



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Linda S. Crawford

S.B. 51

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sen. Kearney

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the Department of Transportation to survey school districts, community schools, and STEM schools concerning transportation safety and alternative transportation options for students living within two miles of school.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

School transportation survey

The bill requires the Director of Transportation, in coordination with the Department of Transportation's safe routes to school program, to create a survey of school transportation safety policies and the promotion of nonmotorized transportation options for public school students living within two miles of the school the student attends. The survey is required to state its purpose and provide information on the safe routes to school program; it also may seek the following information:

- (1) The location of each school building operated by the district or school and the percentage of the school's students living within two miles of the school;
- (2) Whether the district or school has in place any programs relating to transportation safety or the promotion of nonmotorized modes of transportation, such as the use of a crossing guard or participation in a walk to school day;
- (3) Whether any safety or traffic study has been completed for the school location, and the results of such a study;
- (4) Whether the district or school has surveyed students living within two miles of the school's location regarding modes of transportation to the school;

(5) Any other factors the Director determines to be appropriate.

Each school district, community school, and STEM school generally must complete and return the survey by a date the Director specifies, but the Director cannot require a community or STEM school to complete a survey if no student attending the school lives within two miles of the location of the school.¹

The Director must compile the surveys and publish the findings on the ODOT's web site within 90 days of the bill's effective date.²

Background

In 2005, the federal transportation bill (known as SAFETEA-LU) established the safe routes to school program and allotted federal highway funds to each state transportation department to make walking and bicycling to school safer. According to the Federal Highway Administration, the safe routes to school program "makes funding available for a wide variety of programs and projects, from building safer street crossings to establishing programs that encourage children and their parents to walk and bicycle safely to school."³ In Ohio, students who live within two miles of the school they attend may not have transportation to school because school districts generally are required to provide transportation only to students in grades kindergarten through eight who live more than two miles from the school that they attend.⁴

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-01-11

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¹ R.C. 5501.35(A).

² R.C. 5501.35(B).

³ <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes/>

⁴ R.C. 3327.01, not in the bill.