

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 142

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Mimi Stewart and John Pinto

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY
12 THE PROVISIONS OF LAW GOVERNING THE RURAL ISOLATION UNITS
13 PROVIDED THROUGH THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA.

14
15 WHEREAS, the Gallup-McKinley county school district is one
16 of the largest of New Mexico's school districts, sprawling
17 across the Navajo Nation for over four thousand nine hundred
18 fifty-seven square miles; and

19 WHEREAS, the school district is the sixth-largest school
20 district in terms of students, and eighty-two percent of its
21 students are Native American; and

22 WHEREAS, its unique geography presents the school district
23 with the challenge of educating students in a large number of
24 rural, isolated schools; and

25 WHEREAS, between 1976 and 2011, the Gallup-McKinley county

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1 school district received rural isolation units in the size
2 adjustment program unit calculation of the public school
3 funding formula, also known as the "sparsity factor"; and

4 WHEREAS, the sparsity factor provided additional program
5 units for the school district based on the number of approved
6 regular senior high schools not eligible for senior high school
7 size adjustment program units; and

8 WHEREAS, the number of approved senior high schools in the
9 school district not eligible for senior high school size
10 adjustment program units decreased from four in the 2009-2010
11 school year to two in the 2011-2012 school year, making the
12 school district ineligible for rural isolation units;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
14 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study committee be
15 requested to study the law and the funding formula calculations
16 for rural isolation units and the need for changes to the
17 public school funding formula calculation for rural isolation
18 units; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee report its
20 findings to the second session of the fifty-third legislature;
21 and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the chair and director of the legislative
24 education study committee and to the Gallup-McKinley county
25 school district.

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