

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ALLOWING SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO KEEP THEIR CASH BALANCES FOR EMERGENCY OR OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 22-8-41 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1967, Chapter 16, Section 99, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-8-41. RESTRICTION ON OPERATIONAL FUNDS--EMERGENCY ACCOUNTS--CASH BALANCES.--

A. A school district shall not expend money from its operational fund for the acquisition of a building site or for the construction of a new structure, unless the school district has bonded itself to practical capacity or the secretary determines and certifies to the legislative finance committee that the expending of money from the operational fund for this purpose is necessary for an adequate public educational program and will not unduly hamper the school district's current operations.

B. A school district or charter school may budget out of cash balances carried forward from the previous fiscal year an amount not to exceed five percent of its proposed operational fund expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year as an emergency account. Money in the emergency account shall be used only for unforeseen expenditures incurred after the

annual budget was approved and shall not be expended without the prior written approval of the secretary.

C. In addition to the emergency account, school districts or charter schools may also budget operational fund cash balances carried forward from the previous fiscal year for operational expenditures, exclusive of salaries and payroll, upon specific prior approval of the secretary. The secretary shall notify the legislative finance committee in writing of the secretary's approval of such proposed expenditures. For fiscal years 2004 and 2005, with the approval of the secretary, a school district or charter school may budget so much of its operational cash balance as is needed for nonrecurring expenditures, including capital outlay."

**SECTION 2. APPLICABILITY.**--This act applies to cash balances realized from the appropriations in fiscal year 2011 and subsequent fiscal years.

**SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.**--It is necessary for the public peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

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