

By Mrs. Paulsen of Belmont, petition of Anne M. Paulsen and other members of the General Court relative to the establishment of a safe routes to school program by the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Three.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 Safe Routes to School Program.
- 2 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary:
- 3 (a) The Executive Office of Transportation and Construction
- 4 shall establish and administer a Safe Routes to School Program to
- 5 distribute federal grants under the Safety Set Aside Program
- 6 (23 U.S.C. Section 133), as amended, to political subdivisions for
- 7 projects to improve safety in and around school areas. Projects eli-
- 8 gible to receive grants under this program may include (among
- 9 others):
- 10 (1) education programs;
- 11 (2) construction of wide outside lanes to be used as bike routes;
- 12 (3) construction of multi-use trails;
- 13 (4) construction and replacement of sidewalks;
- 14 (5) implementation of traffic-calming programs in neighbor-
- 15 hoods around schools; and
- 16 (6) installation of new crosswalks, bike lanes, and signage
- 17 where appropriate.
- 18 (b) The department, in considering grant proposals under this
- 19 section, shall consider:
- 20 (1) the demonstrated need of the applicant;
- 21 (2) the potential of the proposal to reduce child injuries and
- 22 fatalities;

23 (3) the potential of the proposal to encourage walking and bicy-
24 cling among students;

25 (4) identification of safety hazards;

26 (5) identification of current and potential walking and bicycling
27 routes to school; and

28 (6) support for the projects proposed by local school-based
29 associations, traffic engineers, elected officials, law enforcement
30 agencies, and school officials.

31 (c) The department shall give priority in allocating money
32 received by the department from the federal government under the
33 Hazard Elimination Program (23 U.S.C. Section 152), as
34 amended, to grants under this section.

35 (d) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section.