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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 20
45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY
Linda M Lopez

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO STUDY
THE FEASIBILITY OF INCLUDING ADDITIONAL SITE CHARACTERISTICS IN
THE PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION FORMULA AND TO EXAMINE THE
IMPACT OF CHARTER SCHOOLS AND BEFORE- AND AFTER- SCHOOL PROGRAMS
ON TRANSPORTATION FUNDING.

WHEREAS, in 1997 the legislature passed a memorial to
address public school district concerns regarding the equitable
distribution of funds through the public school transportation
formula; and

WHEREAS, in response to the memorial, the state department
of public education formed the public school transportation
task force comprised of representatives from the legislative
education study committee, the executive branch, the state

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1 board of education, school district superintendents,
2 transportation directors and public school transportation
3 contractors; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1999, based on the recommendations of the
5 public school transportation task force, the legislature
6 modified the public school transportation formula to eliminate
7 density groupings and to incorporate density and other site
8 characteristics such as special education students, unpaved and
9 unimproved miles and the total number of school service days in
10 order to provide an equitable distribution of transportation
11 funding; and

12 WHEREAS, the public school transportation task force
13 requested that the formula be reevaluated within two years to
14 ensure its effectiveness; and

15 WHEREAS, public school personnel and school bus
16 contractors provided testimony to the legislative education
17 study committee during the 2000 interim regarding additional
18 site characteristics and the impact of charter school
19 transportation needs on school district transportation
20 allocations;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public
23 education, in cooperation with school district superintendents
24 and school bus contractors, be requested to study the
25 feasibility of including additional site characteristics in the

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1 public school transportation formula and to examine the impact
2 of charter schools and before- and after-school programs on
3 transportation funding; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and
5 recommendations of this study be provided to the legislative
6 education study committee by November 1, 2001; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 distributed to the superintendent of public instruction and the
9 director of the legislative education study committee for
10 appropriate distribution.