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**HOUSE MEMORIAL 72**

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

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Ray Begaye**

**A MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING A STUDY OF THE DEFINITIONS OF "RURAL SCHOOL" AND  
"RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT" BY THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY  
COMMITTEE.**

**WHEREAS, the definitions of "rural school" and "rural  
school district" for purposes of federal funding involve a  
complex equation that includes schools and school districts  
with populations up to two thousand five hundred students, in  
some instances; and**

**WHEREAS, the public education department definition of  
rural school district simplifies the standard to be used for  
purposes of federal funding to mean that a school district has  
one thousand or fewer students; and**

**WHEREAS, some New Mexico rural schools and rural school  
districts otherwise entitled to federal funding may be unable**

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1 to qualify as rural schools or rural school districts for  
2 purposes of receiving public education department assistance in  
3 seeking such funds; and

4 WHEREAS, the rural education division of the public  
5 education department should assist rural schools and rural  
6 school districts to maximize the amount of federal funds they  
7 can receive;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative  
10 education study committee study the definitions of "rural  
11 school" and "rural school district" for purposes of clarifying  
12 which schools and school districts are entitled to assistance  
13 from the rural education division of the public education  
14 department; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study compare the number  
16 of students required for eligibility for federal rural schools  
17 funding with the number of students required for eligibility  
18 for public education department assistance; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study encompass New Mexico  
20 schools with student populations between nine hundred ninety  
21 nine and two thousand five hundred one students; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study examine the  
23 usefulness of definitions that include population density as a  
24 factor in eligibility for public education department  
25 assistance and federal funding; and

