

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Safe routes to school

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Overview

This bill creates a safe routes to school program to be administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), authorizes MnDOT to implement the program, and prescribes some of its aspects. The program goal is to provide financial assistance for projects that improve nonmotorized transportation options to and from a public school. The bill provides \$3 million from general obligation bonds for capital infrastructure grants on projects under the new program.

1 [174.40] Safe routes to school program. Establishes the safe routes to school program.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms.

Subd. 2. Program creation. Directs MnDOT to develop and implement a safe routes to school discretionary grant program.

Subd. 3. Safe routes to school accounts. Establishes two accounts for the program, one for bond proceeds and the second for other funding sources.

Subd. 4. State general obligation bond funds. Establishes permissible uses and a legislative determination on general obligation bond proceeds for capital improvements under the program.

Subd. 5. Program administration. Requires MnDOT to establish procedures for general program requirements, grant eligibility, solicitation, application, and payments. Specifies minimum content for an application, requires publicizing a solicitation for applications, and mandates publication of a manual on the program.

Subd. 6. Evaluation criteria. Specifies minimum standards for evaluating an application for grant funds.

Subd. 7. Grant cancellation. Provides for cancellation after five years due to lack of timeliness of project development. Provides for cancellation of bond proceeds from funds not awarded for projects.

Subd. 8. Legislation report. Requires a report to the Legislature by November 1 annually on the program. Specifies minimum content for the report.

- 2** **General obligation bonds; safe routes to school.** Authorizes and appropriates to MnDOT \$3 million in general obligation bond proceeds for the safe routes to school program.