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SENATE MEMORIAL 41

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Gay G. Kernan

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING A STUDY OF THE REGIONAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVES.

WHEREAS, the legislature created the regional education cooperatives in 1993 to bring education-related services to rural and other underserved areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, regional education cooperatives now serve over fifty-nine of the eighty-nine school districts as well as charter schools and state-supported schools; and

WHEREAS, regional education cooperatives bring direct services to children, families and communities, including federal child find activities, which help identify children who may have special needs at an early age when appropriate interventions may be most effective in helping them reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, regional education cooperatives have a unique

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1 understanding of the strengths and challenges of their members
2 and provide their members with a variety of services, including
3 professional development, special education and other technical
4 assistance, parent training, data collection and analysis,
5 distance education, grant writing and administration,
6 school-board training, cooperative school nurse services and
7 special education-related services, and other services
8 identified as crucial by their members; and

9 WHEREAS, regional education cooperatives are a vital and
10 necessary component of New Mexico's education system and should
11 continue to serve as a conduit and delivery system for New
12 Mexico's school improvement and educational reforms; and

13 WHEREAS, recent changes in the grant requirements of the
14 federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and other
15 federal programs and in the federal process for reimbursing
16 school districts and other local educational agencies for
17 expenditures have resulted in financial hardships for the
18 regional education cooperatives and their members;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
20 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study committee,
21 the public education department and the regional education
22 cooperatives be requested to study the roles, responsibilities
23 and financial requirements of the regional education
24 cooperatives; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study include an

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1 examination of the public education department's financial
2 reimbursement process and the regional education cooperatives'
3 financial reporting procedures; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
5 study committee, the public education department and the
6 regional education cooperatives be requested to report their
7 findings and recommendations, including recommendations for
8 statutory changes and funding, if necessary, to the legislative
9 education study committee by October 2008; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study
12 committee, the secretary of public education and the directors
13 of the regional education cooperatives for appropriate
14 distribution.