

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Westlund, Walker

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/1

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:

- Burden on school district
- Safer routes as a priority in the local bond selection process
- Requirement for Department of Education to enforce provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes from definition of large construction project remodels, renovations or new construction that costs more than \$500,000. Removes requirement to evaluate safety improvements for large construction projects that do not require bonded indebtedness.

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 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.