

1 AN ACT concerning school students.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Transportation Law of the  
5 Civil Administrative Code is amended by adding Section 2705-317  
6 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 2705/2705-317 new)

8 Sec. 2705-317. Safe Routes to School Construction Program.

9 (a) Upon enactment of a federal transportation bill with a  
10 dedicated fund available to states for safe routes to schools,  
11 the Department, in cooperation with the State Board of  
12 Education and the Department of State Police, shall establish  
13 and administer a Safe Routes to School Construction Program for  
14 the construction of bicycle and pedestrian safety and  
15 traffic-calming projects using the federal Safe Routes to  
16 Schools Program funds.

17 (b) The Department shall make construction grants  
18 available to local governmental agencies under the Safe Routes  
19 to School Construction Program based on the results of a  
20 statewide competition that requires submission of Safe Routes  
21 to School proposals for funding and that rates those proposals  
22 on all of the following factors:

23 (1) Demonstrated needs of the grant applicant.

24 (2) Potential of the proposal for reducing child  
25 injuries and fatalities.

26 (3) Potential of the proposal for encouraging  
27 increased walking and bicycling among students.

28 (4) Identification of safety hazards.

29 (5) Identification of current and potential walking  
30 and bicycling routes to school.

31 (6) Consultation and support for projects by  
32 school-based associations, local traffic engineers, local

1 elected officials, law enforcement agencies, and school  
2 officials.

3 With respect to the use of federal Safe Routes to Schools  
4 Program funds, prior to the award of a construction grant or  
5 the use of those funds for a Safe Routes to School project  
6 encompassing a highway, the Department shall consult with and  
7 obtain approval from the Department of State Police and the  
8 highway authority with jurisdiction to ensure that the Safe  
9 Routes to School proposal is consistent with a statewide  
10 pedestrian safety statistical analysis.

11 (c) On March 30, 2005 and each March 30th thereafter, the  
12 Department shall submit a report to the General Assembly  
13 listing and describing the projects funded under the Safe  
14 Routes to School Construction Program.

15 (d) The Department shall study the effectiveness of the  
16 Safe Routes to School Construction Program, with particular  
17 emphasis on the Program's effectiveness in reducing traffic  
18 accidents and its contribution to improving safety and reducing  
19 the number of child injuries and fatalities in the vicinity of  
20 a Safe Routes to School project. The Department shall submit a  
21 report to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2005  
22 regarding the results of the study.

23 (e) The Department, the State Board of Education, and the  
24 Department of State Police may adopt any rules necessary to  
25 implement this Section.

26 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
27 becoming law.