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AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; CLARIFYING THE SCHOOL YEAR AND
LENGTH OF SCHOOL DAY.

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

SECTION 1. Section 22-2-8.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,
Chapter 33, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-2-8.1. SCHOOL YEAR--LENGTH OF SCHOOL DAY--
MINIMUM.--

A. Except as otherwise provided in this
section, regular students shall be in school-directed
programs, exclusive of lunch, for a minimum of the following:

(1) kindergarten, for half-day programs, two
and one-half hours per day or four hundred fifty hours per
year or, for full-day programs, five and one-half hours per
day or nine hundred ninety hours per year;

(2) grades one through six, five and
one-half hours per day or nine hundred ninety hours per year;
and

(3) grades seven through twelve, six hours
per day or one thousand eighty hours per year.

B. Up to thirty-three hours of the full-day
kindergarten program may be used for home visits by the
teacher or for parent-teacher conferences. Up to twenty-two
hours of grades one through six programs may be used for home

1 visits by the teacher or for parent-teacher conferences. Up
2 to twelve hours of grades seven through twelve programs may
3 be used to consult with parents to develop next step plans
4 for students and for parent-teacher conferences.

5 C. Nothing in this section precludes a local
6 school board from setting a school year or the length of
7 school days in excess of the minimum requirements established
8 by Subsection A of this section.

9 D. The secretary may waive the minimum length of
10 school days in those school districts where such minimums
11 would create undue hardships as defined by the department as
12 long as the school year is adjusted to ensure that students in
13 those school districts receive the same total instructional
14 time as other students in the state." _____

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