

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY
3 THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A FLAT PER DIEM RATE OF NO
4 LESS THAN NINETY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$95.00) PER MEETING FOR SCHOOL
5 BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT AUTHORIZED SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS,
6 TRAINING AND OTHER GATHERINGS.

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8 WHEREAS, school boards are elected by their community to
9 represent the values and beliefs of the community and
10 represent the public's voice in public education, providing
11 citizen governance for what the public schools need and what
12 the community wants; and

13 WHEREAS, school board members meet with stakeholders to
14 obtain input and feedback regarding the policies of the
15 public schools; and

16 WHEREAS, school board members must dedicate many hours
17 outside of school board meetings in reviewing reports,
18 including detailed financial reports, policy recommendations
19 and extensive prior research; and

20 WHEREAS, school board business necessitates travel for
21 school board members; and

22 WHEREAS, historically, statutory rates for per diem for
23 every nonsalaried public official, including school board
24 members, was up to ninety-five dollars (\$95.00) for board
25 meetings; and

1 WHEREAS, effective April 6, 2021, Senate Bill 345
2 changed the rates of per diem reimbursement for in-state and
3 out-of-state travel for certain public officials, including
4 school board members; and

5 WHEREAS, the new per diem rates allow:

6 A. forty-five dollars (\$45.00) if the officer
7 physically attends the board or committee meeting for less
8 than four hours or the officer attends a virtual meeting of
9 any duration during a single calendar day; and

10 B. ninety-five dollars (\$95.00) if the officer
11 physically attends the board or committee meeting for four
12 hours or more during a single calendar day; and

13 WHEREAS, the new reduced per diem rates are not
14 equitable and are causing hardship for school board members;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study
17 committee be requested to study the feasibility of
18 establishing a flat per diem rate of no less than ninety-five
19 dollars (\$95.00) per meeting for school board member
20 attendance at authorized school board meetings, training and
21 other gatherings; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
23 study committee be requested to report its findings and
24 conclusions to the appropriate legislative interim committee
25 by October 1, 2022; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
2 transmitted to the chair of the legislative education study
3 committee, the chair of the legislative finance committee, the
4 secretary of public education and the secretary of higher
5 education. _____

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