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SENATE BILL 565

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph J. Carraro

AN ACT

RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OFFICES; PROVIDING FOR THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO ACQUIRE OFFICE SPACE AND STAFFING FOR A DISTRICT OFFICE FOR EACH LEGISLATOR; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

Section 1. NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL--LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE--LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OFFICES.--

A. The New Mexico legislative council shall develop and implement a plan to provide each legislator with an office and staff in the legislator's district. The plan shall include:

- (1) procedures for identifying suitable office space;
- (2) procedures for selecting staff;

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1 (3) guidelines for staff qualifications and
2 salary levels;

3 (4) training needs for district office staff;
4 and

5 (5) such other guidelines and procedures as
6 necessary to ensure that legislators receive the maximum
7 benefit from a district office.

8 B. Upon final approval of a plan by the New Mexico
9 legislative council, the legislative council service shall
10 implement the plan. The legislative council service, pursuant
11 to the procedures in the plan, shall assist each legislator in
12 selecting office space and hiring staff personnel. All
13 personnel hired shall be trained by the legislative council
14 service before beginning employment.

15 C. Each staff member of a legislative district
16 office hired pursuant to this section shall report directly to
17 the legislator in whose office the staff member is employed;
18 provided that for all other purposes, the staff member shall be
19 an employee of the legislative council service.

20 Section 2. APPROPRIATION.--

21 A. Two million six hundred sixty thousand dollars
22 (\$2,660,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
23 legislative council service for expenditure in fiscal year 2005
24 to provide a district office and staff for each legislator
25 pursuant to Section 1 of this act and to be expended as

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underscoring material = new
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1 follows:

2 (1) one million two hundred sixty thousand
3 dollars (\$1,260,000) to be divided equally among the members of
4 the senate; and

5 (2) one million four hundred thousand dollars
6 (\$1,400,000) to be divided equally among the members of the
7 house of representatives.

8 B. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining
9 at the end of fiscal year 2005 shall revert to the general
10 fund.