

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 43

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Lynda M. Lovejoy

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE, WITH THE
12 ASSISTANCE OF THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, TO CONVENE A
13 TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FORMULA WORK GROUP TO STUDY THE EQUITY
14 OF THE CURRENT TRANSPORTATION DISTRIBUTION FORMULA.

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16 WHEREAS, like the state equalization guarantee
17 distribution, the transportation distribution for public
18 schools is funded by the legislature, but unlike the public
19 school operational funding formula, the transportation
20 distribution formula is not part of state law; and

21 WHEREAS, the transportation distribution is used by school
22 districts for the costs of to-and-from school transportation of
23 students in grades kindergarten through twelve; and

24 WHEREAS, there has not been a major study of the
25 transportation distribution since 1994, and there have not been

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1 major changes to the transportation distribution statutes since
2 1995; and

3 WHEREAS, the Gallup-McKinley county school district is one
4 of the largest school districts, transporting students
5 throughout approximately six thousand square miles; and

6 WHEREAS, the Gallup-McKinley county school district ranks
7 number two of all school districts for bus miles traveled,
8 calculated at just over two million seven hundred thirty-eight
9 thousand miles for the 2011-2012 initial allocation; and

10 WHEREAS, the Gallup-McKinley county school district will
11 receive one dollar fifty-two cents (\$1.52) per mile traveled
12 for its initial allocation, but other districts with far fewer
13 miles traveled receive far more allocations; for example, the
14 Dulce school district, with only twelve thousand one hundred
15 sixty-three bus miles, receives eleven dollars eighty-seven
16 cents (\$11.87), the highest of all school districts, by far;
17 the Zuni school district, with only seventy-two thousand seven
18 hundred two miles, receives five dollars seventy-eight cents
19 (\$5.78) and is the next highest recipient of the transportation
20 distribution; the Hatch school district, at four dollars thirty
21 cents (\$4.30), travels only one hundred forty-nine thousand
22 four hundred eighty-four miles; the Lovington school district,
23 at two hundred forty-seven thousand eight hundred seven miles,
24 and the Bloomfield school district, at three hundred thirty-
25 eight thousand four hundred eighty-five miles, both receive

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1 three dollars thirty-seven cents (\$3.37); and

2 WHEREAS, the Gallup-McKinley county school district is
3 paid the least, by a significant amount, of the school
4 districts in its group of large school districts, seemingly in
5 disregard of the size of each school district and bus miles
6 traveled; and

7 WHEREAS, the transportation distribution formula does not
8 account for unpaved and unimproved road miles, which account
9 for much higher maintenance costs due to conditions and
10 terrain;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study
13 committee, with the assistance of the public education
14 department, be requested to study the current transportation
15 distribution formula, including equity issues; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study consider including
17 other transportation-related expenses that are not included in
18 to-and-from mileage, including:

- 19 A. the miles of unpaved and unimproved roads
- 20 traveled by school buses in a school district;
- 21 B. special education transportation miles and type;
- 22 C. school district demographics;
- 23 D. contractor fees and gross receipts taxes; and
- 24 E. feeder route fees and miles; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education

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1 study committee report to the second session of the fiftieth
2 legislature on its findings and recommendations on making the
3 transportation distribution formula a fairer and more equitable
4 school transportation distribution formula; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study
7 committee and the secretary of public education.

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