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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 19

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

Leonard Tsosie

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE
PROCUREMENT CODE AND OTHER APPLICABLE STATUTES TO DETERMINE
HOW TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED STATE MATCH UNDER THE FEDERAL "E-
RATE" PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996
provides that public school districts may be eligible to
receive a discount or "e-rate" for the acquisition of
telecommunication services in their schools; and

WHEREAS, eligible school districts may receive an e-rate
for telecommunication services, internet access and internal
connections necessary for deploying technology into the
classroom; and

WHEREAS, telecommunication services may include regular
telephone lines for teachers to receive phone calls in the

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1 classroom, pagers for security officials, high bandwidth
2 telecommunication services, satellite delivery for distance
3 learning and coaxial cables; internet access may include email
4 and access to worldwide web services; and internal connections
5 may include basic installation and maintenance of a network
6 that brings technology into the learning environment,
7 including routers, hubs, network file servers, wireless local
8 area networks and software needed for operation of file
9 servers; and

10 WHEREAS, school districts can qualify for an e-rate of up
11 to ninety percent, which means that ten thousand dollars
12 (\$10,000) spent by a public school purchases one hundred
13 thousand dollars (\$100,000) of telecommunication services; and

14 WHEREAS, school districts must have an education
15 technology plan approved by the public education department in
16 order to qualify for e-rate discounts and to submit an
17 application to the federal agency administering the e-rate
18 program; and

19 WHEREAS, the public education department is currently
20 assisting school districts in developing their technology
21 plans tied to e-rate requirements that set district and state
22 goals for technology and curriculum and in applying for e-rate
23 funding;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be

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1 requested, in collaboration with school district personnel, to
2 examine the Procurement Code and other applicable statutes to
3 determine how to best provide the required state match for
4 school districts under the federal e-rate program in order to
5 ensure that public schools have affordable access to advanced
6 telecommunications; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
8 department report its findings and recommendations to the
9 legislative education study committee by October 1, 2006; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the secretary of public education and the
12 director of the legislative education study committee for
13 appropriate distribution.

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