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13 A BILL

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15
16 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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20 To establish an Office of Safe Passage to ensure safe passage for students traveling to and from
21 LEAs between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday during
22 the school year and summer; and to require the Mayor to provide a shuttle bus from the
23 metro station to a DCPS and public charter school within a priority area with the fewest
24 public transportation options.

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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
27 act may be cited as the "Safe Passage to School Expansion Act of 2019".

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29 Sec. 2. Definitions.

30 (a) For the purpose of this act, the term:

31 (1) "District Agencies" means District Department of Transportation, Department
32 of Behavioral Health, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Youth Rehabilitation
33 Services, Deputy Mayor for Education, Office of the Student Advocate, Office of the Deputy
34 Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human
35 Services, Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Metropolitan Police Department, Office of the
36 Chief Technology Officer, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, and the Office
37 of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement.

38 (2) "LEAs" means Local education agencies.

39 (3) "Office" means Office of Safe Passage.

40 (4) "Priority area" means a census block in ward 7 and ward 8 with the highest
41 incidence of violent crime as reported by the Metropolitan Police Department.

42 (5) "Safe route" means a designated route that is monitored by safe passage
43 personnel from 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

44 (6) "Safe Passage" means the ability of students to travel safely to and from LEAs
45 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday during the school year
46 and summer.

47 Sec. 3. Office of Safe Passage; establishment.

48 (a) Pursuant to section 404(b) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved
49 December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 787; D.C. Official Code § 1-204.04(b)), the Council establishes an
50 Office of Safe Passage within the District of Columbia that is subordinate to the Mayor.

51 (b) The mission of the Office is to ensure safe passage for students traveling to and from
52 LEAs between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday during the school
53 year and summer.

54 (c) The Office shall be headed by a director, who shall be appointed by, and serve at the
55 pleasure of, the Mayor.

56 Sec. 4. Office of Safe Passage; duties and authority.

57 (a) The duties of the Office shall be as follows:

58 (1) Create a District-wide and ward-specific five-year strategic plan for safe
59 passage that has measurable outcomes and submit it to the Council no later than October 1, 2021
60 and every five years thereafter;

61 (2) Gather and analyze data to improve safe passage and submit an annual report
62 to Council no later than December 31 each year;

63 (3) Improve collaboration, problem solving, and cooperation among District
64 agencies and community-based organizations, funding, and outcomes;

65 (4) Award grants on a competitive basis to community-based organizations that
66 participate in the Safe Routes to School program; and

67 (5) Provide recommendations, in conjunction with District Department of
68 Transportation, on how the District can enhance transportation options to improve safe passage.

69 Sec. 5. Office of Safe Passage; requirements for awarding grants.

70 (a) The Office shall publish rules to govern award of grants consistent with this section
71 and the Grant Administration Act of 2014, effective December 24, 2013 (D.C. Law 20-61; D.C.
72 Official Code § 1-328.11 *et seq.*).

73 (b) The Office shall award grants on a competitive basis to community-based
74 organizations that participate in the Safe Routes to School program.

75 (c) Grants shall be awarded in a manner consistent with the Office's strategic plan for
76 safe passage programming and funding with particular attention to the strategic plan's goals and
77 priorities, geographic distribution of safe passage programs and funding, and program quality.

78 (d)(1) The Office shall establish a review process for awarding grants, which shall
79 include the use of review panels to evaluate each grant application in an impartial manner.

80 (2) No more than half of a review panel's members may be employees or
81 contractors of the Office.

82 (3) No member of a review panel may have a conflict of interest that would
83 render the reviewer unable to be impartial.

84 (e) Grants shall be awarded for terms of at least 5 years, subject to the availability of
85 funding.

86 (f) The Office may not award a grant under this section in excess of \$1 million during a
87 12-month period, either singularly or cumulatively, unless the grant is first submitted to the
88 council for approval, in accordance with section 451(b) of the District of Columbia Home Rule
89 Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 803; D.C. Official Code § 1-204.51(b)), or by act.

90 (g) In addition to the reporting requirements in section 1097 of the Grant Administration
91 Act of 2013, effective December 24, 2013 (D.C. Law 20-61; D.C. Official Code § 1-328.16), on
92 or before November 1 of each year, the Office shall submit to the Council and make publicly
93 available an annual status report for all grants issued by, or on behalf of, the Office in the
94 previous fiscal year, which shall include, for each grant:

- 95 (1) Detailed information about the grantee;
- 96 (2) A description of the specific services provided by the grantee;
- 97 (3) The location of services; and
- 98 (4) The amount of grant funds dedicated to program costs and the amount
99 dedicated to other expenditures.

100 Sec. 6. Office of Safe Passage; implementation of the Safe Routes to School program.

101 (a) The Office shall implement a Safe Routes to School program. At minimum, the Office
102 shall:

- 103 (1) Designate 10 priority areas;
- 104 (2) Establish at minimum one safe route in each priority area; and
- 105 (3) Award grants on a competitive basis to community-based organizations in
106 accordance with section (5).

107 (b) Each community-based organization that is a recipient of a grant shall manage the
108 hiring of safe passage personnel to monitor the safe routes. Every safe passage personnel shall
109 meet the minimum requirements for employment:

- 110 (1) Submit an employment application;
- 111 (2) Physically stand for long periods of time and tolerate all weather conditions;
- 112 (3) Read and write incident reports;
- 113 (4) Commit to working a total of 6.5 hours per day for five days a week for
114 minimum wage;
- 115 (5) Demonstrate knowledge about the community they wish to serve;
- 116 (6) Attend all required safe passage meetings and trainings to ensure best
117 practices; and
- 118 (7) Reside near the priority area where they wish to serve, to the extent it is
119 possible.

120 (c) The safe passage personnel shall at minimum have the following duties:

- 121 (1) Conduct daily monitoring of a designated safe route;
- 122 (2) Ensure safety of students by identifying potential conflicts and working
123 collaboratively with District agencies and the community to peacefully diffuse situations;
- 124 (3) Support attendance by encouraging students to attend class daily and
125 on time; and
- 126 (4) Build relationships with school administrators, police personnel, parents,
127 community residents by increasing their awareness of the program whenever possible.

128 Sec. 7. Improving Transportation Options.

129 The Mayor shall provide a shuttle bus from the metro station to a DCPS and a public
130 charter school within a priority area with the fewest public transportation options.

131 Sec. 8. Safe Passage Expansion.

132 Nothing in this act shall preclude the Office from establishing safe routes or improving
133 transportation options in other wards in the District with a high incidence of violent crime as
134 reported by the Metropolitan Police Department.

135 Sec. 9. Fiscal impact statement.

136 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
137 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
138 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

139 Sec. 10. Effective date.

140 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
141 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
142 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
143 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
144 Columbia Register.