

By: Garcia, Campbell

S.B. No. 195

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to funding under the transportation allotment for public
3 school students subject to a high risk of violence while walking to
4 school.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 42.155, Education Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsections (d-1) and (d-2) to
8 read as follows:

9 (d) A district or county may apply for and on approval of the
10 commissioner receive an additional amount of up to 10 percent of its
11 regular transportation allotment to be used for the transportation
12 of children living within two miles of the school they attend who
13 would be subject to hazardous traffic conditions or a high risk of
14 violence if they walked to school.

15 (d-1) For purposes of Subsection (d), each [~~Each~~] board of
16 trustees shall provide to the commissioner an explanation [~~the~~
17 ~~definition~~] of the hazardous traffic conditions or areas presenting
18 a high risk of violence applicable to that district and shall
19 identify the specific hazardous or high-risk areas for which the
20 allocation is requested. A hazardous traffic condition exists
21 where no walkway is provided and children must walk along or cross a
22 freeway or expressway, an underpass, an overpass or a bridge, an
23 uncontrolled major traffic artery, an industrial or commercial
24 area, or another comparable condition. An area presents a high risk

1 of violence if law enforcement records indicate a high incidence of
2 violent crimes in the area. Each board of trustees requesting funds
3 for an area presenting a high risk of violence must, in addition to
4 the explanation required by this subsection, provide the
5 commissioner with consolidated law enforcement records that
6 document violent crimes identified by reporting agencies within the
7 relevant jurisdiction.

8 (d-2) A district or county may use all or part of any funds
9 received under Subsection (d) to support community walking
10 transportation programs, including walking school bus programs,
11 provided that the district or county requires each supported
12 program to submit a financial report to the district or county each
13 semester that covers services provided by the program for the
14 benefit of the district or county.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.