

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SB 84a

**49th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2010**

**Tracking Number:** .180293.1

**Short Title:** New School Sustainability Features

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Cisco McSorley

**Analyst:** Peter B. van Moorsel

**Date:** February 8, 2010

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**AS AMENDED**

**The Senate Finance Committee amendment:**

- **inserts a new section that:**
  - **terminates the “One Percent for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” program on July 1, 2020, pursuant to the provisions of the *Sunset Act*; and**
  - **provides that the program continue operating according to the provisions of the *Public School Capital Outlay Act* until July 1, 2021; and**
- **repeals the provisions of SB 84a, effective July 1, 2021.**

**The Senate Education Committee amendment:**

- **provides that the provisions of the bill apply to all Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) projects, and not just projects for new schools; and**
- **requires the PSCOC to promulgate rules to determine if the costs of compliance with SB 84a would exceed the estimated life-cycle savings of the building, addition, or renovation.**

**Original Bill Summary:**

SB 84 creates a new section of the *Public School Capital Outlay Act* to require PSCOC to develop and implement a “One Percent for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” program.

Under this program, new school capital outlay projects receiving grant assistance pursuant to the *Public School Capital Outlay Act* must allocate an amount equal to the lesser of 1.0 percent of the total project cost or \$200,000 to sustainability features for the facility, including but not limited to:

- solar panels;
- solar hot water heaters;
- passive solar heating;
- rain catchment barrels;
- recycling receptacles; and
- other equipment approved by the Public School Facilities Authority (PSFA).

SB 84 provides for an effective date of July 1, 2010.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

The PSFA analysis of SB 84 states that, because the *Public School Capital Outlay Act* already encourages and provides for construction materials, methods, and design concepts that reduce the long-term operating costs of school facilities, the bill would have a minimal fiscal impact.

### **Substantive Issues:**

The PSFA reports that it currently requires life-cycle cost analysis for major building systems in new or major renovations of schools. According to the PSFA, this process takes into consideration the sustainability of the new building's features.

### **Background:**

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in the United States, buildings account for:

- 39 percent of total energy use;
- 12 percent of the total water consumption;
- 68 percent of total electricity consumption; and
- 38 percent of the carbon dioxide emissions.

Also according to the EPA, green or sustainable buildings are designed to reduce the overall impact of the built environment on human health and the natural environment by:

- efficiently using energy, water, and other resources;
- protecting occupant health and improving employee productivity; and
- reducing waste, pollution, and environmental degradation.

The EPA reports that the potential environmental and economic benefits of green buildings can include:

- enhanced and protected biodiversity and ecosystems;
- improved air and water quality;
- reduced operating costs;
- improved occupant productivity; and
- optimized life-cycle economic performance.

The EPA further states that green or sustainable construction methods can be integrated into buildings at any stage, from design and construction, to renovation and deconstruction. The EPA adds, however, that the most significant benefits can be obtained if the design and construction team takes an integrated approach from the earliest stages of a building project.

### **Related Bill(s):**

None as of February 8, 2010.