

**SCHOOL BUS ROUTE GRANT PROGRAM**

2016 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Jon E. Stanard**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill creates a grant program to fund certain school bus routes.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ creates a grant program to provide transportation funding for routes that are unsafe for a student to walk; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**53A-17a-126**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2012, Chapter 398

ENACTS:

**53A-17a-126.5**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **53A-17a-126** is amended to read:



28 **53A-17a-126. State support of pupil transportation.**

29 (1) Money appropriated to the State Board of Education for state-supported  
30 transportation of public school students shall be apportioned and distributed in accordance with  
31 Section [53A-17a-127](#), except as otherwise provided in this section or Section [53A-17a-126.5](#).

32 (2) (a) The Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind shall use its allocation of pupil  
33 transportation money to pay for transportation of their students based on current valid  
34 contractual arrangements and best transportation options and methods as determined by the  
35 schools.

36 (b) All student transportation costs of the schools shall be paid from the allocation of  
37 pupil transportation money specified in statute.

38 (3) (a) A school district may only claim eligible transportation costs as legally reported  
39 on the prior year's annual financial report submitted under Section [53A-3-404](#).

40 (b) The state shall contribute 85% of approved transportation costs, subject to budget  
41 constraints.

42 (c) If in a fiscal year the total transportation allowance for all districts exceeds the  
43 amount appropriated for that purpose, all allowances shall be reduced pro rata to equal not  
44 more than the amount appropriated.

45 Section 2. Section **53A-17a-126.5** is enacted to read:

46 **53A-17a-126.5. Grants for unsafe routes.**

47 (1) As used in this section:

48 (a) "Board" means the State Board of Education.

49 (b) "Transportation Advisory Committee" means the review committee for addressing  
50 school transportation needs described in Subsection [53A-17a-127\(5\)](#).

51 (c) "Unsafe route" means a route between a student's residence and school that is:

52 (i) shorter than a distance described in:

53 (A) Subsection [53A-17a-127\(1\)\(a\)](#) for a student enrolled in kindergarten through grade

54 6; or

55 (B) Subsection [53A-17a-127\(1\)\(b\)](#) for a student enrolled in grades 7 through 12; and

56 (ii) due to a health or safety concern, dangerous for a student to walk.

57 (2) Subject to legislative appropriations and this section, to fund transportation costs

58 for unsafe routes, the board shall:

59 (a) solicit proposals from school districts to receive a grant; and

60 (b) award grants to school districts.

61 (3) To receive a grant under this section, a school district shall submit a proposal to the  
62 board that:

63 (a) describes an unsafe route for which the school district intends to receive a grant;

64 ~~and~~

65 (b) includes a written statement describing why the route is unsafe from:

66 (i) the school district;

67 (ii) local law enforcement; and

68 (iii) the municipality or county in which the described route is located ~~and~~

68a **(c) includes other information as required by the board.** ~~and~~

69 (4) (a) The Transportation Advisory Committee shall:

70 (i) evaluate a proposal submitted to the board under Subsection (3); and

71 (ii) make recommendations to the board regarding whether to fund the proposal.

72 (b) The board shall ~~award a grant to a school district based on~~ consider ~~the~~

72a recommendations of

73 the Transportation Advisory Committee ~~before awarding a grant as described in~~

73a **Subsection (2)(b)** ~~.~~

74 (5) In awarding a grant under this section, the board may not:

75 (a) contribute an amount exceeding 85% of the cost of an unsafe route funded by the

76 grant; or

77 (b) award more than 15% of the appropriation under this section to a particular school

78 district.

79 (6) The Transportation Advisory Committee shall:

80 (a) review each year an unsafe route funded by a grant; and

81 (b) make a recommendation to the board regarding whether the board, subject to

82 legislative appropriations, should renew the grant.

82a ~~and~~ **(7) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the**

82b **board shall make rules to implement the grant program described in this section.** ~~and~~

**Legislative Review Note**

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**