

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 06/26/2012
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: AB 1915
AUTHOR: Alejo, Luis

BILL SUMMARY: Department of Transportation: Safe Routes to Schools

This bill would allow up to 10 percent of state funds dedicated for the Safe Routes to Schools Program (SRS Program) to be used for infrastructure improvements, other than school bus shelters, which create safe routes to school bus stop locations outside the vicinity of schools.

FISCAL SUMMARY

According to the Department of Transportation (Caltrans), any costs associated with the additional revisions to the program guidelines would be minor and absorbable.

Currently, approximately \$24 million of state and federal funds are allocated for the SRS Program. This bill would not affect the total amount of funding for the program, but could redistribute existing state funds to a broader array of projects.

COMMENTS

This bill would have no fiscal impact and concerns a policy matter on which we are neutral.

This bill would expand the number of public safety projects that would be eligible for grant funding, and projects located outside of a school vicinity could compete with projects located close to schools. Any project sponsor competing for grant funds would have to demonstrate, among other requirements, that funding would be used to improve student safety when traveling to and from school.

Chapter 663, Statutes of 1999 (AB 1475 Soto), first enacted the SRS Program as a pilot program with a sunset date in 2002. The SRS Program was made permanent in 2007.

Existing law requires Caltrans, in conjunction with the California Highway Patrol, to establish and administer the SRS Program for construction of bicycle and pedestrian safety and traffic calming projects, and to award grants to local agencies from available federal and state funds, based on a competitive grant process.

The SRS Program was designed for minor capital outlay projects and typically would include: installing curbs, sidewalks, traffic signals, crosswalks, warning signs, and bicycle paths.

Analyst/Principal (0752) M.Almy	Date	Program Budget Manager Kristin Shelton	Date
Department Deputy Director		Date	
Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____
BILL ANALYSIS			Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

BILL ANALYSIS--(CONTINUED)

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Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)					Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)					
	CO	PROP					
	RV	98	FC	2012-2013 FC	2013-2014 FC	2014-2015	
2660/Caltrans	SO	No		-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact	-----	0042
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>						
0042	Highway Account, State, STF						