

House Bill 2257

Sponsored by Representatives HUDSON, OWENS (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes School Safety Construction Fund in State Treasury, separate and distinct from General Fund. Appropriates moneys in fund continuously to Department of Education for purposes of making grants to school districts for construction projects that address urgent school safety needs. Specifies priorities for grant moneys.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to funding for constructing school infrastructure that promotes student safety; and pre-
3 scribing an effective date.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The School Safety Construction Fund is established in the State Treas-**
6 **ury, separate and distinct from the General Fund.**

7 **(2)(a) The School Safety Construction Fund consists of moneys that the Legislative As-**
8 **sembly appropriates each biennium for the purpose of replenishing the School Safety Con-**
9 **struction Fund. To the extent practicable, the Joint Committee on Ways and Means shall**
10 **allocate moneys for the School Safety Construction Fund from moneys the state retains in**
11 **the General Fund under Article IX, section 14 (3), of the Oregon Constitution.**

12 **(b) Moneys in the School Safety Construction Fund may be invested as provided in ORS**
13 **293.701 to 293.857. Interest that the fund earns must be credited to the fund.**

14 **(3) The Department of Education, on behalf of the state, may solicit and accept gifts,**
15 **grants, donations and other moneys from public and private sources for the School Safety**
16 **Construction Fund. The department shall deposit moneys the department receives as pro-**
17 **vided in this subsection into the School Safety Construction Fund.**

18 **(4)(a) Moneys in the School Safety Construction Fund are continuously appropriated to**
19 **the department for the purpose of making grants to school districts for school infrastructure**
20 **construction projects. In making grants under this subsection, the department shall:**

21 **(A) Prioritize funding for projects that are urgently needed to protect student and faculty**
22 **health, safety and welfare, including but not limited to projects that:**

23 **(i) Remove asbestos, radon sources, mold and other hazards from, and remediate, re-**
24 **construct and renovate where needed, school buildings and other facilities;**

25 **(ii) Provide retrofitting against seismic events;**

26 **(iii) Install, repair, upgrade or replace heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment**
27 **and facilities;**

28 **(iv) Remove sources of lead and other contaminants from drinking water and otherwise**
29 **improve the safety of drinking water sources; and**

30 **(v) Repair school building roofs, walls, interiors and foundations; and**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **(B) Prioritize, among projects the department identifies in subparagraph (A) of this par-**
2 **agraph, projects for which the school district has unsuccessfully sought alternative sources**
3 **of funding.**

4 **(b) The department shall retain in the School Safety Construction Fund not less than five**
5 **percent of the balance of the School Safety Construction Fund during each biennium as a**
6 **reserve for cash flow and revenue shortfall purposes.**

7 **(5) The department by rule shall establish forms, procedures and evaluation criteria for**
8 **granting moneys to school districts from the School Safety Construction Fund. The depart-**
9 **ment shall cooperate with the Secretary of State to periodically audit the recipients of the**
10 **grant moneys to ensure that the recipients use the grant moneys for the purposes described**
11 **in this section.**

12 **SECTION 2.** **This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023**
13 **regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**