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HOUSE BILL 86

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2000

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN THE QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY ACT; PROVIDING FOR PRIORITY FACTORS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 22-24-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1975, Chapter 235, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-24-5. FUND--DISTRIBUTION.--

- The council shall approve an application for grant assistance from the fund when the council determines that:
 - (1)a critical need exists requiring action;
- the residents of the school district (2) have provided available resources to the school district to meet its capital outlay requirements;

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- (3) the school district has used its
 resources in a prudent manner;
- (4) the <u>school</u> district is in a county or counties which have participated in a reappraisal program and the reappraised values are on the tax rolls or will be used for the tax year 1979 as certified by the property tax division of the taxation and revenue department;
- (5) the school district has provided insurance for buildings of the school district in accordance with the provisions of Section 13-5-3 NMSA 1978;
- (6) the school district is indebted at not less than seventy-five percent of the total debt authorized by law; and
- (7) the school district has submitted a five-year facilities plan that includes enrollment projections.
- B. The council shall consider all applications for assistance from the fund and, after a public hearing, shall either approve or deny the application. Applications for grant assistance shall only be accepted by the council after a district has complied with the provisions of this section. The council shall list all applications in order of priority, and all allocations shall be made on a priority basis; provided, however, except in the case of an emergency, that the order of priority shall first reflect those projects which have been previously funded but are not as yet completed, excluding expansion of those projects and

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contingent upon maintenance of the required local support.

C. Money in the fund shall be disbursed by warrant of the department of finance and administration on vouchers signed by the secretary of finance and administration following certification by the council that the application has been approved.

D. If the council makes a determination and certifies to the state board that the legislature passed and the governor signed legislation providing additional or supplanting revenue sources for public school capital outlay funding that is expected to generate revenue equal to or greater than that provided in 1999, the following provisions apply:

(1) all school districts are eligible to apply for funding from the fund, regardless of percentage of indebtedness;

(2) priorities for funding shall be given to those capital projects that:

(a) are necessary for health and

safety;

(b) were previously funded by the council but are not yet completed;

(c) are for school districts with relatively low property values;

(d) provide necessary classrooms due to student population increases or that improve existing school facilities; and

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(3) projects approved and ranked by the council shall be funded within available resources in accordance with the following formula:

the state average valuation per MEM :

the state average valuation per MEM) x

.7. The product is subtracted from 1.0

and multiplied by .8. The sum of that

calculation added to (percent of bonding

capacity used) x .2 = percentage of

approved projects to be funded from the

fund. "MEM" is the total enrollment of

students attending public school in a

school district on a specified day, with

kindergarten being counted as .5. In

those instances in which the formula

provides less than .05, .05 shall be

used as the state's share; and

(4) in those instances in which a school district has used all of its local resources, the state may fund the total amount of its projects.

E. The provisions of Subsection D of this section apply to application and allocation cycles succeeding the determination and certification by the council."

Section 2. APPROPRIATION. -- Four hundred thousand

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dollars (\$400,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the state department of public education for expenditure in fiscal years 2000 and 2001 to contract for an assessment of school districts' capital improvement needs and to complete an associated database. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2001 shall revert to the general fund.

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