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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 7

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

Joy Garratt and Christine Chandler

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE TO STUDY PUBLIC SCHOOL HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS AND RECOMMEND A SUSTAINABLE FUNDING MECHANISM FOR HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING ASSESSMENTS, REPAIRS, ADJUSTMENTS AND REPLACEMENTS.

WHEREAS, air quality has a significant impact on the health, well-being and success of students and teachers; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that exposure to poor air quality can result in negative health effects, such as respiratory problems and decreased cognitive function, which can affect student performance in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, conditions related to poor air quality, including asthma, have increased in prevalence in recent years; and

WHEREAS, most current assessments of heating, ventilation

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1 and air conditioning systems in New Mexico's schools are not
2 performed by certified mechanical technicians, do not include
3 physical measurements and do not yield data about school air
4 quality; and

5 WHEREAS, ventilation verification assessments should
6 provide specific technical information about each system,
7 including maximum filter efficiency, measurements of outside
8 air rate, verification of operation of ventilation components,
9 measurement of all air distribution inlets and outlets,
10 verification of unit operation and history of required
11 maintenance performed, verification of control sequences,
12 verification or installation of carbon dioxide sensors and
13 collection of field data for the installation of mechanical
14 ventilation if none exists; and

15 WHEREAS, heating, ventilation and air conditioning
16 assessments should result in direct actions schools can take to
17 improve air quality, which may include repairs, adjustments or
18 full system replacements; and

19 WHEREAS, multiple avenues exist for the state and school
20 districts to fund heating, ventilation and air conditioning
21 assessments, repairs and replacements, including federal
22 coronavirus disease 2019 relief funds and systems-based awards
23 from the public school capital outlay council; and

24 WHEREAS, more study is required to ensure that school
25 districts have access to a sustainable, reliable funding source

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1 to perform heating, ventilation and air conditioning
2 ventilation verification assessments, repairs, adjustments and
3 replacement;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public school capital outlay
6 oversight task force be requested to study public school
7 heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and recommend
8 a sustainable funding mechanism for the assessment, repair,
9 adjustment and replacement of heating, ventilation and air
10 conditioning systems; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public school capital
12 outlay oversight task force be requested to work with staff
13 from the public school facilities authority, the public
14 education department, the legislative education study committee
15 and the legislative finance committee to develop its
16 recommendations; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public school capital
18 outlay oversight task force be requested to report its
19 recommendations to the legislative education study committee by
20 January 16, 2024; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the chair of the public school capital outlay
23 oversight task force and the director of the legislative
24 council service.