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SENATE BILL 256

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Michael Padilla

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; REQUIRING A QUALIFIED SPECIAL
EDUCATION COORDINATOR FOR EACH TWO HUNDRED FIFTY STUDENTS IN
ALL NEW MEXICO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS; MAKING AN
APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. A new section of the Public School Code is
enacted to read:

"NEW MATERIAL] QUALIFIED SPECIAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR
FOR EACH TWO HUNDRED FIFTY STUDENTS IN EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL
DISTRICT--DEFINITION--DUTIES--IMPLEMENTATION.--

A. As used in this section, "qualified special
education coordinator" means a level-three licensed special
education teacher with six years of teaching experience,
including three years in a special education classroom.

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1 B. A qualified special education coordinator shall
2 oversee the day-to-day operations of the special education
3 program or programs in a school or schools and, among other
4 duties determined by rule, oversee and arrange individual
5 education plan meetings within three months of referral. A
6 qualified special education coordinator shall not be required
7 to manage a special education caseload.

8 C. The department shall verify that each public
9 school district employs a qualified special education
10 coordinator for each two hundred fifty students in the school
11 district. Employing qualified special education coordinators
12 in school districts shall be phased in by department rule as
13 follows:

14 (1) effective with the 2013-2014 school year,
15 one-third of New Mexico's school districts shall employ a
16 qualified special education coordinator for each two hundred
17 fifty students;

18 (2) effective with the 2014-2015 school year,
19 two-thirds of New Mexico's school districts shall employ a
20 qualified special education coordinator for each two hundred
21 fifty students; and

22 (3) effective with the 2015-2016 school year,
23 each New Mexico school district shall employ a qualified
24 special education coordinator for each two hundred fifty
25 students."

.191072.3

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SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Three million dollars (\$3,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the public education department for expenditure in fiscal year 2014 for the purpose of implementing the requirement that one-third of the public school districts in New Mexico employ a qualified special education coordinator for each two hundred fifty students. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2014 shall revert to the general fund.