

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY  
3 THE PROVISIONS OF LAW GOVERNING THE RURAL ISOLATION UNITS  
4 PROVIDED THROUGH THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA.

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6 WHEREAS, the Gallup-McKinley county school district is  
7 one of the largest of New Mexico's school districts,  
8 sprawling across the Navajo Nation one hundred fifty miles  
9 long and ninety miles wide; and

10 WHEREAS, the school district is only the fifth-largest  
11 school district in terms of students, and eighty-five percent  
12 of its twelve thousand students are Native American; and

13 WHEREAS, since 1976, the Gallup-McKinley county school  
14 district has received rural isolation units in the size  
15 adjustment unit calculation of the public school funding  
16 formula, also known as the "sparsity factor"; and

17 WHEREAS, the sparsity factor provides additional program  
18 units for the school district based on the number of approved  
19 regular senior high schools that are not eligible for small  
20 school size adjustment; and

21 WHEREAS, the number of approved senior high schools in  
22 the school district not eligible for senior high size units  
23 decreased from four to three in the 2010-2011 school year,  
24 and the school district lost one million eight hundred  
25 twenty-nine thousand one hundred sixteen dollars (\$1,829,116)

1 in rural isolation units for that year, which drastic loss of  
2 revenue, on top of the unit value reduction shared by all  
3 school districts, will likely mean severe budget cuts in  
4 school year 2011 that will go deep into classrooms and  
5 frustrate efforts to improve student achievement;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study  
8 committee be requested to study the law and the funding  
9 formula calculations for small school size adjustment and  
10 rural isolation units and the need for a hold-harmless  
11 provision to minimize such drastic fluctuations in funding  
12 for the Gallup-McKinley county school district; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee report its  
14 findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim  
15 legislative committee by December 1, 2011; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this memorial be  
17 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study  
18 committee, the public education department and the  
19 Gallup-McKinley county school district. \_\_\_\_\_

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