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SENATE BILL 217

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

INTRODUCED BY

Richard M. Romero

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
EDUCATION FOR SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES TO PREVENT VIOLENCE.

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

Section 1. APPROPRIATION.--One million five hundred  
thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) is appropriated from the  
general fund to the state department of public education for  
expenditure in fiscal year 2001 to increase school counseling  
programs by lowering the counselor-to-student ratio to 1:250  
and to provide school counseling services for violence  
prevention, mediation and conflict resolution, stress and  
conflict management, child abuse, harassment, family  
problems, interpersonal concerns and other concerns that may  
impede student learning. The state department of public  
education shall distribute the money to public schools based  
on applications from individual public schools that submit a

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1 written comprehensive school counseling program services  
2 plan. The plan shall comply with the department's technical  
3 assistance handbook and the national standards for school  
4 counseling programs and include a proposal to reduce the  
5 counselor-to-student ratio to 1:250 and a demonstration that  
6 counselors will devote eighty-five percent of their time to  
7 direct services to students. The department and each school  
8 shall develop an evaluation component that includes  
9 measurement indicators that will demonstrate the impact of  
10 lowering the counselor-to-student ratio and report to the  
11 legislative education study committee by November 2001. Any  
12 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of  
13 fiscal year 2001 shall revert to the general fund.