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SENATE BILL 41

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Cynthia Nava

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; EXTENDING THE NUMBER OF INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

Section 1. Section 22-8-9 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1967, Chapter 16, Section 63, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-8-9. BUDGETS--MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS. --

A. No budget for a school district shall be approved by the department that does not provide for:

(1) a school year consisting of at least one hundred eighty-eight days, including one hundred eighty full instructional days, or the equivalent thereof, [exclusive of any release time for in-service training] and eight days for professional development and other staff purposes for

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1 teachers; or

2 (2) a variable school year consisting of a
3 minimum number of instructional hours established by the state
4 board, including professional development equivalent to eight
5 days as provided in Subsection A of this section; and

6 (3) a pupil-teacher ratio or class or
7 teaching load as provided in Section 22-2-8.2 NMSA 1978.

8 B. The state board shall, by [~~regulation~~] rule,
9 establish the requirements for [~~a teaching~~] an instructional
10 day, the standards for an instructional hour and the standards
11 for a full-time certified classroom instructor and for the
12 equivalent thereof.

13 C. The local school board shall submit a plan for
14 the implementation of an alternate school year to the state
15 superintendent for his approval.

16 D. The provisions of Subsection C and Paragraph
17 (2) of Subsection A of this section shall apply to school
18 districts with a MEM of one thousand or fewer."

19 Section 2. APPROPRIATION. -- Thirty-five million eight
20 hundred twenty-six thousand dollars (\$35,826,000) is
21 appropriated from the general fund to the state department of
22 public education for expenditure in fiscal year 2002 to extend
23 the school year by an additional eight days for teacher
24 professional development. Any unexpended or unencumbered
25 balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2002 shall revert

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to the general fund.