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SENATE BILL 80

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

INTRODUCED BY

Stephen H. Fischmann

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; PROVIDING THE MINIMUM STUDENT  
MEMBERSHIP FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT.

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

SECTION 1. A new section of the Public School Code is  
enacted to read:

"~~[NEW MATERIAL]~~ SCHOOL DISTRICTS--MINIMUM STUDENT  
MEMBERSHIP.--After July 1, 2018, and except as provided  
otherwise in this section, the department shall not allow or  
approve a budget for a school district of fewer than one  
thousand students. The commission and the secretary may  
jointly determine that, because of distance, geographic  
features or extraordinary cost, a school district does not have  
any logical choice of another school district with which to  
consolidate and may order that the school district does not

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1 have to consolidate with another school district. In all other  
2 cases, if a small school district has not voluntarily found at  
3 least one other school district with which to consolidate by  
4 July 1, 2017 to meet the minimum student membership requirement  
5 of this section, the commission and the secretary shall jointly  
6 issue an order consolidating that school district with a  
7 neighboring school district. The consolidation order may  
8 include the annexation of areas of the school district to  
9 another school district if such annexation would be more  
10 efficient and cost-effective. Consolidations pursuant to this  
11 section shall be an alternate method of consolidation and are  
12 not subject to other provisions of Chapter 22, Article 4 NMSA  
13 1978."

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