
HOUSE BILL 2780

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Representatives G. Cole, Peery, Vance, Paris, Jones, Scott and J. Kohl

Read first time 01/27/92. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to student pedestrian safety; adding new sections
2 to chapter 28A.160 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an
3 expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the number of
6 motor vehicles on the roads of the state has increased dramatically in
7 recent years, and that this increase has created unsafe conditions for
8 many of our children as they travel to and from school. The
9 legislature further finds that responsibility to ensure safe walking
10 conditions and bus stops for our children is fragmented, and that
11 inadequate resources have been devoted to improving pedestrian safety.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The school pathway and bus stop
13 improvement program is hereby created. The purpose of the program is

1 to establish a council to make recommendations about roads, streets,
2 and bus stops that the council considers inadequate for school children
3 as they travel to school, and develop a program for making safety
4 improvements.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The school pathway and bus stop
6 improvement program council is established. Membership on the council
7 shall include two members of the senate, two members of the house of
8 representatives, and representatives from the department of
9 transportation, the office of the superintendent of public instruction,
10 school district administrators, school board members, counties, cities,
11 the traffic safety commission, school bus drivers, and parents. The
12 president of the senate shall select the senate members and the speaker
13 of the house of representatives shall select the house of
14 representatives members. Representatives of state agencies shall be
15 selected by the respective agency. Other representatives shall be
16 selected by appropriate state-wide organizations. The council shall
17 select a chair from among its members. Staffing and administrative
18 support shall be provided by the Washington traffic safety commission.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The council established in section
20 3 of this act shall:

21 (a) Formulate criteria for identifying roads and school bus stops
22 that the council considers inadequate for elementary school students
23 and establish recommendations for standards for making safety
24 improvements;

25 (b) Based on the criteria and standards in (a) of this subsection,
26 inventory those roads within a one-mile radius of elementary schools
27 and those school bus stops considered inadequate by the council, and
28 recommend priority safety improvement projects;

1 (c) Develop a plan by which the recommended priority safety
2 improvement projects may be implemented, and make the plan available to
3 applicable local jurisdictions;

4 (d) Based on the criteria and standards in (a) of this subsection,
5 formulate recommended guidelines for student pedestrian safety within
6 a one-mile radius of new elementary schools. At a minimum, the council
7 shall develop recommended guidelines for incorporating pedestrian
8 safety considerations into school siting decisions, constructing
9 pedestrian safety infrastructure improvements within a specified time
10 after new elementary schools are opened, and creating incentives and
11 enforcement measures to ensure that the safety improvements are
12 completed; and

13 (e) Estimate the cost of implementing state-wide sidewalk crossing
14 rules.

15 (2) By June 30, 1994, the council shall submit its recommendations
16 and findings required in subsection (1) of this section to the
17 appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the senate,
18 the governor, local governments, school districts, and other
19 appropriate agencies and organizations. After July 1, 1993, the
20 council shall provide general oversight, coordination, and assistance
21 to local governments, state agencies, and private parties in the
22 consideration and implementation of the recommendations.

23 (3) The recommendations of the council are advisory only and shall
24 not constitute proof of an actual unsafe condition.

25 (4) Local jurisdictions may adopt, in whole or in part, the
26 recommendations of the council.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 2 through 4 of this act are
28 each added to chapter 28A.160 RCW.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act shall
2 expire June 30, 1997.