HOUSE BILL 85

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2000

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE; CHANGING THE AT-RISK INDEX.

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

    Section 1. Section 22-8-23.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1997, Chapter 40, Section 7) is amended to read:

    "22-8-23.3. AT-RISK PROGRAM UNITS.--

        A. A school district is eligible for additional program units if it establishes within its state board approved educational plan identified services to assist students to reach their full academic potential. A school district receiving additional at-risk program units shall include a report of specified services in its annual accountability report pursuant to Section 22-1-6 NMSA 1978. The number of additional units to which a <u>school</u> district is entitled under this section is computed in the following

.130622.1

manner:

$$\text{At-Risk Index x MEM = Units}$$

where MEM is equal to the total district membership,
including early childhood education, full-time-equivalent
membership and special education membership and where the at-
risk index is calculated in the following manner:

$$\text{Refined At-Risk Cluster x } 0.015 = \text{At-Risk Index.}$$

        B.   To calculate the refined at-risk cluster, the
department shall rank order each school district in the state
on the basis of the district's three-year average of the
percentage of membership used to determine its Title I
allocation, the percentage of membership classified as
limited English proficient using criteria established by the
federal office of civil rights, the percentage of student
mobility and the percentage of dropouts in the school
district. Using this data, the department shall initially
group districts into nine clusters using a neural network
computer analysis. Each school district shall be assigned a
whole number from one to nine reflecting its initial cluster
assignment, with higher need school districts receiving a
higher number and lower need school districts receiving a
lower number. This number shall be modified on the basis of
a school district's relative position in the cluster and
further refined through the use of a second neural network
computer analysis, a back propagation. Using the results of
this analysis, the department shall refine the cluster
assignment and the number assigned to each school district.

.130622.1

The number obtained from this calculation is the refined at-risk cluster.

     C.   The department shall recalculate the at-risk index for each school district every two years."

    Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2000.

- 3 -

.130622.1