

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

FILED SENATE
Mar 25, 2025
S.B. 644
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE BILL DRS15288-NHa-65A

Short Title: Green Schools Save Money. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Meyer, Garrett, and Theodros (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN SCHOOLS
3 IN LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS, TO POWER SCHOOLS WITH
4 SOLAR ENERGY, AND TO REPLACE COMBUSTION-POWERED SCHOOL BUSES
5 WITH ELECTRIC-POWERED SCHOOL BUSES.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
8 Public Instruction for the 2025-2026 fiscal year the sum of one billion five hundred million
9 dollars (\$1,500,000,000) in nonrecurring funds to be allocated to local school administrative units
10 on the basis of average daily membership to make improvements to public school buildings as
11 follows:

- 12 (1) One billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) to make needed improvements to all
13 school buildings for energy efficiency, including the following:
14 a. Installing high-efficiency lighting.
15 b. Replacing pipe insulation.
16 c. Weatherizing doors, windows, and other internal and external
17 openings.
18 d. Repairing, replacing, and upgrading heating, ventilation, and air
19 conditioning systems, including programmable thermostats, chillers,
20 boilers, and fuel-switching systems.
21 e. Upgrading plug load management systems.
22 f. Repairing, replacing, and upgrading water and wastewater systems
23 and controls.
24 g. Upgrading electric water coolers.
25 h. Installing open-platform, internet-based controls for building
26 management systems.
27 (2) Two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) to install solar photovoltaic
28 panels on each school building that would benefit from solar photovoltaic
29 panels and to make necessary roof repairs to support the installation of solar
30 photovoltaic panels.
31 (3) Two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) to replace all qualifying
32 school buses with new school buses that are operated exclusively on electric
33 fuel and assembled in the State. For purposes of this subdivision, a qualifying
34 school bus is a school bus owned by a local school administrative unit that
35 meets all of the following criteria:



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- 1 a. Is more than 10 years old by model year as of the effective date of this
2 act.
3 b. Is operated in whole or in part on motor fuel, as defined in
4 G.S. 105-449.60(31).

5 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2025.