

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 93

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY AND EFFECT OF USING STATE SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION
DISTRIBUTION FUNDS TO PROVIDE CITY BUS PASSES FOR STUDENTS
TRAVELING BETWEEN SCHOOL ZONES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico students and their families have the
opportunity to transfer to the school of their choice within a
district when space is available; and

WHEREAS, the Albuquerque public schools' board of
education supports the policy of allowing parents to choose the
schools their children attend to the extent permitted by law;
and

WHEREAS, the Albuquerque public schools offer a variety of
programs throughout the city designed to satisfy the great
range of educational needs, interests and aspirations of

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1 Albuquerque high school students; and

2 WHEREAS, the opportunity to choose a school where the
3 parents and students feel comfortable can often be the critical
4 factor in whether a student completes high school successfully;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, over three thousand four hundred high school
7 students and their parents in the Albuquerque public schools
8 exercise the opportunity to choose to attend a school outside
9 their regular attendance zones but within the district; and

10 WHEREAS, parents whose students transfer within their
11 district are responsible for transporting their students to and
12 from school; and

13 WHEREAS, riding the bus is often the urban equivalent of
14 automobile travel for city-dwelling inter-zone transfer
15 students; and

16 WHEREAS, the cost of inter-zone travel to and from school
17 by whatever means may create a barrier to the exercise of
18 choice for students whose families do not own a reliable
19 automobile or who for other reasons cannot transport them to
20 distant high schools;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be
23 requested to study the feasibility of permitting school
24 districts to use state school transportation distribution funds
25 to provide municipal bus tokens to high school inter-zone

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1 transfer students to travel to and from the school of their
2 choice; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the course of the study,
4 the public education department research the potential fiscal,
5 student health and safety, tort liability, logistical and other
6 effects and constraints that might weigh in the decision to put
7 an inter-zone bus token policy in place, as well as the changes
8 that would be required in law and rule to implement an inter-
9 zone bus token policy; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
11 department include input from interested parties, including
12 school district representatives, municipal transportation
13 officials and the families of inter-zone students, in the
14 study; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
16 department report its findings and recommendations to the
17 legislative education study committee by November 2005; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the secretary of public education and the
20 director of the legislative education study committee.