

BUSINESS & FACILITIES UPDATE

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AB 48 – Places \$15 Billion Bond Measure On March Primary Ballot, Which Would Be Largest School Construction Bond In California History.

This bill authorizes placing a \$15 billion bond measure to fund the construction and modernization of public education facilities on the March 3, 2020 primary ballot. If passed by the voters, this will be the largest bond measure to support schools in California history. The bill states that of the \$15 billion in bond funding, \$9 billion will go to preschool and K-12 projects. Of that \$9 billion, \$5.2 billion is for modernizing schools, \$2.8 billion is for new construction, \$500 million is for career technical education facilities, and \$500 million is for charter schools. The remaining \$6 billion is reserved for higher education with the community colleges, the California State University system, and the University of California each receiving \$2 billion. The bill also makes a number of changes to the existing School Facilities Program, through which districts apply for bond funding. For example, in place of a first-come, first-served process, these changes require the Office of Public School Construction to prioritize certain applications. Priority projects include those that will address health or safety hazards, assist districts facing financial hardships, or reduce severe overcrowding. This bill also encourages the use of bond funding for broadband internet access, seismic mitigation, and lead abatement projects. Overall, this bill creates the potential for a large influx in funding for school construction, while ushering in a new procedures and priorities for awarding funding.

(AB 48 amends Sections 14503, 15102, 15106, 15268, 15270, 17070.15, 17070.43, 17070.51, 17070.65, 17071.10, 17071.25, 17071.75, 17072.30, 17072.35, 17073.15, 17073.25, 17074.10, 17074.16, 17074.25, 17075.15, 17077.35, 17078.52, 17078.53, 17078.54, 17078.58, 17078.62, 17219, and 41024 of the Education Code. Adds Sections 17070.415, 17070.54, 17070.56, 17070.57, 17070.59, 17070.75, 17075.10, 17075.20, and new articles commencing with Sections 17077.60, 17078.40, 89776, 92170, and 101200 of the Education Code. Adds new chapters, commencing with Sections 65998.5 and 65999 to the Government Code. Repeals Sections 17070.53, 17070.76, 17070.766, 17070.99, 17072.15, 17072.17, 17072.25, 17072.32, 17074.15, 17074.27, 17075.10, and 17078.66 of the Education Code.)

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