

ARTICLE 9

RELATING TO SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY CAPITAL FUND

SECTION 1. Sections 16-7-41.1 and 16-7-44 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7 entitled "Foundation Level School Support" are hereby amended to read as follows:

16-7-41.1. Eligibility for reimbursement. -- (a) School districts, not municipalities, may apply for and obtain approval for a project under the necessity of school construction process set forth in the regulations of the board of regents for elementary and secondary education, provided, however, in the case of municipality which issues bonds through the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation to finance or refinance school facilities for a school district which is not part of the municipality, the municipality may apply for and obtain approval for a project. Such approval will remain valid until June 30 of the third fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the board of regents for elementary and secondary education's approval is granted. Only those projects undertaken at school facilities under the care and control of the school committee and located on school property may qualify for reimbursement under §§ 16-7-35 -- 16-7-47. Facilities with combined school and municipal uses or facilities that are operated jointly with any other profit or non-profit agency do not qualify for reimbursement under §§ 16-7-35 -- 16-7-47. Projects completed by June 30 of a fiscal year are eligible for reimbursement in the following fiscal year. A project for new school housing or additional housing shall be deemed to be completed when the work has been officially accepted by the school committee or when the housing is occupied for its intended use by the school committee, whichever is earlier.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the board of regents shall not grant final approval for any project between June 30, 2011 and May 1, 2015 except for projects that are necessitated by immediate health and safety reasons. In the event that a project is requested during the moratorium because of immediate health and safety reasons, those proposals shall be reported to the chairs of the house and senate finance committees.

(c) Any project approval granted prior to the adoption of the school construction regulations in 2007, and which are currently inactive; and any project approval granted prior to the adoption of the school construction regulations in 2007 which did not receive voter approval or which has not been previously financed, are no longer eligible for reimbursement under this chapter. The department of elementary and secondary education shall develop recommendations

1 for further cost containment strategies in the school housing aid program.

2 [\(d\) Beginning July 1, 2015, the council on elementary and secondary education shall](#)
3 [approve new necessity of school construction applications on an annual basis. The department of](#)
4 [elementary and secondary education shall develop an annual application timeline for LEAs](#)
5 [seeking new necessity of school construction approvals.](#)

6 **16-7-44. School housing project costs.** – School housing project costs, the date of
7 completion of school housing projects, and the applicable amount of school housing project cost
8 commitments shall be in accordance with the regulations of the commissioner of elementary and
9 secondary education and the provisions of §§ 16-7-35 – 16-7-47; provided, however, that school
10 housing project costs shall include the purchase of sites, buildings, and equipment, the
11 construction of buildings, and additions or renovations of existing buildings and/or facilities.
12 School housing project costs shall include the cost of interest payment on any bond issued after
13 July 1, 1988, provided that such bond is approved by the voters on or before June 30, 2003 or
14 issued by a municipal public building authority or by the appropriate approving authority on or
15 before June 30, 2003. Except as provided in subsection 16-7-41(d), those projects approved after
16 June 30, 2003, interest payments may only be included in project costs provided that the bonds
17 for these projects are issued through the Rhode Island Health, Education and Building
18 Corporation. School housing project costs shall exclude: (1) any bond issuance costs incurred by
19 the municipality or regional school district; (2) demolition costs for buildings, facilities, or sites
20 deemed surplus by the school committee; and (3) restrictions pursuant to § 16-7-44.1 below. A
21 building, facility, or site is declared surplus by a school committee when the committee no longer
22 has such building, facility, or site under its direct care and control and transfers control to the
23 municipality, § 16-2-15. The board of regents for elementary and secondary education will
24 promulgate rules and regulations for the administration of this section. These rules and
25 regulations may provide for the use of lease revenue bonds, capital leases, or capital reserve
26 funding, to finance school housing provided that the term of any bond, or capital lease shall not
27 be longer than the useful life of the project and these instruments are subject to the public review
28 and voter approval otherwise required by law for the issuance of bonds or capital leases. Cities or
29 towns issuing bonds, or leases issued by municipal public buildings authority for the benefit of a
30 local community pursuant to chapter 50 of title 45 shall not require voter approval. Effective
31 January 1, 2008, and except for interim finance mechanisms, refunding bonds, [borrowing from](#)
32 [the school building authority capital fund](#), and bonds issued by the Rhode Island Health and
33 Educational Building Corporation to finance school housing projects for towns, cities, or regional
34 school districts borrowing for which has previously been authorized by an enabling act of the

1 general assembly, all bonds, notes and other forms of indebtedness issued in support of school
2 housing projects shall require passage of an enabling act by the general assembly.

3 SECTION 2. Title 16 of the General Laws entitled "EDUCATION" is hereby amended
4 by adding thereto the following chapter:

5 CHAPTER 105

6 SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY

7 **16-105-1. Legislative findings.** – (a) The state of Rhode Island is committed to providing
8 high quality educational opportunities for all public school students.

9 (b) School facilities provide more than a place for instruction. The physical learning
10 environment contributes to the successful performance of educational programs designed to meet
11 students' educational needs.

12 (c) Every student needs a safe, healthy, and sanitary learning environment that promotes
13 student learning and development.

14 (d) School construction policies should encourage districts to reduce excess capacity
15 through means such as partnering with other districts, closing buildings, and altering grade
16 configurations in certain buildings to maximize the use of square feet.

17 (e) In order to maximize limited state resources, the project prioritization process should
18 focus on projects with the most urgent and immediate need.

19 (f) State funded school construction project financing should transition from a system that
20 largely reimburses local debt service to one that provides a set amount of financing annually, to
21 provide greater stability from a budgetary perspective while guiding limited resources to best use.

22 **16-105-2. School building authority established.** -- The general assembly hereby
23 designates the department of elementary and secondary education as the state's school building
24 authority with the responsibility to implement a system of state funding for school facilities
25 designed to:

26 (1) Promote adequate school housing for all public school children in the state, and

27 (2) Prevent the cost of school housing from interfering with the effective operation of the
28 schools.

29 **16-105-3. Roles and responsibilities.** -- The school building authority roles and
30 responsibilities shall include:

31 (1) Management of a system with the goal of assuring equitable and adequate school
32 housing for all public school children in the state;

33 (2) Prevention of the cost of school housing from interfering with the effective operation
34 of the schools;

- 1 (3) Management of school housing aid in accordance with statute;
- 2 (4) Reviewing and making recommendations to the council on elementary and secondary
3 education on necessity of school construction applications for state school housing aid from the
4 school building authority capital fund, based on the recommendations of the school building
5 authority advisory board;
- 6 (5) Managing and maintaining school construction regulations, standards, and guidelines
7 applicable to the school housing program, based on the recommendations of the school building
8 authority advisory board, created in § 16-105-8;
- 9 (6) Providing technical advice and assistance, training and education to cities, towns,
10 and/or LEAs and to general contractors, subcontractors, construction or project managers,
11 designers and others in planning, maintenance and establishment of school facility space;
- 12 (7) Developing a project priority system, based on the recommendations of the school
13 building authority advisory board, in accordance with school construction regulations for the state
14 school housing aid set forth in §§ 16-7-35 to 16-7-47 and the school building authority capital
15 fund, subject to review and if necessary to be revised on intervals not to exceed five (5) years.
16 Project priorities shall be in accordance with, but not limited to, the following order of priorities:
- 17 (i) Projects to replace or renovate a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in
18 a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative
19 exists;
- 20 (ii) Projects needed to prevent loss of accreditation;
- 21 (iii) Projects needed for the replacement, renovation or modernization of the HVAC
22 system in any schoolhouse to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in
23 said schoolhouse;
- 24 (iv) Projects needed to replace or add to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full
25 range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements; and
- 26 (v) Projects needed to comply with mandatory instructional programs.
- 27 (8) Maintaining a current list of requested school projects and the priority given them;
- 28 (9) Collecting and maintaining readily available data on all the public school facilities in
29 the state;
- 30 (10) Recommending policies and procedures designed to reduce borrowing for school
31 construction programs at both state and local levels;
- 32 (11) At least every five (5) years, conducting a needs survey to ascertain the capital
33 construction, reconstruction, maintenance and other capital needs for schools in each district of
34 the state including public charter schools;

1 (12) Developing a formal enrollment projection model or using projection models already
2 available;

3 (13) Encouraging local education agencies to investigate opportunities for the maximum
4 utilization of space in and around the district;

5 (14) Collecting and maintaining a clearinghouse of prototypical school plans which may
6 be consulted by eligible applicants;

7 (15) By regulation, offering additional incentive points to the school housing aid ratio
8 calculation set forth in § 16-7-39, as the authority, based upon the recommendation of the
9 advisory board, determines will promote the purposes of this chapter. Said regulations may
10 delineate the type and amounts of any such incentive percentage points; provided, however, that
11 no individual category of incentive points shall exceed two (2) additional points; and provided
12 further, that no district shall receive a combined total of more than five (5) incentive percentage
13 points. Such incentive points may be awarded for a district's use of highly efficient construction
14 delivery methods; regionalization with other districts; superior maintenance practices of a district;
15 energy efficient and sustainable design and construction; the use of model schools as adopted by
16 the authority; and other incentives as recommended by the advisory board and determined by the
17 authority to encourage the most cost-effective and quality construction. Notwithstanding any
18 provision of the general laws to the contrary, the reimbursement or aid received under this chapter
19 or § 45-38.2 shall not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the sum of the total project costs
20 plus interest costs.

21 **16-105-4. Funding mechanisms for school facilities. --** The school building authority,
22 within the department shall oversee and manage two distinct funding mechanisms for school
23 facilities: the foundation program for school housing, as set forth in §§ 16-7-35 to 16-7-47, and
24 the school building authority capital fund, as set forth at chapter 38.2 of title 45. The school
25 building authority shall determine the necessity of school construction, establish standards for
26 design and construction of school buildings, ensure that districts have adequate asset protection
27 plans in place to maintain their school facilities, make recommendations to the council on
28 elementary and secondary education for approval of projects for school housing aid
29 reimbursement and establish a project priority list for projects funded by the school building
30 authority capital fund and school housing aid set forth in §§ 16-7-35 to 16-7-47 that shall apply to
31 any projects submitted or reviewed on or after May 1, 2015.

32 **16-105-5. Procedure for school building authority capital fund project approval. --**
33 (a) The department of elementary and secondary education shall promulgate rules and regulations
34 that establish the process through which a city, town, or LEA may submit an application for

1 school building authority capital funding. The department may also prescribe, without limitation,
2 forms for financial assistance applications. All rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this
3 chapter shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of § 42-35-2.2, and shall apply to
4 any projects submitted or reviewed on or after May 1, 2015.

5 (b) As part of the budget process, the governor shall specify the amount included in
6 his/her budget recommendation that the school building authority may commit to new projects in
7 the ensuing fiscal year, as well as any funding pursuant to § 16-105-7. Subsequently, the general
8 assembly shall authorize the maximum amount that the school building authority may commit to
9 new projects in the ensuing fiscal year.

10 (c) Each LEA shall develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive asset protection
11 plan for every school building, not only buildings for which housing aid or school building
12 authority capital funds are sought or received. Only LEAs that have adequate asset protection
13 plans in place to maintain their school facilities are eligible for funding from the school building
14 authority capital fund. LEAs must annually provide asset protection information to the
15 department of elementary and secondary education. If an LEA fails to provide asset protection
16 information in a fiscal year, they are not eligible to receive school building authority capital funds
17 the next fiscal year.

18 (d) Upon issuance of the project priority list, the Rhode Island health and educational
19 building corporation shall award financial assistance to cities, towns, and LEAs for approved
20 projects. The corporation may decline to award financial assistance to an approved project which
21 the corporation determines will have a substantial adverse effect on the interests of holders of
22 bonds or other indebtedness of the corporation or the interests of other participants in the
23 financial assistance program, or for good and sufficient cause affecting the finances of the
24 corporation. All financial assistance shall be made pursuant to a loan or financing agreement
25 between the corporation and the city, town or LEA, acting by and through the officer or officers,
26 board, committee, or other body authorized by law, or otherwise its chief executive officer,
27 according to terms and conditions as determined by the corporation, and each loan shall be
28 evidenced and secured by the issue to the corporation of city or town obligations in principal
29 amount, bearing interest at the rate or rates specified in the applicable loan or financing
30 agreement, and shall otherwise bear such terms and conditions as authorized by this chapter
31 and/or the loan or financing agreement.

32 **16-105-6. Inspection of approved projects. --** For any approved project, the school
33 building authority shall have the authority to inspect the construction and operation thereof to
34 ensure compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

1 **16-105-7. Expenses incurred by the department. --** In order to provide for one-time or
2 limited expenses of the department of elementary and secondary education under this chapter, the
3 corporation shall provide funding from the school building authority capital fund. The school
4 building authority shall, by October 1 of each year, report to the governor and the chairs of the
5 senate and house finance committees, the senate fiscal advisor and the house fiscal advisor the
6 amount sought for expenses for the next fiscal year.

7 **16-105-8. School building authority advisory board established. --** (a) There is hereby
8 established a school building authority advisory board that shall advise the school building
9 authority regarding the best use of the school building authority capital fund, including the setting
10 of statewide priorities, criteria for project approval, and recommendations for project approval
11 and prioritization.

12 (b) The school building authority advisory board shall consist of seven (7) members as
13 follows:

14 (1) The general treasurer;

15 (2) The director of the department of administration, who shall serve as chair;

16 (3) A member of the governor's staff, as designated by the governor

17 (4) Four (4) members of the public, appointed by the governor, and who serve at the
18 pleasure of the governor, each of whom shall have expertise in education and/or construction, real
19 estate, or finance. At least one of these four members shall represent a local education agency.

20 (c) In addition to the purposes in subsection (a), the school building authority advisory
21 board shall advise the school building authority on, including but not limited to, the following:

22 (1) The project priorities for the school building authority capital fund;

23 (2) Legislation as it may deem desirable or necessary related to the school building
24 authority capital fund and the school housing aid program set forth in §§ 16-7-35 to 16-7-47;

25 (3) Policies and procedures designed to reduce borrowing for school construction
26 programs at both state and local levels;

27 (4) Development of a formal enrollment projection model or consideration of using
28 projection models already available;

29 (5) Processes and procedures necessary to apply for, receive, administer, and comply
30 with the conditions and requirements respecting any grant, gift or appropriation of property,
31 services or moneys;

32 (6) The collection and maintenance of a clearinghouse of prototypical school plans which
33 may be consulted by eligible applicants and recommend incentives to utilize these prototypes;

34 (7) The determination of eligible cost components of projects for funding or

reimbursement, including partial or full eligibility for project components for which the benefit is shared between the school and other municipal and community entities;

(8) Development of a long term capital plan in accordance with needs and projected funding;

(9) Collection and maintenance of data on all the public school facilities in the state, including information on size, usage, enrollment, available facility space and maintenance;

(10) Advising districts on the conduct of a needs survey to ascertain the capital construction, reconstruction, maintenance and other capital needs for schools across the state;

(12) The recommendation of policies, rules and regulations that move the state toward a pay-as-you-go funding system for school construction programs; and

(13) Encouraging local education agencies to investigate opportunities for the maximum utilization of space in and around the district.

16-105-9. Severability. -- If any provision of this chapter or the application of this chapter to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the chapter, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this chapter are declared to be severable.

SECTION 3. Sections 45-38.1-4 and 45-38.1-17 of the General Laws in Chapter 45-38.1 entitled "Health and Education Building Corporation" are hereby amended to read as follows:

45-38.1-4. Corporation established. – (a) There is hereby created a public body corporate and corporation of the state to be known as the "Rhode Island health and educational building corporation" as successor to the Rhode Island educational building corporation, previously created as a nonbusiness corporation under and pursuant to chapter 6 of title 7, as amended by chapter 121 of the Public Laws of 1966, and constituted and established as a public body corporate and corporation of the state for the exercising of the powers conferred on the corporation under and pursuant to §§ 45-38.1-1 – 45-38.1-24.

(b) All of the powers of the corporation are vested in the board of directors of the corporation elected at the first meeting of the incorporators of the Rhode Island educational building corporation, and the members of the board shall continue to serve for the duration of the terms for which they were originally elected. Successors to the members of the board of directors shall be appointed by the governor, as follows: prior to the month of June in each year, commencing in the year 1968, the governor shall appoint a member to serve on the board of directors for a term of five (5) years to succeed the member whose term will expire in June of that year. In the event of a vacancy occurring in the membership of the board of directors, the governor shall appoint a new member of the board of directors for the unexpired term. Any

1 member of the board of directors is eligible for reappointment.

2 (c) Each member of the board of directors, before entering upon his or her duties, shall
3 take an oath to administer the duties of his or her office faithfully and impartially, and the oath
4 shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state.

5 (d) The board of directors shall ~~select two (2) of its members as chairperson and vice~~
6 ~~chairperson, and also elect a secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, and assistant treasurer, who~~
7 ~~need not be members of the board. Three (3) members of the board of directors of the corporation~~
8 ~~shall constitute a quorum, and the affirmative vote of the majority of the directors present and~~
9 ~~entitled to vote at any regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present, is necessary for~~
10 ~~any action to be taken by the corporation; except, however, that the affirmative vote of three (3)~~
11 ~~members of the board of directors is necessary for the election of officers of the corporation and~~
12 ~~to amend the bylaws of the corporation. No vacancy in the membership of the board of directors~~
13 ~~of the corporation impairs the right of a quorum to exercise all the powers of and perform the~~
14 ~~duties of the corporation.~~ consist of seven (7) members appointed by the governor. Board
15 members appointed and qualified prior to July 1, 2015 may continue to serve to the completion of
16 their designated terms and until such time as their successors are appointed and qualified. No
17 member appointed or reappointed after July 1, 2015 shall serve more than two (2) five (5)-year
18 terms. The governor shall select a chairperson and vice chairperson from the appointed members.

19 (e) Any action taken by the corporation under the provisions of this chapter may be
20 authorized by resolution at any regular or special meeting, and each resolution takes effect
21 immediately and need not be published or posted.

22 (f) The members of the board of directors shall receive compensation at the rate of fifty
23 dollars (\$50.00) per meeting attended; however, the compensation shall not exceed one thousand
24 five hundred dollars (\$1,500) per fiscal year per member until June 30, 2015. Effective July 1,
25 2015, the members of the board shall not receive any compensation for their service on the board.

26 (g) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, it shall not be or constitute a conflict
27 of interest for a trustee, director, officer, or employee of an institution for higher education or a
28 health care provider to serve as a member of the board of directors of the corporation; provided,
29 that the trustee, director, officer, or employee abstains from deliberation, action and vote by the
30 board under this chapter in specific respect to the institution for higher education or the health
31 care provider of which the member is a trustee, director, officer, or employee.

32 (h) The board and corporation shall comply with provisions of chapter 155 of title 42, the
33 quasi-public corporations accountability and transparency act.

34 **45-38.1-17. Annual report and audit. --** Within four (4) months after the close of each

1 fiscal year of the corporation, it shall make a report to the governor, the speaker of the house, the
2 president of the senate and the secretary of state of its activities for the preceding fiscal year, and
3 the report shall present a complete operating and financial statement covering the corporation's
4 operations during the preceding fiscal year. In addition the report shall provide a summary of the
5 applications received and approved loans or aid provided to the communities and a summary of
6 the status of loans and status of the school building authority capital fund. The corporation shall
7 cause an audit of its books and accounts to be made at least once each fiscal year by certified
8 public accountants, and the cost of the audit shall be paid by the corporation from funds available
9 to it pursuant to this chapter. The report shall be posted as prescribed in § 42-20-8.2. The director
10 of the department of administration shall be responsible for the enforcement of this provision.

11 SECTION 4. Title 45 of the General Laws entitled "TOWNS AND CITIES" is hereby
12 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

13 CHAPTER 45-38.2

14 SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY CAPITAL FUND

15 **45-38.2-1. Definitions.** – As used in this chapter, the following terms, unless the context
16 requires a different interpretation, shall have the following meanings:

17 (1) "Application" means a project proposed by a city, town, or LEA that would make
18 capital improvements to public school facilities consistent with project evaluation criteria and
19 chapter 41.1 of title 16-7;

20 (2) "Approved project" means any project approved for financial assistance by the
21 Council on Elementary and Secondary Education;

22 (3) "Corporation" means the Rhode Island health and educational building corporation as
23 set forth in chapter 38.1 of title;

24 (4) "Department" means the department of elementary and secondary education as
25 established under title 16;

26 (5) "Eligible project" means an application, or a portion of an application, that meets the
27 project evaluation criteria and approved by the council on elementary and secondary education;

28 (6) "Financial assistance" means any form of financial assistance provided by the
29 corporation to a city, town, or LEA in accordance with this chapter for all or any part of the cost
30 of an approved project, including, without limitation, loans, guarantees, insurance, subsidies for
31 the payment of debt service on loans, lines of credit, and similar forms of financial assistance;

32 (7) "Fund" means the school building authority capital fund;

33 (8) "LEA" means a local education agency, a public board of education, school
34 committee or other public authority legally constituted within the state for administrative control

1 or direction of one or more Rhode Island public elementary or secondary schools;

2 (9) "Market rate" means the rate the city, town, or LEA would receive on the open market
3 at the time of the original loan agreement as determined by the corporation in accordance with its
4 rules and regulations;

5 (10) "Project evaluation criteria" means the criteria used by the school building authority
6 to evaluate applications and rank eligible projects;

7 (11) "Project priority list" means the list of eligible projects approved by the council on
8 elementary and secondary education ranked in the order in which financial assistance shall be
9 awarded by the corporation; and

10 (12) "Subsidy assistance" means the credit enhancements and other measures to reduce
11 the borrowing costs for a city, town, or LEA.

12 **45-38.2-2. School building authority capital fund. --** (a) There is hereby established a
13 school building authority capital fund. The corporation shall establish and set up on its books the
14 fund, to be held in trust and to be administered by the corporation as provided in this chapter.
15 This fund shall be in addition to the annual appropriation for committed expenses related to the
16 repayment of housing aid commitments. The corporation shall deposit the following monies into
17 the fund:

18 (1) The difference between the annual housing aid appropriation and housing aid
19 commitment amounts appropriated or designated to the corporation by the state for the purposes
20 of the foundation program for school housing;

21 (2) Loan repayments, bond refinance interest savings, and other payments received by the
22 corporation pursuant to loan or financing agreements with cities, towns, or LEAs executed in
23 accordance with this chapter;

24 (3) Investment earnings on amounts credited to the fund;

25 (4) Proceeds of bonds of the corporation issued in connection with this chapter to the
26 extent required by any trust agreement for such bonds;

27 (5) Administrative fees levied by the corporation, with respect to financial assistance
28 rendered under this chapter and specified in § 45-38.2-3(a)(4), less operating expenses;

29 (6) Other amounts required by provisions of this chapter or agreement, or any other law
30 or any trust agreement pertaining to bonds to be credited to the fund; and

31 (7) Any other funds permitted by law which the corporation in its discretion shall
32 determine to credit thereto.

33 (b) The corporation shall establish and maintain fiscal controls and accounting
34 procedures conforming to generally accepted government accounting standards sufficient to

1 ensure proper accounting for receipts in and disbursements from the school building authority
2 capital fund.

3 (c) The school building authority shall establish and maintain internal controls to ensure
4 that LEAs are providing adequate asset protection plans, all LEAs have equal access and
5 opportunity to address facility improvements on a priority basis, and to ensure that funding from
6 the school building authority capital fund has the greatest impact on facility gaps in state priority
7 areas. The school building authority will also manage necessity of school construction approvals
8 in accordance with the funding levels set forth by the general assembly.

9 **45-38.2-3. Administration. --** (a) The corporation shall have all the powers necessary or
10 incidental to carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of this chapter including:

11 (1) To receive and disburse such funds from the state as may be available for the purpose
12 of the fund subject to the provisions of this chapter;

13 (2) To make and enter into binding commitments to provide financial assistance to cities,
14 towns and LEAs from amounts on deposit in the fund;

15 (3) To enter into binding commitments to provide subsidy assistance for loans and city,
16 town, and LEA obligations from amounts on deposit in the fund;

17 (4) To levy administrative fees on cities, towns, and LEAs as necessary to effectuate the
18 provisions of this chapter; provided the fees have been previously authorized by an agreement
19 between the corporation and the city, town, or LEA;

20 (5) To engage the services of third-party vendors to provide professional services;

21 (6) To establish one or more accounts within the fund; and

22 (7) Such other authority as granted to the corporation under chapter 38.1 of title 45.

23 (b) Subject to the provisions of this chapter, and to any agreements with the holders of
24 any bonds of the corporation or any trustee therefor, amounts held by the corporation for the
25 account of the fund shall be applied by the corporation, either by direct expenditure,
26 disbursement, or transfer to one or more other funds and accounts held by the corporation or a
27 trustee under a trust agreement or trust indenture entered into by the corporation with respect to
28 bonds or notes issued by the corporation under this chapter or by a holder of bonds or notes
29 issued by the corporation under this chapter, either alone or with other funds of the corporation, to
30 the following purposes:

31 (1) To provide financial assistance to cities, towns and LEAs to finance costs of approved
32 projects, and to refinance the costs of the projects, subject to such terms and conditions, if any, as
33 are determined by the department and/or the corporation;

34 (2) To fund reserves for bonds of the corporation and to purchase insurance and pay the

1 premiums therefor, and pay fees and expenses of letters or lines of credit and costs of
2 reimbursement to the issuers thereof for any payments made thereon or on any insurance, and to
3 otherwise provide security for, and a source of payment for obligations of the corporation, by
4 pledge, lien, assignment, or otherwise as provided in chapter 38.1 of title 45;

5 (3) To pay or provide for subsidy assistance as determined by the school building
6 authority;

7 (4) To provide a reserve for, or to otherwise secure, amounts payable by cities, towns,
8 and LEAs on loans and city, town, and LEA obligations outstanding in the event of default
9 thereof; amounts in any account in the fund may be applied to defaults on loans outstanding to the
10 city, town, or LEA for which the account was established and, on a parity basis with all other
11 accounts, to defaults on any loans or city, town, or LEA obligations outstanding; and

12 (5) To provide a reserve for, or to otherwise secure, by pledge, lien, assignment, or
13 otherwise as provided in chapter 38.1 of title 45, any bonds or notes of the corporation issued
14 under this chapter.

15 (c) The repayment obligations of the city, town, or LEA for loans shall be in accordance
16 with its eligibility for state aid for school housing as set forth in §§ 16-7-39, 16-77.1-5, and 16-
17 105-3(16).

18 (d) In addition to other remedies of the corporation under any loan or financing
19 agreement or otherwise provided by law, the corporation may also recover from a city, town or
20 LEA, in an action in superior court, any amount due the corporation together with any other
21 actual damages the corporation shall have sustained from the failure or refusal of the city, town,
22 or LEA to make the payments or abide by the terms of the loan or financing agreement.

23 **45-38.2-4. Payment of state funds.--** (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b),
24 upon the written request of the corporation, the general treasurer shall pay to the corporation,
25 from time to time, from the proceeds of any bonds or notes issued by the state for the purposes of
26 this chapter or funds otherwise lawfully payable to the corporation for the purposes of this
27 chapter, such amounts as shall have been appropriated or lawfully designated for the fund. All
28 amounts so paid shall be credited to the fund in addition to any other amounts credited or
29 expected to be credited to the fund.

30 (b) The corporation and the state may enter into, execute, and deliver one or more
31 agreements setting forth or otherwise determining the terms, conditions, and procedures for, and
32 the amount, time, and manner of payment of, all amounts available from the state to the
33 corporation under this section.

34 (c) Notwithstanding city charter provisions to the contrary, up to five hundred thousand

- 1 dollars (\$500,000) may be loaned to a city or town for the LEA's share of total project costs
2 without the requirement of voter approval.
3 (d) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the term of any bond, capital lease or
4 other financing instrument shall not exceed the useful life of the project being financed.
5 SECTION 5. This article shall take effect upon passage.