AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION; CHANGING THE DATES FOR REPORTING SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT; CHANGING THE BASIS FOR DETERMINING TRANSPORTATION DISTRIBUTION ALLOCATIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 22-8-29 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1967, Chapter 16, Section 78, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-8-29. TRANSPORTATION DISTRIBUTIONS--REPORTS-PAYMENTS.--

- A. On the second reporting date and the third reporting date of each year, each local school board of a school district and governing body of a state-chartered charter school shall report to the state transportation director, upon forms furnished by the state transportation director, the following information concerning the school district's or state-chartered charter school's operation on each respective reporting date of the current year:
- (1) the number and designation of school bus routes in operation in the school district;
- (2) the number of miles traveled by each school bus on each school bus route, showing the route mileage in accordance with the type of road surface traveled;
 - (3) the number of students, including

special education students, transported on each reporting date of the current year and adjusted for special education students on December 1;

- (4) the projected number of students to be transported in the next school year;
- (5) the seating capacity, age and mileage of each bus used in the school district for student transportation; and
- (6) the number of total miles traveled for each school district's or state-chartered charter school's per capita feeder routes.
- B. Each local school board of a school district and governing body of a state-chartered charter school maintaining a school bus route shall make further reports to the state transportation director at other times specified by the state transportation director.
- C. The state transportation director shall certify to the secretary that the allocations from the transportation distributions to each school district and state-chartered charter school are based upon the transportation distribution formula established in the Public School Code calculated and distributed for the entire school year using an average of the amounts reported on the second reporting date and third reporting date of the prior school year, and subject to audit and verification.

D. The department shall make periodic installment payments to school districts and state-chartered charter schools during the school year from the transportation distributions, based upon the allocations certified by the state transportation director."

SECTION 2. TEMPORARY PROVISION.—Notwithstanding the provisions of this act, for the transportation distribution for fiscal year 2016, the allocation shall be based upon the tentative transportation budget of the school district or state—chartered charter school for fiscal year 2016.

Allocations to a school district or state—chartered charter school for the remainder of the school year shall adjust the amount received by the school district or state—chartered charter school so that it equals the amount the school district or state—chartered charter school is entitled to receive based upon the number of students transported on the first reporting date of fiscal year 2016 and adjusted for special education students on December 1, and subject to audit and verification.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.—The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2015.