1	SENATE MEMORIAL 37
2	48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	James G. Taylor
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10	A MEMORIAL
11	REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE OFFICE OF
12	EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT AN AUDIT OF THE ALBUQUERQUE
13	SCHOOL DISTRICT.
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15	WHEREAS, with approximately ninety-four thousand six
16	hundred students, Albuquerque public schools is the largest
17	school district in the state and one of the largest in the
18	country; and
19	WHEREAS, it is a majority Hispanic school district, with
20	fifty-four and one-half percent Hispanic, just over thirty
21	percent Anglo, about five percent Native American, almost four
22	percent African American and about two and one-half percent
23	Asian students; and
24	WHEREAS, the school district encompasses the south
25	valley, the southeast heights, the far northeast heights and
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WHEREAS, the state equalization guarantee includes a cost differential that provides school districts with additional funds based on certain characteristics that describe students at risk of dropping out, including mobility, family income, English language learner and percent of students who receive title I funding; and

WHEREAS, because these characteristics are accurate predictors of the number of students who are at risk of not completing high school, it is important that the state funding for this purpose be spent in the schools and classrooms that generate the funds; and

WHEREAS, the schools in the Rio Grande high school, Highland high school and Albuquerque high school clusters have large numbers of students who come from low socioeconomic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, anecdotal information indicates that these schools are not receiving the financial aid they generated from their large numbers of at-risk students and, therefore, are hampered in their ability to provide the intensive services that at-risk students need if they are to stay in school and graduate;

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1	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
2	OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative finance committee and the
3	office of education accountability be requested to conduct an
4	audit of the Albuquerque public schools to determine how, to
5	what purposes and to what schools state and federal funds are
6	allocated and to determine whether the district is putting its
7	at-risk funding into the schools with the highest dropout rates
8	and other indicators of large at-risk student populations; and
9	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10	transmitted to the director of the legislative finance
11	committee and the director of the office of education
12	accountability.
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