

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 22

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - 2ND SPECIAL SESSION, 2000

INTRODUCED BY

Raymond G. Sanchez

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT A TASK FORCE OF EXPERTS BE APPOINTED TO ANALYZE AND RECOMMEND PERMANENT FUNDING OPTIONS FOR THE CAPITAL OUTLAY NEEDS OF NEW MEXICO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, the constitution of New Mexico guarantees a uniform system of free public schools to all children in the state; and

WHEREAS, a state district court judge has ruled that the current system of funding capital improvements for New Mexico's school districts violates the state constitution; and

WHEREAS, a continuing permanent revenue stream for funding the current and future needs for public school capital outlay projects should be established; and

WHEREAS, alternative options for the revenue stream and the costs and benefits of each option need to be analyzed; and

WHEREAS, in addressing options for public school capital outlay needs, it may be useful to consider options for the credits taken for "impact aid" and other local and federal revenues in the public school equalization formula to find a

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1 more appropriate way to ensure equity in both capital and
2 operational funding; and

3 WHEREAS, a task force of experts should be appointed for
4 the purpose of analyzing the funding options and making
5 recommendations on a permanent revenue stream;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that a task force of experts be appointed
8 to analyze options for providing a continuing funding mechanism
9 for capital outlay projects needed by public school districts
10 within New Mexico; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for each option, the analysis
12 include:

13 (1) any short-term and long-term effects upon the
14 general fund;

15 (2) any potential impact upon other capital outlay
16 needs of the state and its political subdivisions;

17 (3) any potential impact upon the citizens,
18 business and future economic development potential of the
19 state;

20 (4) consideration of the different property values,
21 income levels, populations and number of students between the
22 various school districts;

23 (5) any potential impact upon the rating of general
24 obligation bonds, severance tax bonds and other bonds issued by
25 the state or its political subdivisions; and

(6) any potential impact upon the prudence of
future state investments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force evaluate the
credits taken for "impact aid" and other local and federal

1 revenues in the public school equalization formula and analyze
2 options for changes in the formula that would further the goals
3 of providing additional funds for public school capital outlay
4 and maintain equity in funding formula; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
6 the dean of the university of New Mexico law school, the
7 secretary of finance and administration or his designee, the
8 state investment officer or his designee, the superintendent of
9 public instruction or his designee, the chairs of the senate
10 education committee and house education committee, two public
11 members appointed by the speaker of the house of
12 representatives who have expertise in education and finance,
13 two public members appointed by the president pro tempore of
14 the senate who have expertise in education and finance and
15 three public members appointed by the governor who have
16 expertise in education and finance;

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be staffed by
18 the state department of public education, with the assistance
19 of staff from the department of finance and administration, the
20 legislative council service, the legislative education study
21 committee and the legislative finance committee;

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report the
23 results of its analyses and its findings and recommendations to
24 the governor and the legislature no later than December 1,
25 2000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
transmitted to the secretary of finance and administration, the
state investment officer, the superintendent of public
instruction, the state board of education and the director of

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1 the legislative council service.

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