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SENATE MEMORIAL 31

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022**

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

WHEREAS, school board members must dedicate many hours

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1 outside of school board meetings in reviewing reports,  
2 including detailed financial reports, policy recommendations  
3 and extensive prior research; and

4 WHEREAS, school board business necessitates travel for  
5 school board members; and

6 WHEREAS, historically, statutory rates for per diem for  
7 every nonsalaried public official, including school board  
8 members, was up to ninety-five dollars (\$95.00) for board  
9 meetings; and

10 WHEREAS, effective April 6, 2021, Senate Bill 345 changed  
11 the rates of per diem reimbursement for in-state and out-of-  
12 state travel for certain public officials, including school  
13 board members; and

14 WHEREAS, the new per diem rates allow:

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

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

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

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
25 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study committee be

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1 requested to study the feasibility of establishing a flat per  
2 diem rate of no less than ninety-five dollars (\$95.00) per  
3 meeting for school board member attendance at authorized school  
4 board meetings, training and other gatherings; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education  
6 study committee be requested to report its findings and  
7 conclusions to the appropriate legislative interim committee by  
8 October 1, 2022; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
10 transmitted to the chair of the legislative education study  
11 committee, the chair of the legislative finance committee, the  
12 secretary of public education and the secretary of higher  
13 education.