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SENATE BILL 569

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

INTRODUCED BY

John M. Sapien

AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL FINANCE; REQUIRING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS FOR ALL SCHOOL  
DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS.

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

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

"[NEW MATERIAL] TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS.--

A. As used in this section, "telecommunications  
access" means the department's provision of high bandwidth  
internet access, two-way interactive video, telephone and other  
remote access and telecommunications services to each school  
district and charter school.

B. The department shall provide telecommunications  
access to each school district and charter school to facilitate

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1 the administration of assessments in accordance with the state  
2 standards for each grade level and subject area pursuant to  
3 Section 22-13-1.6 NMSA 1978 and for distance learning, teacher  
4 training and other educational purposes. The provision of  
5 telecommunications access shall be standardized for all school  
6 districts to ensure comparable access to educational  
7 opportunities for each student.

8 C. Requests for proposals shall require the  
9 provision of telecommunications access from competent, reliable  
10 and experienced service providers that use primarily fiber  
11 optic and other high bandwidth transmission media and provide  
12 design, implementation and administrative oversight services  
13 for telecommunications access.

14 D. The department shall coordinate with the public  
15 school capital outlay oversight task force, the legislative  
16 finance committee and the legislative education study committee  
17 to:

18 (1) study the educational opportunity and  
19 economic development potential of providing telecommunications  
20 access to all public school students; and

21 (2) maximize federal, private and state  
22 funding sources for the purposes of this section.

23 E. By July 31 of each year, the department shall  
24 present a report to the legislative finance committee and the  
25 legislative education study committee regarding the provision

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1 of telecommunications access pursuant to this section."

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