

HOUSE No. 3539

By Ms. Khan of Newton, petition of Kay Khan and others relative to the establishment of a safe routes to school program by the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Kay Khan	Peter V. Kocot
David Paul Linsky	John W. Scibak
Ellen Story	Bruce E. Tarr
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.
Martha M. Walz	Frank M. Hynes
Jennifer L. Flanagan	James B. Eldridge
William C. Galvin	Walter F. Timilty
Pamela P. Resor	Theodore C. Speliotis
Patricia D. Jehlen	Gloria L. Fox
Alice K. Wolf	

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS 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 shall
- 4 establish and administer a Safe Routes to School Program to dis-
- 5 tribute federal grants under the SAFETEA-LU Strategic Highway
- 6 Safety Plan (23 U.S.C. Section 148), as amended, to political subdi-
- 7 visions for projects to improve safety in and around school areas.
- 8 Projects eligible to receive grants under this program may include
- 9 (among 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 neighborhoods
15 around schools; and

16 (6) installation of new crosswalks, bike lanes, and signage where
17 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 fatali-
22 ties;

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 asso-
29 ciations, traffic engineers, elected officials, law enforcement agen-
30 cies, 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 amended,
34 to grants under this section.

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