
SENATE BILL 5890

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Zarelli, Benton, West, Bauer, Oke, Sellar, Winsley, Roach, Rossi, Honeyford and McCaslin

Read first time 02/15/1999. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the student transportation allocation; creating
2 new sections; and making appropriations.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) There is created a K-12 transportation
5 safety net and a transportation safety net committee. The K-12
6 transportation safety net is for school districts which apply for
7 safety net funds and convincingly demonstrate the following to the K-12
8 transportation safety net committee:

9 (a) The district's direct transportation costs eligible for state
10 funding exceed the state allocation for such costs by at least twenty-
11 eight percent;

12 (b) The district's transportation program is operated in a
13 reasonably efficient manner and the reasons the district's direct costs
14 exceed state allocations are not due to the district's program choices,
15 labor contracts, or buses in the district's fleet which have been fully
16 depreciated according to the state lifetime schedules.

17 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall, by rule,
18 establish procedures and standards for the allocation of funds
19 appropriated for transportation safety net purposes. Prior to adopting

1 any standards, procedures, or processes required to implement this
2 section, the superintendent shall consult with the office of financial
3 management.

4 (3) School districts shall submit requests for safety net funds to
5 the state transportation safety net committee. Membership of the
6 committee shall consist of the following:

7 (a) One staff from the office of financial management;

8 (b) One staff from the office of the state auditor;

9 (c) Two staff from the office of the superintendent of public
10 instruction, one from the pupil transportation division who shall chair
11 the committee, and one from the apportionment section;

12 (d) One or more representatives appointed by the superintendent of
13 public instruction from school districts or educational service
14 districts knowledgeable in the pupil transportation program or school
15 finance.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The joint legislative audit and review
17 committee shall either conduct or contract for a study on student
18 transportation, with emphasis on the allocation provided for in RCW
19 28A.160.150 through 28A.160.190. The study shall include an analysis
20 of the adequacy of the allocation to fund home-to-school and return
21 transportation in support of the basic education program. The study
22 also shall examine school district costs in funding other
23 transportation in support of the basic education program. The study
24 shall include, but not be limited to, a review of the effect of the
25 following factors on student transportation costs: Traffic congestion
26 and resulting increases in driver time; the need to transport students
27 within a one-mile radius of a school due to hazardous walking
28 conditions; school district transportation scheduling practices;
29 current and potential use of mass transit; school districts contracting
30 for transportation services with private providers; various geographic
31 features; weather conditions; state rules that provide for counting
32 only those students riding to school, not those riding home from
33 school; state rules that limit when ridership counts may be reported
34 for allocation, and when the counts may be adjusted; and state rules
35 for counting mid-day kindergarten students for funding.

36 Relevant statutes and rules that affect student transportation
37 funding shall be reviewed. The joint legislative audit and review
38 committee shall use the office of the superintendent of public

1 instruction and the regional transportation supervisors in planning and
2 conducting the study. The results and recommendations shall be
3 reported to the house of representatives and senate education
4 committees, the house of representatives appropriations committee, the
5 senate ways and means committee, and the office of financial management
6 by December 2000.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The sum of five hundred thousand
8 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
9 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, from the general fund to the
10 joint legislative audit and review committee for the purpose of
11 conducting the study in this act.

12 (2) The sum of five million dollars, or as much thereof as may be
13 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000,
14 from the general fund to the superintendent of public instruction for
15 the purpose of providing safety net funds in accordance with section 1
16 of this act.

17 (3) The sum of five million dollars, or as much thereof as may be
18 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001,
19 from the general fund to the superintendent of public instruction for
20 the purpose of providing safety net funds in accordance with section 1
21 of this act.

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