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HOUSE MEMORIAL 5

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY
Richard Vigil

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY
THE IMPLICATIONS OF TRANSPORTING STUDENTS IN VEHICLES NOT
MEETING SCHOOL BUS DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS.

WHEREAS, the state board of education has adopted a
regulation to permit the use of two types of vehicles other
than a school bus to transport students for school
activities; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that children are better
protected in vehicles designed as school buses; and

WHEREAS, the national fatality rate for school-age
children during normal school hours is greater in other
vehicles used as compared to school buses; and

WHEREAS, the state board of education has not considered
the safety of students as their priority in allowing other
vehicles to be used to transport students for school

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1 activities; and

2 WHEREAS, in New Mexico an average of fifty-nine school-
3 age children are fatally injured annually in other vehicles
4 as compared to zero in school buses; and

5 WHEREAS, school buses are designed to meet stringent
6 federal construction standards to protect passengers when
7 involved in an accident; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico has an excellent safety record of
9 school bus operations;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
12 legislative education study committee study the potential
13 danger and cost implications of transporting students for
14 school activities in vehicles not meeting school bus design
15 and construction standards; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
17 study committee report its findings and recommendations to
18 the New Mexico legislative council by October 1, 2000; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the legislative education study committee.