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HOUSE BILL 481

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1998

INTRODUCED BY

RAYMOND G. SANCHEZ

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; ESTABLISHING THE STATEWIDE
EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LOW-
COST, STATE-OF-THE-ART COMPUTERS FOR NEW MEXICO'S CLASSROOMS;
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Section 1. STATEWIDE EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITY
PROGRAM - FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. --

A. The legislature finds that:

(1) local school districts need increased
access to information technologies, extensive professional
development and sustained network support to use technology
effectively;

(2) the technological needs of New Mexico's
individual school children and classrooms are best defined by

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1 the teachers and principals who work with them on a day-to-day
2 basis;

3 (3) New Mexico is fortunate to have high
4 technology laboratories and corporations that have programs to
5 supply low-cost, state-of-the-art central processing units for
6 use in New Mexico classrooms; and

7 (4) there are large nonprofit programs in
8 place to build and rehabilitate computers for New Mexico
9 classrooms using a combination of donated, surplus and
10 purchased equipment.

11 B. The purpose of this act is to establish a
12 statewide educational technology opportunity program for New
13 Mexico's teachers and students by creating a partnership
14 between private industry, state government and local school
15 districts that will build, distribute and install low-cost,
16 network-ready computers in New Mexico classrooms over the next
17 three years.

18 Section 2. EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITY
19 PROGRAM - DUTIES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION. --

20 A. The state department of public education shall
21 contract with a nonprofit corporation to administer the
22 statewide educational technology opportunity program. The
23 department shall select a contractor that has a program in
24 place to build and rehabilitate computers for New Mexico
25 classrooms using a combination of donated, surplus and

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1 purchased equipment. In administering the statewide
2 educational technology opportunity program, the contractor, in
3 coordination with the department, shall:

4 (1) solicit and accept applications for
5 computer assistance from local school teachers through the
6 local school principals;

7 (2) establish criteria for evaluating
8 applications for computer assistance. The criteria shall
9 include requirements for an established technology plan and an
10 established network infrastructure;

11 (3) establish a review process involving
12 public and private entities to evaluate each application,
13 determine the amount of computer assistance needed and
14 allocate the available computers to ensure that computer
15 assistance is distributed equitably; and

16 (4) submit an annual report to the state
17 board of education, the governor and the legislature on the
18 progress of the program, showing the regional distribution of
19 the program, the number of computers distributed and the cost
20 of each computer.

21 B. Upon the approval of an application for
22 computer assistance, the contractor shall distribute the
23 allocated computers directly to the classroom and teacher.
24 Pursuant to the contract and upon the receipt of an invoice,
25 the state department of public education shall reimburse the

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1 contractor for the state portion of the cost of the computer
2 assistance granted.

3 C. The state department of public education, after
4 consulting with private industry, local school districts and
5 other interested parties shall promulgate such rules as are
6 necessary to implement the statewide educational technology
7 opportunity program.

8 Section 3. APPROPRIATIONS. --Two million dollars
9 (\$2,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund in each of
10 fiscal years 1998 through 2000 to the state department of
11 public education. The appropriations shall be expended in the
12 fiscal year received and succeeding fiscal years only for
13 reimbursing the contractor for the state portion of computer
14 assistance granted pursuant to Section 2 of this act.
15 Unexpended or unencumbered balances of the appropriations
16 shall not revert.

17 Section 4. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
18 peace, health and safety that this act take effect
19 immediately.

1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

2 SECOND SESSION, 1998

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6 February 13, 1998

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8 Mr. Speaker:

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10 Your EDUCATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

11
12 HOUSE BILL 481

13
14 has had it under consideration and reports same with
15 recommendation that it DO PASS, amended as follows:

16
17 1. On page 4, line 9, strike "in each of", and on line
18 10 strike "1998 through 2000", and insert in lieu thereof "for
19 the 1998 fiscal year".

20
21 2. On page 4, line 11, strike "The appropriation shall
22 be expended in the", and strike lines 12 through 14 in their
23 entirety. ,

24 and thence referred to the APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE
25 COMMITTEE.

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 1998

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Respectfully submitted,

Rick Miera, Chairman

Adopted _____

Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 9 For 0 Against

Yes: 9

Excused: Beam, McSherry, Vigil, Gonzales

Absent: None

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