
HOUSE BILL 1607

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Representatives Rude, Abbarno, Caldier, Eslick, Shewmake, Robertson, J. Johnson, Corry, Barkis, Leavitt, Callan, Taylor, Jacobsen, Slatter, Bergquist, Tharinger, Kloba, Griffey, Riccelli, Chambers, and Young

Prefiled 12/07/21. Read first time 01/10/22. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the safe routes to schools program; amending
2 RCW 47.04.300; adding a new section to chapter 43.79 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.79
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 From and after July 1, 2025, state appropriations for the safe
8 routes to school program established in RCW 47.04.300 shall be paid
9 out of the general fund. Some program funding may be coordinated with
10 new school construction to provide connecting routes from nearby
11 residential areas to new schools.

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

14 (~~Concurrent with~~) In coordination with the program created in
15 the federal safe, accountable, flexible, efficient transportation
16 equity act of 2005, a safe routes to school program is established
17 within the department. The purpose of the program is to:

18 (1) Enable and encourage children, including those with
19 disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;

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

4 (3) Facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of
5 projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic,
6 fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools; and

7 (4) Enable the planning, development, and installation of safe
8 routes to new schools at the time the schools are constructed.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The secretary of transportation and the
10 superintendent of public instruction must consult and analyze the
11 safe routes to school program to determine whether this program would
12 be better suited to be administered by the office of the
13 superintendent of public instruction. The department of
14 transportation and the office of the superintendent of public
15 instruction must issue a report to the legislature with their
16 findings with recommendations on a transition procedure, if any, by
17 December 30, 2023. The analysis must consider options that would
18 satisfy federal requirements, such as the department of
19 transportation being a pass-through entity for federal funding or
20 have the secretary of transportation have the final approval for
21 federal funding distribution as recommended by the superintendent of
22 public instruction.

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