

Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-184

AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS
Title: FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS.

Vote Date: 3/23/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/26/2018

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following Joint Favorable Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

SB 184 authorizes the expenditures for state grant commitments for school building projects. This bill includes the DAS school construction priority list of 20 new projects and one change of scope project for a total cost to the state estimated at \$280.6 million out of total costs of \$562.8 million (combined state and local costs).

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Melody A. Currey, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services (DAS):

Commissioner Currey testified on behalf of the Department of Administrative Services stating its support for SB 184. The Commissioner passed out a [cost analysis sheet](#) for 2018 school priority list. * Kosta Diamantis, Director, Office of School Construction Grants & Review, DAS, was present at the public hearing.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Representative Holly Cheeseman, District 37:

Representative Cheeseman stated her support for SB 184. SB 184 will allow all three East Lyme elementary schools which have not had alterations since the 1970s to be upgraded and renovated which will improve safety and security, ADA compliance and “upgrade environmental and air quality systems among other things. Rep. Cheeseman stated that, “Although elementary school enrollment has declined, current enrollment projections indicate a significant increase in the next 5-10 years. In light of this fact and the significant pressures

on both state and town budgets, the decision has been made to upgrade and renovate the existing schools, in lieu of new construction.”

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF SUPPORT

The following individuals and organizations supported the legislation as proposed:

Dr. Christine Carver, Superintendent, Bethel Public Schools:

Dr. Carver stated her support for SB 184. Bethel has two schools which are 47 and 38 years old. Though well maintained, “They contain hazardous material, have deteriorating conditions, are overcrowded and are not suitable for a 21st Century Learning environment.” She stated that the district has “worked with the Office of School Construction to meet all guidelines.”

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Tamara Morris

Date: March 27, 2018