

Fifty-fifth Legislature
First Regular Session

COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AMENDMENTS TO S.B. 1280
(Reference to Senate engrossed bill)

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert:

2 "Section 1. Title 15, chapter 9, article 2, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-924, to read:

4 15-924. In lieu of transportation grants

5 A. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, BEGINNING IN THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL
6 YEAR, A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY USE A PORTION OF ITS TRANSPORTATION FUNDING
7 ALLOCATED PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 15-945 AND 15-946 TO PROVIDE IN LIEU OF
8 TRANSPORTATION GRANTS TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO ATTEND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
9 PURSUANT TO A PLAN SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. SCHOOL
10 DISTRICTS MAY ISSUE GRANTS TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUAL PARENTS OR NEIGHBORHOOD
11 CARPOOLS IN TRANSPORTING STUDENTS TO SCHOOL. A SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
12 TRANSPORTATION FUNDING ALLOCATION MAY NOT BE REDUCED OR OTHERWISE
13 DIMINISHED DUE TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AWARDING GRANTS PURSUANT TO THIS
14 SECTION.

15 B. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, BEGINNING IN THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL
16 YEAR, A CHARTER SCHOOL MAY USE A PORTION OF ITS CHARTER ADDITIONAL
17 ASSISTANCE FUNDING ALLOCATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-185 TO PROVIDE IN LIEU
18 OF TRANSPORTATION GRANTS TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO ATTEND THE CHARTER
19 SCHOOL PURSUANT TO A PLAN SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.
20 CHARTER SCHOOLS MAY ISSUE GRANTS TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUAL PARENTS OR
21 NEIGHBORHOOD CARPOOLS IN TRANSPORTING STUDENTS TO SCHOOL. PARTICIPATING
22 CHARTER SCHOOLS SHALL REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE MONIES AWARDED
23 TO PARENTS AS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

C. A PARENT MAY NOT RECEIVE BOTH AN IN LIEU OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND A GRANT UNDER SECTION 41-811.

D. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ACCOUNT FOR EXPENDITURES UNDER THIS SECTION AND TO REQUIRE PROOF OF ATTENDANCE FOR STUDENTS WHOSE TRANSPORTATION IS SUPPORTED THROUGH GRANTS UNDER THIS SECTION.

Sec. 2. Title 41, chapter 4, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding article 8, to read:

ARTICLE 8. TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

41-811. Transportation support for public school enrollment grant program; policies and procedures; program termination

A. THE TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT GRANT PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO PARENTS TO ASSIST IN TRANSPORTING STUDENTS TO THEIR SCHOOL OF ATTENDANCE.

B. SUBJECT TO LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION, BEGINNING IN THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL AWARD GRANTS TO QUALIFYING PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN THIS STATE. A PARENT MAY APPLY FOR A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION IF BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

1. THE PARENT'S CHILD OR CHILDREN ATTEND EITHER:

(a) A SCHOOL UNDER TITLE 15, CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE 1.1.

(b) A CHARTER SCHOOL.

2. THE PARENT EITHER:

(a) NEEDS FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO EXERCISE THE OPTION PRESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(b) LIVES WITHIN TWENTY MILES OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARY OF THE SELECTED SCHOOL UNDER TITLE 15, CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE 1.1, BUT A SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM IS NOT AVAILABLE TO TRANSPORT THE STUDENT FROM THE PARENT'S NEIGHBORHOOD TO THE SCHOOL.

C. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ADMINISTER THIS PROGRAM. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SET INCOME

1 THRESHOLDS FOR PRIORITIZING AVAILABLE MONIES FOR THE GRANTS AND SHALL
2 REQUIRE PROOF OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT THE SCHOOL AS A CONDITION OF ONGOING
3 FUNDING.

4 D. THE DEPARTMENT MAY RETAIN UP TO THREE PERCENT OF MONIES THAT ARE
5 APPROPRIATED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM
6 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

7 E. THE PARENT OF A STUDENT OR STUDENTS MAY RECEIVE A GRANT PURSUANT
8 TO THIS SECTION ONLY IF THE STUDENT'S OR STUDENTS' SCHOOL DISTRICT OR
9 CHARTER SCHOOL DOES NOT PROVIDE IN LIEU OF TRANSPORTATION GRANTS TO PARENTS
10 PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-924. A PARENT MAY NOT RECEIVE BOTH A GRANT PURSUANT
11 TO THIS SECTION AND A GRANT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-924.

12 F. THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION ENDS ON JULY 1,
13 2031 PURSUANT TO SECTION 41-3102.

14 Sec. 3. Appropriation: department of administration: public
15 school transportation modernization grants:
16 transportation modernization solutions advisory
17 committee; delayed repeal

18 A. The sum of \$10,000,000 is appropriated from the state general
19 fund in fiscal year 2021-2022 to the department of administration to
20 distribute public school transportation modernization grants to school
21 districts, charter schools or any city or town. The department may
22 determine other entities as eligible grant recipients. The department
23 shall do all of the following:

24 1. Develop a public school transportation modernization grant
25 application and application procedures that require an applicant to explain
26 how it would use grant monies to both:

27 (a) Improve access to reliable and safe transportation for students
28 attending school through open enrollment pursuant to title 15, chapter 8,
29 article 1.1, Arizona Revised Statutes, or attending charter schools.

30 (b) Support transportation innovations and efficiency solutions.

1 2. Consult with the transportation modernization solutions advisory
2 committee established pursuant to subsection B of this section.

3 3. Make final grant determinations and awards pursuant to this
4 section.

5 4. Submit an interim report on or before December 15, 2021 and a
6 final report on or before June 30, 2022 to the governor, the president of
7 the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives and provide a
8 copy of these reports to the secretary of state. The reports shall include
9 all of the following:

10 (a) The best practices used by grant recipients to transport
11 students to schools outside of attendance boundaries.

12 (b) A list of the grant recipients and the amounts and purposes of
13 the grants.

14 (c) The number of students impacted per grant recipient.

15 B. The department of administration shall appoint a transportation
16 modernization solutions advisory committee to assist in consulting for and
17 developing the transportation modernization grant program. The committee
18 consists of not more than fifteen members, including any combination of the
19 following:

20 1. The president of the state board of education or the president's
21 designee.

22 2. The president of the state board for charter schools or the
23 president's designee.

24 3. County school superintendents.

25 4. Community advocates.

26 5. Education and regional transportation policy experts.

27 6. Representatives from the technology or transportation innovation
28 field.

29 7. Parents of public school students in this state.

1 C. At the request of the department of administration, the
2 transportation modernization solutions advisory committee may do any of the
3 following:

4 1. Consider approaches to solving the challenge of helping students
5 access free, safe and reliable transportation to their public schools.

6 2. Assist the department in developing grant applications and
7 application procedures.

8 3. Assist in selecting grant recipients and monitoring metrics and
9 data outcomes. The committee may only make recommendations to the
10 department and does not have the sole authority to select grant recipients.

11 4. Assist in developing and creating the final report required by
12 subsection A, paragraph 4 of this section.

13 D. The department of administration shall distribute the monies
14 appropriated under subsection A of this section based on demand and the
15 most innovative solutions as well as the recommendations of the
16 transportation modernization solutions advisory committee. The department
17 shall award at least twenty-five percent of these grants to support rural
18 and remote proposals, except that if an insufficient number of qualified
19 rural and remote proposals is submitted, the department may award fewer
20 than twenty-five percent of these grants to rural and remote proposals.
21 The department may retain not more than three percent of monies
22 appropriated to administer the grant program pursuant to this section.

23 E. Of the monies appropriated under subsection A of this section:

24 1. At least \$5,000,000 shall be distributed to school districts and
25 charter schools as public school transportation modernization grants to
26 support the development and implementation of innovations in public school
27 transportation, including any of the following:

28 (a) Transportation resource sharing with neighboring school
29 districts or charter schools.

30 (b) Developing or contracting with rideshare programs or engaging
31 neighborhood carpool strategies.

1 (c) Developing options for reducing costs and improving efficiencies
2 while improving access to transit options for families, such as exploring
3 the use of fleet vehicles or vans or using the latest technology to lead to
4 more efficient routing.

5 (d) Developing options to address personnel shortages or challenges.

6 (e) Using grant monies to issue in lieu of transportation grants to
7 families under section 15-924, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this
8 act, to help cover the costs of any of the following:

9 (i) Driving students to and from school.

10 (ii) Neighborhood carpools.

11 (iii) Transit fare.

12 2. At least \$2,000,000 shall be distributed to cities and towns as
13 public school transportation modernization grants to support the
14 development and implementation of innovations in public school
15 transportation, including any of the following:

16 (a) Planning for and building capacity to ensure that bus stops
17 exist in front of multifamily and low-income housing and public schools
18 with high demand for better transit options.

19 (b) Partnering with both school district and charter school leaders
20 to reevaluate bus routes to eliminate ride time for students in
21 kindergarten programs and grades one through twelve and families wishing to
22 engage with the public schools in the municipality, with a priority on
23 routes serving grades six through twelve.

24 (c) Developing creative collaborations with public schools and
25 community partners to identify solutions to better ensure students' safe
26 and effective passage to school.

27 F. A grant recipient that chooses to use grant monies for the
28 purposes prescribed in subsection E, paragraph 1, subdivision (e) of this
29 section shall give priority to students who meet the economic eligibility
30 requirements established under the national school lunch and child
31 nutrition acts (42 United States Code sections 1751 through 1793) for free

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1 or reduced-price lunches and who are attending school through open
2 enrollment pursuant to title 15, chapter 8, article 1.1, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, or attending a charter school.

4 G. This section is repealed from and after December 31, 2022."

5 Amend title to conform

And, as so amended, it do pass

SHAWNNA LM BOLICK
CHAIRMAN

1280WAYS MEANS

03/24/2021

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