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HOUSE BILL 175

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026**

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE; REQUIRING SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
AND STATE-CHARTERED CHARTER SCHOOLS TO REPORT THE NUMBER OF  
CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS TRANSPORTED ON ROUTES OPERATED BY THE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OR STATE-CHARTERED CHARTER SCHOOL AND DATA THAT  
MAY SHOW EXPANSION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES; PROVIDING THAT A  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OR STATE-CHARTERED CHARTER SCHOOL THAT REPORTS  
DATA SHOWING EXPANDED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES IN THE CURRENT  
SCHOOL YEAR SHALL RECEIVE AN ALLOCATION IN THE CURRENT SCHOOL  
YEAR FOR THAT EXPANSION; PROVIDING THAT THE ALLOCATION IS  
SUBJECT TO RECONCILIATION OR ADJUSTMENT IN THE SUBSEQUENT  
SCHOOL YEAR AS PROVIDED BY PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT RULE;  
MAKING CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 22-8-29 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1967,

.232968.2

Chapter 16, Section 78, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-8-29. TRANSPORTATION DISTRIBUTIONS--REPORTS--  
PAYMENTS.--

A. On the second reporting date and the third reporting date of each year, each local school board of a school district and governing body of a state-chartered charter school shall report to the state transportation director, upon forms furnished by the state transportation director, the following information concerning the school district's or state-chartered charter school's operation on each respective reporting date of the current year:

(1) the number and designation of school bus routes ~~[in operation in the school district]~~ operated by the school district or state-chartered charter school;

(2) the number of miles traveled by each school bus on each school bus route, showing the route mileage in accordance with the type of road surface traveled;

(3) the number of students transported on each bus route operated by the school district or state-chartered charter school, including:

(a) special education students, transported on each reporting date of the current year and adjusted for special education students on December 1; and

(b) students enrolled at a locally chartered or state-chartered charter school transported on each

1 reporting date of the current year by the students' charter  
2 school, a school district or another charter school pursuant to  
3 an agreement;

4 (4) the projected number of students to be  
5 transported in the next school year;

6 (5) the seating capacity, age and mileage of  
7 each bus used in the school district for student  
8 transportation; ~~[and]~~

9 (6) the number of total miles traveled for  
10 each school district's or state-chartered charter school's per  
11 capita feeder routes;

12 (7) the number of students transported on  
13 public transit or through other department-approved fare-based  
14 transportation at the expense of the school district or locally  
15 chartered or state-chartered charter school and the associated  
16 costs; and

17 (8) if applicable, the number of new routes,  
18 the increase in miles traveled or the number of new riders  
19 compared to the data reported by the school district or state-  
20 chartered charter school in the prior school year.

21 B. Each local school board of a school district and  
22 governing body of a state-chartered charter school maintaining  
23 a school bus route shall make further reports to the state  
24 transportation director at other times specified by the state  
25 transportation director.

.232968.2

1 C. The state transportation director shall certify  
2 to the secretary that the allocations from the transportation  
3 distributions to each school district and state-chartered  
4 charter school are based upon the transportation distribution  
5 formula established in the Public School Code, calculated and  
6 distributed for the entire school year using an average of the  
7 amounts reported pursuant to Subsection A of this section on  
8 the second reporting date and third reporting date of the prior  
9 school year, and are subject to audit and verification;  
10 provided that ~~[for fiscal years 2022 and 2023, the state~~  
11 ~~transportation director shall use an average of the amounts~~  
12 ~~reported pursuant to Subsection A of this section on the second~~  
13 ~~and third reporting dates of fiscal year 2020]~~ a school  
14 district or state-chartered charter school that reports data  
15 showing expanded transportation services in the current school  
16 year pursuant to Paragraph (8) of Subsection A of this section  
17 shall receive an allocation in the current school year  
18 calculated using that reported data, which shall be subject to  
19 reconciliation or adjustment in the subsequent school year as  
20 provided by department rule.

21 D. The department shall make periodic installment  
22 payments to school districts and state-chartered charter  
23 schools during the school year from the transportation  
24 distributions, based upon the allocations certified by the  
25 state transportation director."