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HOUSE BILL 153

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

James G. Taylor

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; PROVIDING FOR THE REDISTRICTING OF
SCHOOL DISTRICTS; ENACTING A NEW SECTION OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL
CODE; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

Section 1. A new section of Chapter 22, Article 4 NMSA
1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] SCHOOL DISTRICT--REDISTRICTING. --

A. A school district with membership that is
greater than thirty-five thousand students shall be required
to redistrict. The state board shall adopt and promulgate
rules setting forth procedures for the redistricting of the
school district.

B. A school district found in need of
redistricting by the state board shall have up to two years to

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1 plan and complete the redistricting. The two years shall
2 commence from the date that the state board formally finds the
3 school district in need of redistricting. During the course
4 of the two years that the school district has to prepare for
5 redistricting, it shall annually report its progress to the
6 state board.

7 C. The state board shall appoint a task force to
8 assist a school district found in need of redistricting. The
9 task force shall assist the school district during the
10 two-year preparation period for redistricting. The task force
11 shall be composed of members from the school district that is
12 being redistricted, the communities where the redistricting is
13 to occur and recognized experts in the area of school district
14 redistricting. The task force shall consider and report on
15 the following to the state board prior to the redistricting of
16 an existing school district:

17 (1) the boundaries of the proposed new school
18 districts;

19 (2) population demographics; district growth
20 patterns; ethnicity; economic levels; family income; and
21 student and adult educational achievement and attainment
22 levels in the proposed new school districts;

23 (3) division of assets, liabilities and
24 indebtedness, including real and personal property, of the
25 existing and proposed school districts;

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(4) division of bonded indebtedness and voter-approved mill levies of the existing and proposed school districts;

(5) ability of the proposed new school districts to raise operational and capital funding;

(6) effects of redistricting on transportation costs on the existing and proposed new school districts; and

(7) other considerations impacting redistricting identified by the task force.

D. School district and community members of the task force shall receive per diem and mileage pursuant to the provisions of the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

E. The department of education may contract for the services of recognized experts in the area of school district redistricting in accordance with the provisions of the Procurement Code. "

Section 2. APPROPRIATION. -- Eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the state department of public education for expenditure in fiscal years 2003 through 2005 to assist in the redistricting of school districts that exceed thirty-five thousand students. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2005 shall revert to the general fund.