

Assembly Bill No. 231—Assemblymen Atkinson, Horne, McClain, Parks, Allen, Arberry Jr., Buckley, Christensen, Claborn, Conklin, Denis, Gansert, Giunchigliani, Kirkpatrick, Koivisto, Manendo, McCleary, Mortenson, Munford, Ocegüera, Ohrenschall, Perkins, Pierce and Sibley

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to public schools; requiring local and regional governmental entities to conduct a study of safe walking routes for pupils in a certain area near schools; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

WHEREAS, There are over 385,000 pupils in the public school system in the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Pupils who live within 2 miles of the school that they attend are not eligible for transportation by bus to and from school, and therefore many of those pupils must walk both ways; and

WHEREAS, The safety of pupils walking between their homes and their schools is of critical importance to the community; and

WHEREAS, The existence of paved walking paths and well-maintained sidewalks increases the safety of those pupils; and

WHEREAS, Safe walking paths and sidewalks may also encourage more pupils to walk to and from school, thus promoting their overall health; and

WHEREAS, Both school districts and local governments play an integral role in ensuring the safety of pupils as they travel to and from school; and

WHEREAS, An effective way of ensuring the safety of pupils is to encourage school districts and local governments to cooperate in developing safe walking routes and improving the conditions of walking paths and sidewalks for pupils; now, therefore,

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. 1. In a county whose population is 100,000 or more, the regional planning coalition created pursuant to NRS 278.02514 and the regional planning commission created pursuant to NRS 278.0262 shall each, in conjunction with the county school district and other local governments in the county, conduct a study of safe walking routes for pupils to public schools in the county.

2. The study must include, without limitation:

(a) A review and evaluation of the existing walking paths and sidewalks within a 1-mile radius of each public school located in the county;

(b) Recommendations for improvements to the conditions of those walking paths and sidewalks; and

(c) A review and evaluation of the programs currently implemented in the county to ensure safe walking routes for pupils to schools.

3. The regional planning coalition and regional planning commission shall each submit a report of the results of its study to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 74th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2005.