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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 5

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

INTRODUCED BY  
J. Paul Taylor

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO STUDY  
STAFFING PATTERNS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RELATED SERVICES.

WHEREAS, effective with the 1996-97 school year, funding  
for special education related services was expanded to  
include diagnostic services, and the number of units per  
full-time equivalent was increased from twenty to twenty-five  
units; and

WHEREAS, the state department of public education  
reported that full-time equivalents for related services  
personnel have increased dramatically since the program was  
expanded to include diagnostic services and since the number  
of units per full-time equivalent was increased; and

WHEREAS, the state board of education entered into a  
contract with an independent consultant to study the funding  
for special education related services personnel; and

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~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1           WHEREAS, the independent consultant identified staffing  
2 patterns and rapidly increasing costs for related services  
3 personnel in the report *Problems and Concerns with Aspects of*  
4 *the New Mexico Public School Funding Formula* dated November  
5 5, 1999; and

6           WHEREAS, the independent consultant reported that the  
7 total number of units for special education related services  
8 personnel increased from twenty-two thousand four hundred  
9 eighty-one in 1996-97 to forty-two thousand six hundred fifty  
10 in 1999-2000, for an increase of over twenty thousand units;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, the independent consultant did not find  
13 guidelines or rules that the state department of public  
14 education should use in granting approval to school districts  
15 for existing or additional full-time equivalent related  
16 services personnel; and

17           WHEREAS, the independent consultant recommended that a  
18 comprehensive examination be undertaken to study the funding  
19 needs of related services to gather information that will  
20 explain the reasons for the ranges among districts in  
21 staffing ratios for related services;

22           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public  
24 education be requested to perform a comprehensive study to  
25 gather information on the conditions contributing to the wide  
ranges in staffing ratios for related services, to develop  
criteria for approval of current and additional special

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1 education related services personnel and to provide  
2 information that will assist in the development of a fair and  
3 equitable funding methodology for these services; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and  
5 recommendations of this study be provided to the legislative  
6 education study committee by November 1, 2000; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
8 distributed to the superintendent of public instruction and  
9 the director of the legislative education study committee for  
10 appropriate distribution.

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