

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

The health and safety revenue program was created by the 1988 Legislature. A district with a building problem related to health or safety concerns may submit an application to the Commissioner of Education for authorization to receive health and safety revenue. Unlike most school funding programs, health and safety revenue is based on actual project costs, and not on a per pupil amount. Health and safety revenue may be used for the following purposes: removing hazardous substances; eliminating fire hazards; removing life safety hazards; correcting certain air quality problems; making certain code-required repairs; and undertaking certain environmental management activities. Health and safety revenue may not be used for new construction.

Because health and safety revenue is allowed only for approved projects, districts may not use the money for projects that are not specifically listed in statute. Health and safety revenue averages roughly \$55 million per year, and is provided nearly entirely through the local property tax because the equalizing factor for the program is quite low.

This bill includes in the list of eligible health and safety expenses the costs associated with making the district's pupil transportation mobile radio communications system compatible with federal regulations.

- 1 **Uses of health and safety revenue.** Includes federally-mandated upgrades in a school district's pupil transportation radio communications equipment as an eligible use of health and safety revenue beginning with revenue for fiscal year 2014.