AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; REQUIRING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN PROVIDING INTERNET ACCESS TO TEACHERS STATEWIDE; PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE FUNDS; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS--PAYMENT OF INTERNET COSTS--REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE FUNDS--EXCEPTIONS.--

A. The public education department shall assist school districts in providing internet access to school teachers statewide.

B. The public education department shall provide financial assistance monthly of up to:

(1) one hundred fifty dollars ($150) per
teacher, if the teacher is using a wi-fi hotspot that has not
been provided by the school district; or

(2) seventy-five dollars ($75.00) per teacher
for regular internet services the teacher is using to provide
online lessons to students.

C. A school district shall provide the following
information to the public education department on a monthly
basis:

(1) the number of teachers in the school
district in need of assistance paying for internet access
costs; and

(2) receipts from each teacher for actual
expenses paid out of pocket for internet costs.

D. The funds provided for by this act shall only
apply to teachers who have not:

(1) been provided a wi-fi hotspot by the
school district; and

(2) returned to in-person teaching.

E. The provisions of this act shall only apply as
long as a school district is under coronavirus disease 2019
restrictions or is offering only remote learning.

F. The provisions of this act shall be effective
from July 1, 2021 until the termination of the state of public
health emergency related to the coronavirus disease 2019 as
declared by the governor.