

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE AND THE
3 LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE PROVISIONS OF LAW
4 GOVERNING THE RURAL ISOLATION UNITS PROVIDED THROUGH THE
5 PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA.

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7 WHEREAS, the Gallup-McKinley county school district is
8 one of the largest of New Mexico's school districts,
9 sprawling across the Navajo Nation for over four thousand
10 nine hundred fifty-seven square miles; and

11 WHEREAS, the school district is the sixth-largest school
12 district in terms of students, and eighty-two percent of its
13 students are Native American; and

14 WHEREAS, its unique geography presents the school
15 district with the challenge of educating students in a large
16 number of rural, isolated schools; and

17 WHEREAS, between 1976 and 2011, the Gallup-McKinley
18 county school district received rural isolation units in the
19 size adjustment program unit calculation of the public school
20 funding formula, also known as the "sparsity factor"; and

21 WHEREAS, the sparsity factor provided additional program
22 units for the school district based on the number of approved
23 regular senior high schools not eligible for senior high
24 school size adjustment program units; and

25 WHEREAS, the number of approved senior high schools in

1 the school district not eligible for senior high school size
2 adjustment program units decreased from four in the 2009-2010
3 school year to two in the 2011-2012 school year, making the
4 school district ineligible for rural isolation units;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
7 legislative education study committee and the legislative
8 finance committee be requested to study the law and the
9 funding formula calculations for rural isolation units and
10 the need for changes to the public school funding formula
11 calculation for rural isolation units; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee report its
13 findings to the second session of the fifty-third
14 legislature; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the chair and director of the legislative
17 education study committee and the legislative finance
18 committee to the Gallup-McKinley county school district.
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