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SENATE MEMORIAL 70

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

INTRODUCED BY

Lynda M. Lovejoy

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY  
THE PROVISIONS OF LAW GOVERNING THE RURAL ISOLATION UNITS  
PROVIDED THROUGH THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA.

WHEREAS, the Gallup-McKinley county school district is one  
of the largest of New Mexico's school districts, sprawling  
across the Navajo Nation one hundred fifty miles long and  
ninety miles wide; and

WHEREAS, the school district is only the fifth-largest  
school district in terms of students, and eighty-five percent  
of its twelve thousand students are Native American; and

WHEREAS, since 1976, the Gallup-McKinley county school  
district has received rural isolation units in the size  
adjustment unit calculation of the public school funding  
formula, also known as the "sparsity factor"; and

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1           WHEREAS, the sparsity factor provides additional program  
2 units for the school district based on the number of approved  
3 regular senior high schools that are not eligible for small  
4 school size adjustment; and

5           WHEREAS, the number of approved senior high schools in the  
6 school district not eligible for senior high size units  
7 decreased from four to three in the 2010-2011 school year, and  
8 the school district lost one million eight hundred twenty-nine  
9 thousand one hundred sixteen dollars (\$1,829,116) in rural  
10 isolation units for that year, which drastic loss of revenue,  
11 on top of the unit value reduction shared by all school  
12 districts, will likely mean severe budget cuts in school year  
13 2011 that will go deep into classrooms and frustrate efforts to  
14 improve student achievement;

15           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
16 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study committee be  
17 requested to study the law and the funding formula calculations  
18 for small school size adjustment and rural isolation units and  
19 the need for a hold-harmless provision to minimize such drastic  
20 fluctuations in funding for the Gallup-McKinley county school  
21 district; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee report its  
23 findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim  
24 legislative committee by December 1, 2011; and

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study  
2 committee, the public education department and the Gallup-  
3 McKinley county school district.

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