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HOUSE BILL 191

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

CREATING A JOINT INTERIM PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION TASK
FORCE; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Section 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--PUBLIC SCHOOL
TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE CREATED--MEMBERSHIP--DUTIES--
TERMINATION.--

A. The joint interim "public school transportation
task force" is created. The task force shall function from the
date of its appointment until the first day of December prior
to the second session of the forty-ninth legislature.

B. The task force shall be composed of the
following members appointed by the New Mexico legislative
council:

(1) four members from the house of

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1 representatives;

2 (2) four members from the senate; and

3 (3) four other members, including a
4 representative of a public school district, a charter school, a
5 school bus contractor and an organization representing school
6 bus transportation employees employed by school bus
7 contractors.

8 C. At the time of making appointments, the New
9 Mexico legislative council shall designate the chair and vice
10 chair of the task force. Members shall be appointed from each
11 house so as to give the two major political parties in each
12 house the same proportionate representation on the task force
13 as prevails in each house; provided that in no event shall
14 either of the parties have less than one member from each house
15 on the task force. Members may be removed from the task force
16 by the New Mexico legislative council at the request of the
17 chair of the task force for nonattendance according to council
18 policy. Vacancies on the task force, however caused, may be
19 filled by the New Mexico legislative council, or the council
20 may reduce the size of the task force by not making replacement
21 appointments and in such case need not adjust party
22 representation.

23 D. After its appointment, the task force shall:

24 (1) hold one organizational meeting to develop
25 a work plan and budget for the approval of the New Mexico

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1 legislative council;

2 (2) examine the statutes, constitutional
3 provisions, rules and court decisions governing public school
4 transportation in New Mexico, including those provisions
5 related to the transportation funding formula; the personnel
6 costs to school districts and school bus contractors; the costs
7 of fuel, equipment and maintenance; and the administration of
8 the public school transportation program; and

9 (3) make a report of its findings and
10 recommendations to the legislature and the governor on or
11 before December 1, 2009. No action shall be taken by the task
12 force if a majority of the total membership from either house
13 on the task force rejects such action.

14 E. Members of the task force are entitled to per
15 diem and mileage as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act
16 and shall receive no other compensation, perquisite or
17 allowance.

18 F. The staff for the task force shall be provided
19 by the legislative council service in conjunction with the
20 legislative education study committee, the legislative finance
21 committee, the public education department and the office of
22 education accountability of the department of finance and
23 administration.

24 Section 2. SUBCOMMITTEES.--Subcommittees shall be created
25 only by majority vote of all members appointed to the task

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1 force and with the prior approval of the New Mexico legislative
2 council. A subcommittee shall be composed of at least one
3 member from the senate and one member from the house of
4 representatives, and at least one member from the minority
5 party shall be a member of the subcommittee. All meetings and
6 expenditures of a subcommittee shall be approved by the full
7 task force in advance of such meeting or expenditure, and the
8 approval shall be shown in the minutes of the task force.

9 Section 3. APPROPRIATION.--Twenty thousand dollars
10 (\$20,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
11 legislative council service for expenditure in fiscal year 2010
12 to pay the expenses of the public school transportation task
13 force. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the
14 end of fiscal year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

15 Section 4. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
16 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.