

**SENATE BILL NO. 201**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY SENATOR COSTELLO**

**Introduced: 2/19/18**

**Referred: Transportation, Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act establishing the safe routes to school program; relating to the Department of**  
2 **Transportation and Public Facilities; relating to the Department of Health and Social**  
3 **Services; and relating to the Department of Education and Early Development."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 \* **Section 1.** AS 19.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

6 **Sec. 19.05.055. Safe routes to school program.** (a) The department shall  
7 establish a safe routes to school program for the purposes of establishing safe routes  
8 for students to walk and bicycle to school and supporting safe routes to school projects  
9 that will reduce vehicle-pedestrian accidents and improve student health. The program  
10 must include

11 (1) a strategic plan to guide development of safe routes to school  
12 throughout the state;

13 (2) a grant procedure for providing funding support to develop site-  
14 specific projects; and

1                   (3) statewide outreach and technical assistance to schools and other  
2 entities to establish safe routes to schools.

3                   (b) The legislature may appropriate to the program at least 18 percent of the  
4 revenue derived each year from federal receipts for transportation alternatives  
5 programs and surface transportation programs. Nothing in this subsection creates a  
6 dedicated fund.

7                   (c) The department may not transfer revenue that is derived from federal  
8 receipts for transportation alternatives programs or surface transportation programs to  
9 another program, fund, or account, except as may be otherwise provided by federal  
10 law.

11                  (d) Of the total amount available to the department in a fiscal year for the safe  
12 routes to school program, the department shall use not less than 10 percent and not  
13 more than 30 percent for safe routes to school projects that are not related to  
14 infrastructure.

15                  (e) The department shall

16                         (1) implement, review, and update the program;

17                         (2) administer the program in collaboration with the Department of  
18 Health and Social Services and the Department of Education and Early Development;

19                         (3) develop, review, and update a statewide strategic plan under (f) of  
20 this section in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Services and the  
21 Department of Education and Early Development;

22                         (4) evaluate and provide technical assistance for site-specific projects;

23                         (5) award grants to eligible entities for projects selected under (g) of  
24 this section;

25                         (6) provide outreach, education, and technical assistance to eligible  
26 entities under P.L. 114-94 (Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act);

27                         (7) identify barriers to implementation of safe routes to school; and

28                         (8) develop criteria and procedures for collection of student travel data.

29                  (f) The strategic plan for the program must

30                         (1) review the needs of students for safe routes to schools;

31                         (2) establish benchmarks and long-term goals for the program;

1 (3) prioritize high-need areas for available technical assistance,  
2 resources, and funding for safe routes to school projects; and

3 (4) identify strategies for achieving program goals.

4 (g) The department shall consult with the Department of Health and Social  
5 Services and the Department of Education and Early Development to develop and  
6 periodically revise guidelines, schedules, and procedures to support safe routes to  
7 school projects selected for grant awards. The department may award a grant to an  
8 eligible applicant to support planning or engineering for safe routes to school projects  
9 that are site-specific. The department shall prioritize high-need areas and establish  
10 performance measures for each project for which a grant is awarded. To receive a  
11 grant, a project must

12 (1) be located within two miles of a school;

13 (2) facilitate bicycling and walking to the school by providing one or  
14 more of the following:

15 (A) improvements to sidewalks;

16 (B) pedestrian and bicycle crossings;

17 (C) on-street bicycle facilities;

18 (D) off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities;

19 (E) secure bicycle parking facilities;

20 (F) traffic calming, diversion, and speed reduction; and

21 (G) other approved strategies; and

22 (3) be designed to encourage children in safely walking and bicycling  
23 to school through public awareness campaigns and outreach, traffic education and  
24 enforcement in the vicinity of schools, student education on bicycle and pedestrian  
25 safety, and training for volunteers and managers.

26 (h) The director shall submit an annual report for the program to the  
27 legislature not later than 20 days before the convening of each regular session of the  
28 legislature. The director shall deliver the report to the senate secretary and the chief  
29 clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature that the report is  
30 available. The report must include

31 (1) a program funding summary;

- 1                   (2) an estimation of the benefits conferred by the program;
- 2                   (3) a progress report on the implementation of the benchmarks and
- 3 long-term goals for the program, including benchmarks and goals related to high-need
- 4 areas; and
- 5                   (4) any recommendations for legislative changes, including proposals
- 6 to improve program effectiveness.
- 7           (i) The department may adopt regulations necessary to implement the
- 8 program.
- 9           (j) In this section,
- 10               (1) "high-need area" means
- 11                   (A) a school or project area in which at least 50 percent of the
- 12 children are eligible to receive free and reduced-price meals under the National
- 13 School Lunch Program; or
- 14                   (B) a census tract in which the median household income is
- 15 less than 80 percent of the statewide average median based on the most current
- 16 census tract level data from the United States Census Bureau American
- 17 Community Survey;
- 18               (2) "program" means the safe routes to school program.