

SB 1072 (Mendoza)

As Introduced February 16, 2016

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

Fact Sheet

SUMMARY

SB 1072 protects children getting to and from school by establishing safe pupil transportation procedures to help prevent children from being left on school buses unattended.

BACKGROUND

For twenty three million students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus. Although school buses provide one of the safest modes of transportation, there are still school bus-related injuries, and unfortunately some fatalities, every year.

In California, school districts provide transportation between home and school for about one in eight students. About 700,000, or about 12 percent, of California students ride the school bus on a daily basis. Districts provide transportation for a variety of reasons, including concerns that students lack alternative methods of getting to school as well as federal laws that require certain groups of students, including some students with disabilities, to be bused.

Loading and unloading is the most dangerous time for students and can be a matter of life or death. Children left unattended on a bus may be subject to extremely cold or hot temperatures causing injury, trauma, or death. Tragically, a special-needs student recently died after being left inside a bus on a hot day in Whittier, California.

Unfortunately, across the nation there are regular news reports describing incidents of children being stranded inside a bus for hours until someone realizes they are missing. These reports include cases involving special-needs students, who are often the most vulnerable and sometimes non-verbal.

This bill seeks to prevent children being left on buses unattended by adding safe pupil transportation measures to ensure drivers check the bus at the end of their routes to make certain all children are off the vehicle.

CURRENT LAW

Current law requires public and private school districts to create and follow a transportation safety plan containing procedures to ensure the safe transportation of pupils. The plan must include specific procedures on boarding and exiting a school bus at each pupil's bus stop and at the final trip destination.

Additionally, to operate a school bus, a driver is required to obtain a California Special Driver Certificate from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), which entails classroom instruction, special training, and testing. Annual renewal of the certificate is required and involves 10 hours of renewal classroom instruction, behind-the-wheel training, or in-service training.

THIS BILL

- Requires the equipping of all school buses with an alert system designed to prevent children from being left unattended on buses by requiring the driver to walk to the back of the bus to deactivate the system and thus make certain the bus is empty.
- Adds bus inspection safety procedures to the Transportation Safety Plan in Education Code Sec. 39831.3 and requires bus drivers to review the safety protocol during annual renewal training.
- Adds a reporting requirement to ensure that the DMV is notified of cases when a child is left on a bus unattended.
- Authorizes the DMV to refuse to renew, and/or revoke, or suspend a bus driver's certificate if the driver has been reported to the DMV for leaving a pupil unattended on a school bus.

STATUS

February 16, 2016 – Introduced

SUPPORT

- None on File

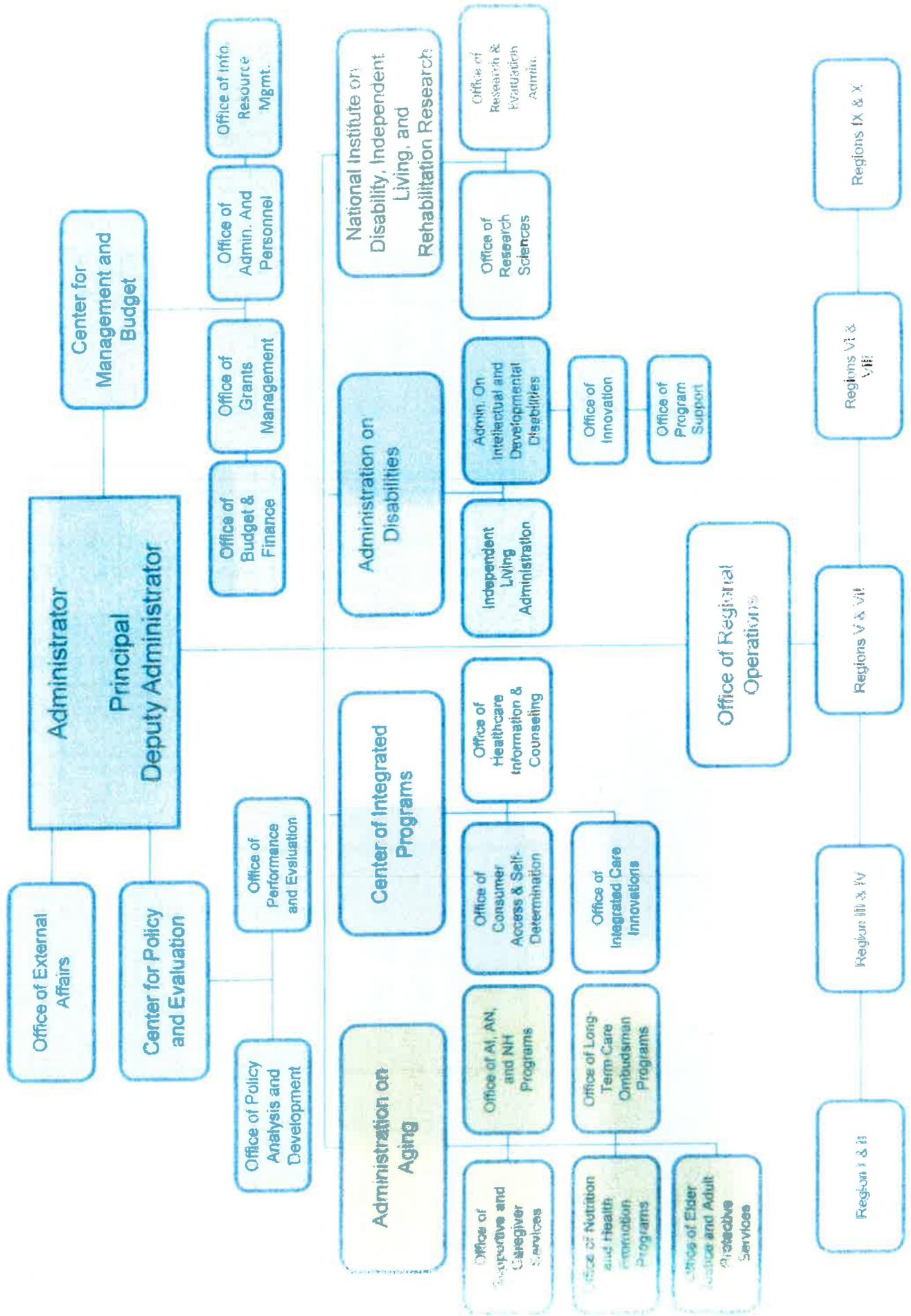
OPPOSITION

- None on File

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL)



U.S. Administration on Disabilities (AOD)

