

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: No fiscal impact**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass
<b>Vote:</b>	7 - 1 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Clem, Dallum, Greenlick, Krummel, Roblan, Whisnant, Buckley
<b>Nays:</b>	Lim
<b>Exc.:</b>	Komp
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Derrick Olsen, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/02

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires school districts to evaluate need for safety improvements for safer routes to school prior to entering into contracts for large construction projects. Requires school districts to consider funding such safety improvements within funding of large construction projects and evaluate potential joint funding for such safety improvements. Defines large construction project as projects for which total bonded indebtedness is greater than \$1 million.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Coordination or lack thereof with cities, counties, and state agencies on school construction projects
- Safety and health issues of children walking/biking to/from school and declining participation rate of children
- Parents taking children to/from school in private vehicles and traffic congestion
- Cost of bus transportation to/from schools
- 1 mile/1.5 mile radius and payment for safety improvements not adjacent to schools but within radius
- Minimum threshold for bond measures covered by bill

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Lack of adequate sidewalks, increasing traffic next to walking routes, and low visibility of warning signs may put children walking or biking to school at greater risk. Despite living within walking or biking distance, it is common practice for many parents to drive children to school. This has increased traffic congestion and made more roads unsafe for children, which prompts more parents to drive children to school. By increasing the number of safe routes to schools, children may safely walk or bike to school and traffic congestion may be reduced.

SB 242-A requires school districts that seek funding for large construction projects through bond measures to evaluate the need for safety improvements necessary to create safer routes to schools. When a district seeks a capitol bond greater than \$1 million, the district must: evaluate the need for safety improvements within one mile of an elementary school or 1.5 miles of a secondary school; evaluate the potential for joint funding with other public and private entities; and consider including the cost of the improvements within the funding of the larger construction project.

The Senate Education and General Government Committee gave SB 242-A a Do Pass as Amended recommendation with a 5-0-0 vote, and it passed the Senate 22-5-3.

5/7/2007 4:10:00 PM

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*