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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-20-2007

SPONSOR Miera LAST UPDATED _____ HB 1041

SHORT TITLE Reimbursements for Transportation to School SB _____

ANALYST Dearing

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		*\$0.1	*\$0.1	*\$0.1	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Attorney General's Office (AGO)
Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 1041 carries no appropriation. If enacted, House Bill 1041 would amend Section 22-16-6 NMSA 1978 such that an additional extension of authority to the local school board is granted that allows boards to provide mileage reimbursement to parents or guardians of children for transportation to public schools. House Bill 1041 provides additional criteria to provisions currently existing in statute under which these payments may be made.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The current statute contains two similar provisions allowing these payments. Existing provisions require board approval. The enactment within this legislation will still require board approval to allow payments in other cases.

*According to the Public Education department, there will be a minimal impact on local district costs. The necessity of board approval implies that local district discretion will be a substantial determinant of the actual cost difference through enactment of this proposal, however additional costs will be absorbed at the district level.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMSA Section 22-16-6 currently authorizes a local school board, subject to regulations adopted by PED, to provide per capita or per mile reimbursement to a parent or guardian in cases where regular school bus transportation is impractical because of distance, road conditions or sparseness of population or in cases where the local school board has authorized a parent to receive reimbursement for travel costs incurred by having a child attend a school outside the child's attendance zone. This bill would expand that authority to include “other cases where regular school bus transportation to and from the child's school is unavailable and the child is required to use alternative methods of transportation.”

The Public Education Department has adopted regulations governing the reimbursement authorized by this section. NMAC 6.43.2.15. The regulations generally require an agreement between the parent and local school board, proof of insurance, and allow the local school board to establish the mileage reimbursement rate.

PD/mt