insufficient heat, an  
10 excessive combination of indoor temperature and humidity levels, or  
11 some other thresholds;

12 (3) Criteria for rating the priority of heating, ventilation and air

13 conditioning repair and remediation needs, including the public health  
14 condition and needs of the students attending a school;

15 (4) Optimal heating, ventilation and air conditioning system  
16 performance benchmarks for minimizing the spread of infectious  
17 disease;

18 (5) Protocols to be used by school districts to receive, investigate and  
19 address complaints or evidence of mold, pest infestation, hazardous  
20 odors or chemicals and poor indoor air-quality;

21 (6) The frequency with which local and regional boards of education  
22 should be providing for a uniform inspection and evaluation program  
23 of the indoor air quality within school buildings, such as the  
24 Environmental Protection Agency's Indoor Air Quality Tools for  
25 Schools Program, and whether such program should be provided for at  
26 all schools or only at those constructed before or after a certain date;

27 (7) Best practices for the proper maintenance of heating, ventilation  
28 and air conditions systems in school buildings, including the frequency  
29 and scope of such maintenance;

30 (8) A system of equitable distribution of funds, based on need, under  
31 the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system grant program  
32 pursuant to section 10-265r of the general statutes;

33 [(8)] (9) Any other criteria affecting school indoor air quality; and

34 [(9)] (10) Proposals for legislation to carry out any of the  
35 recommendations of the working group.

36 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

37 (1) Three appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one  
38 of whom is a representative of ConnectiCOSH, one of whom is a  
39 representative of the Associated Sheet Metal and Roofing Contractors of  
40 Connecticut, and one of whom is a member of the Senate;

41 (2) Three appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,

42 one of whom is a specialist in the field of children's health, one of whom  
43 [shall] is a representative of the Connecticut State Building Trades  
44 Council, and one of whom is a member of the House of Representatives;

45 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom  
46 is a representative of the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut  
47 and one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of  
48 Public School Superintendents;

49 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
50 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut  
51 Education Association and one of whom is a representative of the  
52 Connecticut Association of Boards of Education;

53 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom  
54 is a specialist in the field of medicine on respiratory health and one of  
55 whom is a representative of the Council of Small Towns;

56 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House, one of whom  
57 is an industrial hygienist and one of whom is a representative of the  
58 Mechanical Contractors of Connecticut;

59 (7) Two appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a school nurse  
60 and one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Conference of  
61 Municipalities;

62 (8) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the  
63 Secretary's designee;

64 (9) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

65 (10) The Commissioner of Administrative Services, or the  
66 commissioner's designee;

67 (11) The Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;

68 (12) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's  
69 designee;

70 (13) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the  
71 commissioner's designee; and

72 (14) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or  
73 the commissioner's designee.

74 (c) All appointments to the working group shall be made not later  
75 than sixty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
76 be filled by the appointing authority.

77 (d) The member of the Senate appointed by the president pro  
78 tempore of the Senate pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of  
79 this section and the member of the House of Representative appointed  
80 by the speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to subdivision  
81 (2) of subsection (b) of this section shall serve as the chairpersons of the  
82 working group. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the  
83 working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the  
84 effective date of this section.

85 (e) Not later than [January 4, 2023] July 1, 2024, the working group  
86 shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the  
87 Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
88 having cognizance of matters relating to education, labor and public  
89 health, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
90 statutes. The working group shall terminate on [January 4, 2023] July 1,  
91 2024, or on the submission of the report, whichever is later.

92 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Department of  
93 Administrative Services shall establish and maintain a single electronic  
94 portal available on the Internet and located on the department's Internet  
95 web site for the purpose of receiving and posting the report and results  
96 of an inspection and evaluation of the indoor air quality and the heating,  
97 ventilation and air conditioning system of a school building conducted  
98 pursuant to subsection (d) of section 10-220 of the general statutes, as  
99 amended by this act. Such electronic portal shall be known as the School  
100 Indoor Air Quality and HVAC Portal.

101 (b) The department shall prescribe the form and manner in which a  
102 local or regional board of education shall submit the report and results  
103 of an inspection and evaluation of the indoor air quality and the heating,  
104 ventilation and air conditioning system of a school building. The  
105 department may consult with representatives from the indoor air  
106 quality and heating, ventilation and air conditioning industry to  
107 develop a standard reporting form for the electronic portal.

108 (c) The School Indoor Air Quality and HVAC Portal shall include, but  
109 need not be limited to: (1) The standard reporting form developed  
110 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and instructions for the  
111 submission of such form and the report and results of an inspection and  
112 evaluation of the indoor air quality and the heating, ventilation and air  
113 conditioning system of a school building, (2) a searchable database of  
114 the reports and results of such inspections and evaluations, and (3)  
115 aggregated data of such results.

116 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 10-220 of the general statutes is  
117 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
118 *2023*):

119 (d) (1) As used in this subsection:

120 (A) "Certified testing, adjusting and balancing technician" means a  
121 technician certified to perform testing, adjusting and balancing of  
122 heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems by the Associated Air  
123 Balance Council, the National Environmental Balancing Bureau or the  
124 Testing, Adjusting and Balancing Bureau, or an individual training  
125 under the supervision of a Testing, Adjusting and Balancing Bureau  
126 certified technician or a person certified to perform ventilation  
127 assessments of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems  
128 through a certification body accredited by the American National  
129 Standards Institute;

130 (B) "Heating, ventilation and air conditioning system" means the  
131 equipment, distribution network, controls and terminals that provide,  
132 either collectively or individually, heating, ventilation or air

133 conditioning to a building; and

134 (C) "Indoor air quality" has the same meaning as used by the United  
135 States Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health  
136 Administration Standard Number 1910.1000 "OSHA Policy on Indoor  
137 Air Quality".

138 (2) [Prior to January 1, 2008, and every three years] On and after  
139 January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, for every school building that  
140 is or has been constructed, extended, renovated or replaced on or after  
141 January 1, 2003, a local or regional board of education shall provide for  
142 a uniform inspection and evaluation program of the indoor air quality  
143 within such buildings [, such as] using the Environmental Protection  
144 Agency's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program. The inspection  
145 and evaluation program shall include, but not be limited to, a review,  
146 inspection or evaluation of the following: (A) The heating, ventilation  
147 and air conditioning systems; (B) radon levels in the air; (C) potential for  
148 exposure to microbiological airborne particles, including, but not  
149 limited to, fungi, mold and bacteria; (D) chemical compounds of concern  
150 to indoor air quality including, but not limited to, volatile organic  
151 compounds; (E) the degree of pest infestation, including, but not limited  
152 to, insects and rodents; (F) the degree of pesticide usage; (G) the  
153 presence of and the plans for removal of any hazardous substances that  
154 are contained on the list prepared pursuant to Section 302 of the federal  
155 Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, 42 USC 9601  
156 et seq.; (H) ventilation systems; (I) plumbing, including water  
157 distribution systems, drainage systems and fixtures; (J) moisture  
158 incursion; (K) the overall cleanliness of the facilities; (L) building  
159 structural elements, including, but not limited to, roofing, basements or  
160 slabs; (M) the use of space, particularly areas that were designed to be  
161 unoccupied; and (N) the provision of indoor air quality maintenance  
162 training for building staff. Local and regional boards of education  
163 conducting evaluations pursuant to this subsection shall (i) make  
164 available for public inspection the results of the inspection and  
165 evaluation at a regularly scheduled board of education meeting and on  
166 the board's or each individual school's web site, and (ii) submit the

167 report and results of such inspection and evaluation to the Department  
168 of Administrative Services in accordance with the provisions of section  
169 2 of this act.

170 (3) Prior to January 1, [2024] 2025, and every five years thereafter, a  
171 local or regional board of education shall provide for a uniform  
172 inspection and evaluation of the heating, ventilation and air  
173 conditioning system within each school building under its jurisdiction.  
174 Such inspection and evaluation shall be performed by a certified testing,  
175 adjusting and balancing technician, an industrial hygienist certified by  
176 the American Board of Industrial Hygiene or the Board for Global EHS  
177 Credentialing, or a mechanical engineer. Such heating, ventilation and  
178 air conditioning systems inspection and evaluation shall include, but  
179 need not be limited to: (A) Testing for maximum filter efficiency, (B)  
180 physical measurements of outside air delivery rate, (C) verification of  
181 the appropriate condition and operation of ventilation components, (D)  
182 measurement of air distribution through all system inlets and outlets,  
183 (E) verification of unit operation and that required maintenance has  
184 been performed in accordance with the most recent indoor ventilation  
185 standards promulgated by the American Society of Heating,  
186 Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, (F) verification of control  
187 sequences, (G) verification of carbon dioxide sensors and acceptable  
188 carbon dioxide concentrations indoors, and (H) collection of field data  
189 for the installation of mechanical ventilation if none exist. The  
190 ventilation systems inspection and evaluation shall identify to what  
191 extent each school's current ventilation system components, including  
192 any existing central or noncentral mechanical ventilation system, are  
193 operating in such a manner as to provide appropriate ventilation to the  
194 school building in accordance with most recent indoor ventilation  
195 standards promulgated by the American Society of Heating,  
196 Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers. The inspection and  
197 evaluation shall result in a written report, and such report shall include  
198 any corrective actions necessary to be performed to the mechanical  
199 ventilation system or the heating, ventilation and air conditioning  
200 infrastructure, including installation of filters meeting the most optimal  
201 level of filtration available for a given heating, ventilation and air

202 conditioning system, installation of carbon dioxide sensors and  
203 additional maintenance, repairs, upgrades or replacement. Any such  
204 corrective actions shall be performed, where appropriate, by a  
205 contractor, who is licensed in accordance with chapter 393. Any local or  
206 regional board of education conducting an inspection and evaluations  
207 pursuant to this subsection shall (i) make available for public inspection  
208 the results of such inspection and evaluation at a regularly scheduled  
209 meeting of such board and on the Internet web site of such board and  
210 on the Internet web site, if any, of each individual school, and (ii) submit  
211 the report and results of such inspection and evaluation to the  
212 Department of Administrative Services in accordance with the  
213 provisions of section 2 of this act. A local or regional board of education  
214 shall not be required to provide for a uniform inspection and evaluation  
215 under this subdivision for any school building that will cease to be used  
216 as a school building within the three years from when such inspection  
217 and evaluation is to be performed. The Department of Administrative  
218 Services may, upon request of a local or regional board of education,  
219 grant a waiver of the January 1, 2025, deadline for the provision of a  
220 uniform inspection and evaluation under this subdivision if the  
221 department finds that (I) there is an insufficient number of certified  
222 testing, adjusting and balancing technicians, industrial hygienists  
223 certified by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene or the Board for  
224 Global EHS Credentialing or mechanical engineers to perform such  
225 inspection and evaluation, (II) such board has provided for an  
226 inspection that was performed in a different format, but is deemed  
227 equivalent by the department, or (III) such board has scheduled such  
228 inspection and evaluation for a date after January 1, 2025.

229 Sec. 4. Section 10-265t of the general statutes is repealed and the  
230 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

231 (a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the  
232 State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to  
233 authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in  
234 principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [seventy-five million  
235 dollars] three hundred seventy-five million dollars, one hundred fifty



236 million dollars of which shall be effective July 1, 2024.

237 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the amount  
238 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department  
239 of Administrative Services for the purpose of providing grants-in-aid  
240 for school air quality improvements [including, but not limited to,  
241 upgrades to, replacement of or installation of heating, ventilation and  
242 air conditioning equipment] under the heating, ventilation and air  
243 conditioning system grant program pursuant to section 10-265r,  
244 provided not more than fifty million dollars of such proceeds may be  
245 used to provide reimbursements for such improvements that were  
246 completed not earlier than March 1, 2020, and not later than July 1, 2022.

247 (c) All provisions of section 3-20, or the exercise of any right or power  
248 granted thereby, which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this  
249 section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by  
250 the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section, and temporary  
251 notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any  
252 such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with said section  
253 3-20 and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such  
254 time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as  
255 may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the  
256 State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds  
257 shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond  
258 Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such  
259 authorization which is signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the  
260 Office of Policy and Management and states such terms and conditions  
261 as said commission, in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued  
262 pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the  
263 full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the  
264 payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same  
265 become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with  
266 the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for  
267 punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and  
268 the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same  
269 become due.

270       Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) On or before July 1, 2024, the  
 271 Commissioner of Public Health shall develop guidelines regarding the  
 272 establishment of an optimal thermal comfort range of sixty-five to  
 273 eighty degrees Fahrenheit for school buildings and facilities, except that  
 274 gymnasiums and natatoriums may have a larger optimal thermal  
 275 comfort range.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	PA 22-118, Sec. 370
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-220(d)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-265t
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 4(a), "provided one hundred fifty million dollars of said authorization" was changed to "one hundred fifty million dollars of which", for proper form.

**ED**       *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$	Out Years \$
Treasurer, Debt Serv.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below	465.4 million total
Department of Administrative Services	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE <sup>1</sup> - Cost	See Below	See Below

**Explanation**

The bill, which makes changes to various school air quality-related programs, results in the following impacts to the state and municipalities:

**Section 1** makes changes to the school indoor air quality working group and has no fiscal impact.

**Section 2** results in costs to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to create the School Indoor Air Quality and HVAC

<sup>1</sup> State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

Portal. The estimated costs include initial startup costs to create the portal and ongoing costs including software licensing and maintenance of the portal. The costs may be reduced to the extent DAS is able to complete and maintain the portal leveraging existing resources within DAS.

**Section 3** results in an annual cost beginning in FY 24 to local and regional school districts to test indoor air quality in certain schools annually, rather than every three years. Such costs are anticipated to be no more than \$2,500 per inspection per school. The bill will triple each district's current inspection costs (unless the district is testing more frequently than currently required). Additionally, should the inspection results call for corrective actions, then there are potential costs to districts, which may in some cases be significant depending on the corrective actions needed. The costs are anticipated to vary widely among districts.

The bill also delays, from FY 24 to FY 25, the first year in which districts are required to test the HVAC system in each school, and allows districts to receive a waiver from the FY 25 deadline in certain circumstances. These provisions potentially change the timing in which districts will incur costs to test and upgrade their HVAC systems, but do not change the overall cost of doing so.

**Section 4** authorizes \$300 million in General Obligation bonds (\$150 million in each of FY 24 and FY 25) for the school air quality grant program, to be administered by the Department of Administrative Services. To the extent bonds are fully allocated and expended, total debt service is expected to be approximately \$465.4 million over the 20-year duration of the bonds.

**Section 5**, which requires the Department of Public Health to develop guidelines on optimal thermal comfort for school buildings and facilities, does not result in a fiscal impact to the agency.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the terms of any bonds issued.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 1198*****AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOOL INDOOR AIR QUALITY WORKING GROUP.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires school districts to do more frequent inspections and evaluations of public-school indoor air quality and to submit the inspection results to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), which must post them on a new air quality inspection portal the bill requires DAS to create. Under current law, these inspections must be done every three years for any school constructed, extended, renovated, or replaced on or after January 1, 2003. The bill instead requires they be done annually beginning January 1, 2024.

It also gives school districts more time to do a less frequent heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system (HVAC) inspection that must be done by a certified technician, certified industrial hygienist, or a mechanical engineer. Current law requires these inspections to be done prior to January 1, 2024, and every five years after that. The bill moves the deadline to January 1, 2025, and creates a waiver process for certain situations.

The bill also makes various other changes related to school indoor air quality, including the following:

1. authorizes an additional \$300 million in state bonding to be used for the school HVAC system grant program (§ 4);
2. requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to develop guidelines for an optimal temperature comfort range of 65 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit in school buildings and facilities, but allows gymnasiums and natatoriums to have a larger range (§ 5); and

3. expands the charge of the School Indoor Air Quality Working Group created under PA 22-118 and extends, from January 4, 2023, to July 1, 2024, the deadline by which it must report to the Education, Labor and Public Employees, and Public Health committees (§ 1).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, except that the working group provisions take effect upon passage.

### **§ 3 — AIR QUALITY INSPECTIONS**

#### ***Submitting Results to DAS***

Under the bill, school districts must submit reports and results from each of the following types of inspections to DAS in accordance with the bill (see § 2 below).

#### ***Annual Air Quality Inspection or Evaluation***

Current law requires school districts to do uniform indoor air quality inspections and evaluations every three years for any school built or renovated on or after January 1, 2003, and may do so using the federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Indoor Air Quality Tools for School Program (see BACKGROUND). The bill instead makes the inspections annual and requires, rather than allows, the inspections to use Tools for Schools.

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, the inspection or evaluation must include the following, among other things: HVAC systems; radon levels; potential for exposure to microbiological airborne particles, including fungi, mold, and bacteria; chemical compounds of concern to indoor air quality, including volatile organic compounds; pest infestation, including insects and rodents; the degree of pesticide usage; plumbing, including water distribution and drainage systems, and indoor air quality maintenance training for staff.

By law, the inspection results must be made public at a school board meeting and posted online.

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***HVAC Inspection by Certified Technician or Hygienist or Mechanical Engineer***

The bill extends, from January 1, 2024, to January 1, 2025, the deadline by which school districts must start having HVAC inspections every five years that are done by a certified testing, adjusting, and balancing technician, industrial hygienist certified by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene or the Board for Global EHS Credentialing, or a mechanical engineer.

By law, a “certified testing, adjusting and balancing technician” is (1) a technician certified to do testing, adjusting, and balancing of HVAC systems by the Associated Air Balance Council, the National Environmental Balancing Bureau, or the Testing, Adjusting and Balancing Bureau (TABB) or (2) someone training under the supervision of a (a) TABB-certified technician or (b) person certified to do ventilation assessments of HVAC systems through a certification body accredited by the American National Standards Institute.

***Waiver***

The bill creates a process for DAS to grant waivers of the January 1, 2025, inspection and evaluation deadline. (It does not include a deadline to submit the waiver request or specify for how long the waiver is granted.)

Upon a school board’s request, DAS may waive the deadline if it finds one of the following:

1. there are not enough certified testing, adjusting and balancing technicians, certified industrial hygienists or mechanical engineers to do the inspection and evaluation;
2. the board had an inspection that was done in a different format that DAS deems is equivalent; or
3. the board scheduled the inspection and evaluation for a date after January 1, 2025.



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**§ 2 — SCHOOL INDOOR AIR QUALITY AND HVAC PORTAL**

The bill requires DAS to establish and maintain an online School Indoor Air Quality and HVAC portal to collect and make available reports and results of inspections and evaluations of school indoor air quality and HVAC systems the bill requires.

The department must prescribe how school boards submit the reports and results and may consult with HVAC and indoor air quality industry representatives to help develop a standard reporting form for the portal.

The portal must include (1) the standard reporting form and instructions on how to submit the form with the inspection results, (2) a searchable database of the inspection results, and (3) aggregated data of the results.

**§ 4 — BONDING FOR SCHOOL INDOOR AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS**

The bill increases, from \$75 million to \$375 million, the bond authorization for funding under the HVAC system grant program. It also requires that \$150 million of this authorization take effect July 1, 2024.

Current law requires DAS to use the bond proceeds to provide grants-in-aid for school air quality improvements including upgrading, replacing, or installing HVAC equipment. The bill instead specifies the improvements include those authorized under the HVAC grant program (PA 22-118, § 367, codified at CGS § 10-265r).

**§ 1 — INDOOR AIR QUALITY WORKING GROUP**

PA 22-118 created a 23-member working group on school indoor air quality to study and make recommendations on various related issues, such as (1) optimal temperature ranges to ensure healthy air and promote student learning, (2) emergency air quality conditions that warrant temporary school closures, and (3) best practices for properly maintaining school HVAC systems. For the latter, the bill specifies that its recommendations must also include the frequency and scope of the maintenance.

The bill also requires the working group to study and recommend a needs-based system for equitably distributing funds under the HVAC system grant program for schools.

**BACKGROUND**

***Tools for Schools***

The EPA’s Tools for Schools program helps schools identify and address indoor air quality issues, including using its action kit, which has guidance for existing school staff to do practical inspections and take other steps at little or no cost.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41    Nay 3    (03/24/2023)