

**SCHOOL BUS ROUTE GRANT PROGRAM**

2016 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Jon E. Stanard**

Senate Sponsor: J. Stuart Adams

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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:**

This bill appropriates:

- ▶ to the State Board of Education -- Minimum School Program -- To and From School -- Pupil Transportation, as an ongoing appropriation:
  - from the Education Fund, \$500,000.

**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:*

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

31 **53A-17a-126. State support of pupil transportation.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

49 **53A-17a-126.5. Grants for unsafe routes.**

50 (1) As used in this section:

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

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

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

55 (i) shorter than a distance described in:

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

57 6; or

58           (B) Subsection 53A-17a-127(1)(b) for a student enrolled in grades 7 through 12; and  
59           (ii) due to a health or safety concern, dangerous for a student to walk.  
60           (2) Subject to legislative appropriations for grants for unsafe routes provided under this  
61 section, the board shall:  
62           (a) solicit proposals from school districts to receive a grant; and  
63           (b) award grants to school districts.  
64           (3) To receive a grant under this section, a school district shall submit a proposal to the  
65 board that:  
66           (a) describes an unsafe route for which the school district intends to receive a grant;  
67           (b) includes a written statement from the following describing why the route is unsafe:  
68           (i) the school district;  
69           (ii) local law enforcement; and  
70           (iii) the municipality or county in which the described route is located; and  
71           (c) includes other information as required by the board.  
72           (4) (a) The Transportation Advisory Committee shall:  
73           (i) evaluate a proposal submitted to the board under Subsection (3); and  
74           (ii) make recommendations to the board regarding whether to fund the proposal.  
75           (b) The board shall consider the recommendations of the Transportation Advisory  
76 Committee before awarding a grant described in Subsection (2)(b).  
77           (5) In awarding a grant under this section, the board may not:  
78           (a) contribute an amount exceeding 85% of the cost of an unsafe route funded by the  
79 grant; or  
80           (b) award more than 15% of the appropriation under this section to a particular school  
81 district.  
82           (6) The Transportation Advisory Committee shall:  
83           (a) review each year an unsafe route funded by a grant; and  
84           (b) make a recommendation to the board regarding whether the board, subject to  
85 legislative appropriations, should renew the grant.

86 (7) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
87 board shall make rules to implement the grant program described in this section.

88 **Section 3. Appropriation.**

89 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, for  
90 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017, the following sums of money  
91 are appropriated from resources not otherwise appropriated, or reduced from amounts  
92 previously appropriated, out of the funds or amounts indicated. These sums of money are in  
93 addition to amounts previously appropriated for fiscal year 2017.

94 To State Board of Education -- Minimum School Program -- To and From  
95 School -- Pupil Transportation

96 From Education Fund \$500,000

97 Schedule of Programs:

98 Grants for Unsafe Routes \$500,000

99 The Legislature intends that:

100 (1) the State Board of Education use the appropriation under this section to offer grants  
101 for unsafe routes described in Section [53A-17a-126.5](#); and

102 (2) the appropriations provided in this section be:

103 (a) ongoing; and

104 (b) nonlapsing.