

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 26, 2012
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2012
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1915

Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo

February 22, 2012

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1915, as amended, Alejo. 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 sets forth various factors to be used to rate proposals submitted by applicants for these funds.

This bill would provide that up to 10% of program funds may be used to assist eligible recipients in making infrastructure improvements, other than schoolbus shelters, that create safe routes to ~~bus~~ *schoolbus* stops located outside of the vicinity of schools.

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 under the program based on the results of a statewide
10 competition that requires submission of proposals for funding and
11 rates those proposals on all of the following factors:
12 (1) Demonstrated needs of the applicant.
13 (2) Potential of the proposal for reducing child injuries and
14 fatalities.
15 (3) Potential of the proposal for encouraging increased walking
16 and bicycling among students.
17 (4) Identification of safety hazards.
18 (5) Identification of current and potential walking and bicycling
19 routes to school.
20 (6) Use of a public participation process, including, but not
21 limited to, a public meeting that satisfies all of the following:
22 (A) Involves the public, schools, parents, teachers, local
23 agencies, the business community, key professionals, and others.
24 (B) Identifies community priorities and gathers community
25 input to guide the development of projects included in the proposal.
26 (C) Ensures that community priorities are reflected in the
27 proposal.
28 (D) Secures support for the proposal by relevant stakeholders.
29 (7) Benefit to a low-income school, defined for purposes of this
30 section to mean a school where at least 75 percent of students are
31 eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals under the National
32 School Lunch Program.
33 (c) Any annual budget allocation to fund grants described in
34 subdivision (b) shall be in addition to any federal funding received
35 by the state that is designated for “Safe Routes to School” projects
36 pursuant to Section 1404 of SAFETEA-LU or any similar program
37 funded through a subsequent transportation act.

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

5 (e) Prior to the award of any construction grant or the
6 department’s use of those funds for a “Safe Routes to School”
7 construction project encompassing a freeway, state highway, or
8 county road, the department shall consult with, and obtain approval
9 from, the Department of the California Highway Patrol, ensuring
10 that the “Safe Routes to School” proposal complements the
11 California Highway Patrol’s Pedestrian Corridor Safety Program
12 and is consistent with its statewide pedestrian safety statistical
13 analysis.

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

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

20 (h) Up to 10 percent of program funds may be used to assist
21 eligible recipients in making infrastructure improvements, other
22 than schoolbus shelters, that create safe routes to ~~bus~~ *schoolbus*
23 stops that are located outside the vicinity of schools.