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**SENATE BILL 5724**

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**State of Washington**

**64th Legislature**

**2015 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Billig, Rivers, Llias, Fain, Hobbs, Frockt, Rolfes, Fraser, Hasegawa, Roach, Jayapal, Habib, and Conway

Read first time 01/30/15. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to committing state and federal support to the  
2 safe routes to school program; amending RCW 47.04.300 and 46.68.060;  
3 and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that our  
6 state's safe routes to school program provides critical resources to  
7 state and local agencies for projects that enhance the safety and  
8 health of our children as they travel to and from school each day.  
9 The legislature further recognizes that since the program's inception  
10 in 2005, it has reached one hundred seventy-seven schools, making  
11 walking and biking conditions safer for seventy-seven thousand  
12 children. The safe routes to school program also helps to combat the  
13 childhood obesity epidemic and ultimately lower health care costs by  
14 making healthy options to walk and bike to school safer and easier.  
15 As such, it is the intent of the legislature to ensure the  
16 continuation of this important safety and health program by codifying  
17 federal funding at the level provided in the 2011-2013 fiscal  
18 biennium and state funding commitments made as part of the 2012  
19 transportation fee increases.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.04.300 and 2009 c 392 s 1 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) Concurrent with the federal safe, accountable, flexible,  
4 efficient transportation equity act of 2005, a safe routes to school  
5 program is established within the department. The purpose of the  
6 program is to:

7       ~~((1))~~ (a) Enable and encourage children, including those with  
8 disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;

9       ~~((2))~~ (b) Make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more  
10 appealing transportation alternative, encouraging a healthy and  
11 active lifestyle from an early age; and

12       ~~((3))~~ (c) Facilitate the planning, development, and  
13 implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety  
14 and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the  
15 vicinity of schools.

16       (2) Consistent with federal funding levels from the 2011-2013  
17 omnibus transportation appropriations act, at least ten million four  
18 hundred thousand dollars of federal transportation funds, of which  
19 fifty percent must come from the transportation alternatives program  
20 or an equivalent program and fifty percent from the highway safety  
21 improvement program or an equivalent program, must be made available  
22 during each fiscal biennium to the safe routes to school program.

23       **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.68.060 and 2013 c 306 s 717 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25       There is hereby created in the state treasury a fund to be known  
26 as the highway safety fund to the credit of which must be deposited  
27 all moneys directed by law to be deposited therein. This fund must be  
28 used for carrying out the provisions of law relating to driver  
29 licensing, driver improvement, financial responsibility, cost of  
30 furnishing abstracts of driving records and maintaining such case  
31 records, and to carry out the purposes set forth in RCW 43.59.010,  
32 and chapters 46.72 and 46.72A RCW. ~~((During the 2011-2013 and~~  
33 ~~2013-2015 fiscal biennia, the legislature may transfer from the~~  
34 ~~highway safety fund to the Puget Sound ferry operations account, the~~  
35 ~~motor vehicle fund, and the multimodal transportation account such~~  
36 ~~amounts as reflect the excess fund balance of the highway safety~~  
37 ~~fund.)) Beginning with the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium, during each~~  
38 fiscal biennium thereafter, and consistent with the intent of the fee  
39 increases in chapter 74, Laws of 2012 and chapter 80, Laws of 2012,

1 at least six million eight hundred thousand dollars from the highway  
2 safety fund must be dedicated to the safe routes to school program  
3 under RCW 47.04.300.

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