

SCHOOL BUS ROUTE GRANT PROGRAM

2016 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jon E. Stanard

Senate Sponsor: _____

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

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.
- 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 the recommendations of
- 73 the Transportation Advisory Committee.
- 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.

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel