

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 21, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 516

**Introduced by Assembly Member V. Manuel Pérez
(Coauthors: Assembly Members *Ammiano*, *Buchanan*, *Dickinson*,
Eng, *Fuentes*, and *Solorio*)**

February 15, 2011

An act to amend Section 2333.5 of the Streets and Highways Code, relating to transportation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 516, as amended, V. Manuel Pérez. Safe routes to school.

Existing law requires the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the California Highway Patrol, to establish and administer a "Safe Routes to School" program for construction of bicycle and pedestrian safety and traffic calming projects, and to award grants to local agencies in that regard from available federal and state funds, based on the results of a statewide competition. Existing law requires the department to rate proposals submitted by applicants using specified factors. One of the factors relates to consultation of and support for projects by school-based organizations, local traffic engineers, local elected officials, law enforcement agencies, school officials, and other relevant community stakeholders.

This bill would delete that factor and instead substitute a factor relating to use of a specified public participation process, with involvement by the public, schools, parents, teachers, local agencies, the business

community, key professionals, and others, which process identifies community priorities and ensures those priorities are reflected in the proposal, and secures support for the proposal by relevant community stakeholders. The bill would add another factor relating to benefit of a proposal to a low-income school, as defined, and would make other related changes. *The bill would require up to 5% of any annual budget allocation to fund grants pursuant to these provisions to be expended for technical assistance to eligible low-income schools and communities, as specified.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 2333.5 of the Streets and Highways Code
 2 is amended to read:
 3 2333.5. (a) The department, in consultation with the
 4 Department of the California Highway Patrol, shall establish and
 5 administer a “Safe Routes to School” construction program for
 6 construction of bicycle and pedestrian safety and traffic calming
 7 projects.
 8 (b) The department shall award grants to local governmental
 9 agencies, including school districts, under the program based on
 10 the results of a statewide competition that requires submission of
 11 proposals for funding and rates those proposals on all of the
 12 following factors:
 13 (1) Demonstrated needs of the applicant.
 14 (2) Potential of the proposal for reducing child injuries and
 15 fatalities.
 16 (3) Potential of the proposal for encouraging increased walking
 17 and bicycling among students.
 18 (4) Identification of safety hazards.
 19 (5) Identification of current and potential walking and bicycling
 20 routes to school.
 21 (6) Use of a public participation process, including, but not
 22 limited to, a public meeting that satisfies all of the following:
 23 (A) Involves the public, schools, parents, teachers, local
 24 agencies, the business community, key professionals, and others.
 25 (B) Identifies community priorities and gathers community
 26 input to guide the development of projects included in the proposal.

1 (C) Ensures that community priorities are reflected in the
2 proposal.

3 (D) Secures support for the proposal by relevant stakeholders.

4 (7) Benefit to a low-income school, defined for purposes of this
5 section to mean a school where at least 75 percent of students are
6 eligible to receive free or ~~reduced-price~~ *reduced-price* meals under
7 the National School Lunch Program.

8 (c) Any annual budget allocation to fund grants described in
9 subdivision (b) shall be in addition to any federal funding received
10 by the state that is designated for “Safe Routes to School” projects
11 pursuant to Section 1404 of SAFETEA-LU or any similar program
12 funded through a subsequent transportation act.

13 (d) Any federal funding received by the state that is designated
14 for “Safe Routes to School” projects shall be distributed by the
15 department under the competitive grant process, consistent with
16 all applicable federal requirements.

17 (e) Prior to the award of any construction grant or the
18 department’s use of those funds for a “Safe Routes to School”
19 construction project encompassing a freeway, state highway, or
20 county road, the department shall consult with, and obtain approval
21 from, the Department of the California Highway Patrol, ensuring
22 that the “Safe Routes to School” proposal complements the
23 California Highway Patrol’s Pedestrian Corridor Safety Program
24 and is consistent with its statewide pedestrian safety statistical
25 analysis.

26 (f) The department is encouraged to coordinate with law
27 enforcement agencies’ community policing efforts in establishing
28 and maintaining the “Safe Routes to School” construction program.

29 (g) In the development of guidelines and procedures governing
30 this program, the department shall fully consider the needs of
31 low-income schools.

32 (h) *Up to 5 percent of any annual budget allocation to fund*
33 *grants described in this section shall be expended for technical*
34 *assistance to eligible low-income schools and communities to*
35 *encourage strong, viable applications for projects benefiting*
36 *low-income communities.*

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