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SENATE MEMORIAL 112

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

INTRODUCED BY

Jeff Steinborn

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE, IN  
CONSULTATION WITH THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, TO UNDERTAKE  
A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE REQUIREMENTS FOR AND USE  
OF AIR CONDITIONING IN SCHOOL BUSES.

WHEREAS, rides in non-air-conditioned school buses for  
students during hot weather periods can be physically and  
mentally harmful for students; and

WHEREAS, in many school districts in New Mexico, the  
outside ambient temperature can rise well into the ninety- and  
one-hundred-degree range during portions of the school year;  
and

WHEREAS, on any given school day, school buses are the  
largest transit system in the nation and the only mass transit  
system where air conditioning is optional; and

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1           WHEREAS, temperatures inside a non-air-conditioned school  
2 bus with a white roof and with all vents and windows opened can  
3 be ten degrees or more hotter than the outside temperature; and

4           WHEREAS, exposure to extremely hot temperatures can cause  
5 drowsiness, lethargy and heat-related illness for school bus  
6 drivers that can impact driver focus, attention and reaction  
7 time, all of which increase the risk for accidents, as drowsy  
8 driving is similar to driving under the influence of alcohol;

9           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
10 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study committee,  
11 in consultation with the public education department, be  
12 requested to undertake a study to determine the appropriate  
13 requirements for, and use of air conditioning in school buses  
14 when high temperatures threaten an adverse impact on the health  
15 and safety of students and school bus drivers; and

16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education  
17 study committee report its findings and recommendations to the  
18 office of the governor, the public education department, the  
19 legislative finance committee and any other appropriate interim  
20 legislative committees by November 1, 2019; and

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the chair and  
23 vice chair of the legislative education study committee, the  
24 co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative council and the  
25 director of the legislative education study committee.

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