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SENATE MEMORIAL 56

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

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE LEGISLATURE TO
GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION
APPROPRIATION AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN
THE SCHOOL BUS REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has the number one school bus safety
record in the nation, primarily due to its transportation
formula; and

WHEREAS, a typical school bus holds seventy-one students
from kindergarten through high school; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately two thousand school buses
in New Mexico, and they make at least two round trips a day
during the school year and are also used for extracurricular
activities; and

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1 WHEREAS, last year, these school buses traveled a combined
2 thirty-one million two hundred fifty-six thousand miles; and

3 WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of their student-
4 passengers is the number one priority of school districts and
5 school bus contractors; and

6 WHEREAS, the proposed change in the school bus replacement
7 schedule from twelve to fifteen years is fraught with
8 potentially expensive, and even life-threatening, consequences;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, particularly in rural areas, school buses travel
11 significant distances one way, often over badly maintained
12 roads, in every type of weather condition, and some of those
13 buses, even with excellent maintenance, are worn out both
14 inside and out before twelve years; and

15 WHEREAS, the last three years of a school bus's life are
16 the most expensive, with engines and rear axles having to be
17 replaced, in addition to brake replacements and regular
18 maintenance; and

19 WHEREAS, school bus operators urge the legislature and its
20 finance committees to study the pros and cons of changing the
21 school bus replacement schedule from twelve to fifteen years,
22 given the hard use many school buses are put to in rural areas,
23 which make up most of the state;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
25 OF NEW MEXICO that the senate finance committee, the house

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1 appropriations and finance committee and the legislature be
2 requested to consider carefully the importance of school bus
3 safety and to respond to the urging of school bus operators by
4 requesting the interim legislative education study committee to
5 undertake a study of school bus use and routes in New Mexico
6 and the fiscal downside to extending school bus life; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 presented to the chairs of the senate finance committee and the
9 house appropriations and finance committee as they deliberate
10 on the General Appropriation Act of 2017.

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