1	HOUSE BILL 143
2	56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	Debra M. Sariñana
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8	FOR THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE
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10	AN ACT
11	RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL GOVERNANCE; CREATING REPORTING
12	REQUIREMENTS; ALLOWING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO
13	SUSPEND INDIVIDUAL LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS; REQUIRING THE
14	PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO REPORT ASSESSMENT DATA ON A
15	REGULAR AND ROLLING BASIS; ALLOWING LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO
16	ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL EVALUATION PROCESS FOR LOCAL
17	SUPERINTENDENTS; REQUIRING MORE MANDATORY TRAINING FOR LOCAL
18	SCHOOL BOARDS AND GOVERNING BODIES OF CHARTER SCHOOLS;
19	REQUIRING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO REPORT FINANCIAL
20	DATA QUARTERLY TO LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS; REQUIRING PUBLIC SCHOOL
21	CAPITAL OUTLAY COUNCIL APPROVAL OF LEASE PAYMENTS; REQUIRING
22	COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A STANDARDIZED LEASE
23	FORMAT; REQUIRING CHARTERING AUTHORITY OVERSIGHT OF CHARTER
24	SCHOOL CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST DOCUMENTATION; PROVIDING MORE
25	PUBLIC ACCESS TO DECISION MAKING OF LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS AND
	.223743.2

1 GOVERNING BODIES OF CHARTER SCHOOLS THROUGH WEBCASTING AND 2 ARCHIVING MEETINGS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO: Section 1-22A-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2013, SECTION 1. Chapter 180, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-22A-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the School District Campaign Reporting Act:

"campaign committee" means one or more persons Α. 10 authorized by a candidate to raise, collect or expend contributions on the candidate's behalf for the purpose of 11 12 electing the candidate to office;

"candidate" means a person who seeks or Β. considers an office in an election covered by the School District Campaign Reporting Act and who either has filed a declaration of candidacy or has received contributions or made expenditures of five hundred dollars (\$500) or more or authorized another person or campaign committee to receive contributions or make expenditures of five hundred dollars (\$500) or more for the purpose of seeking election to a covered office:

"contribution" means a gift, subscription, loan, C. advance or deposit of money or other thing of value, including the estimated value of an in-kind contribution, that is made or received for a political purpose, including payment of a debt

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incurred in an election campaign; but "contribution" does not include the value of services provided without compensation or unreimbursed travel or other personal expenses of individuals who volunteer a portion or all of their time on behalf of a candidate or campaign committee;

D. "covered office" means the position of board of education member of a school district [that has an enrollment of twelve thousand students or more] or the position of board member of a community college organized or operating pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 21, Article 13 or Article 16 NMSA 1978;

E. "election cycle" means the period beginning thirty days after an election for an office and ending thirty days following the subsequent election day for that office;

F. "expenditure" means a payment, transfer or distribution or obligation or promise to pay, transfer or distribute any money or other thing of value for a political purpose, including payment of a debt incurred in an election campaign;

G. "political purpose" means advocating the election or defeat of a candidate in an election;

H. "prescribed form" means a form or electronic format prepared and prescribed by the secretary of state; and

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I. "reporting individual" means a candidate or treasurer of a campaign committee."

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1 SECTION 2. A new section of the Public School Code is 2 enacted to read: "[NEW MATERIAL] DEPARTMENT REPORTING--REPORT CONTENTS.--3 The department shall report quarterly to local 4 Α. school boards on the following items: 5 attendance data and whether students are (1)6 7 on track to graduate; educator workforce data, including 8 (2) 9 educator vacancies, educator retention and educator caseload 10 amounts; and any other data the department finds (3) 11 12 necessary to report to the local school boards. The department's quarterly reports, as required 13 Β. in Subsection A of this section, shall be provided to local 14 school boards in tandem with the department's quarterly 15 financial data reports." 16 SECTION 3. Section 22-2-14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, 17 Chapter 129, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read: 18 "22-2-14. LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS--PUBLIC SCHOOLS--19 20 SUSPENSION--PROCEDURES.--Money budgeted by a school district shall be 21 Α. spent first to attain and maintain the requirements for a 22 school district as prescribed by law and by standards and rules 23 as prescribed by the department. The department shall give 24 written notification to a local school board, local 25 .223743.2

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1 superintendent and school principal, as applicable, of any 2 failure to meet requirements by any part of the school district 3 under the control of the local school board. The notice shall 4 specify the deficiency. Instructional units or administrative 5 functions may be disapproved for such deficiencies. The department shall disapprove instructional units or 6 7 administrative functions that it determines to be detrimental 8 to the educational process.

B. Within thirty days after receipt of the notice of failure to meet requirements, the local school board, local superintendent and school principal, as applicable, shall:

(1) comply with the specific and attendantrequirements in order to remove the cause for disapproval; or

(2) submit plans satisfactory to the department to meet requirements and remove the cause for disapproval.

C. The secretary, after consultation with the commission, shall suspend from authority and responsibility a local school board, <u>an individual local school board member, a</u> local superintendent or <u>a</u> school principal that has had notice of disapproval and fails to comply with procedures of Subsection B of this section. The department shall act in lieu of the suspended local school board, <u>individual local school</u> <u>board member</u>, local superintendent or school principal until the department removes the suspension.

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D. To suspend a local school board, an individual local school board member, a local superintendent or a school principal, the secretary shall deliver to the local school board an alternative order of suspension, stating the cause for the suspension and the effective date and time the suspension will begin. The alternative order shall also contain notice of a time, date and place for a public hearing, prior to the beginning of suspension, to be held by the department, at which the local school board, individual local school board member, local superintendent or school principal may appear and show cause why the suspension should not be put into effect. Within five days after the hearing, the secretary shall make permanent, modify or withdraw the alternative order.

E. The secretary may suspend a local school board, an individual local school board member, a local superintendent or a school principal when the local school board, <u>individual</u> <u>local school board member</u>, local superintendent or school principal has been notified of disapproval and when the department has sufficient reason to believe that the educational process in the school district or public school has been severely impaired or halted as a result of deficiencies so severe as to warrant disapproved status before a public hearing can be held.

F. The department, while acting in lieu of a suspended local school board, <u>an individual local school board</u>.223743.2

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<u>member, a</u> local superintendent or <u>a</u> school principal, shall execute all the legal authority of the local school board, <u>individual local school board member</u>, local superintendent or school principal and assume all the responsibilities of the local school board, <u>individual local school board member</u>, local superintendent or school principal.

G. The provisions of this section shall be invoked at any time the secretary, after consultation with the commission, finds <u>that</u> the school district or public school has failed to attain and maintain the requirements of law or department standards and rules.

H. The commission shall consult with the secretary and may recommend alternative actions for the secretary's consideration.

I. A local school board, <u>an individual local school</u> <u>board member, a</u> local superintendent or <u>a</u> school principal aggrieved by a decision of the secretary may appeal to the district court pursuant to the provisions of Section 39-3-1.1 NMSA 1978."

SECTION 4. Section 22-2C-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003, Chapter 153, Section 13, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-2C-4. STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM--INDICATORS--REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS--ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTS--LIMITS ON ALTERNATIVES TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE READING ASSESSMENTS.--

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1 The department shall establish a statewide Α. 2 assessment and accountability system that is aligned with the 3 state academic content and performance standards. 4 Β. The academic assessment program shall test 5 student achievement as follows: for grades three through eight and for 6 (1)7 grade eleven, standards-based assessments in mathematics, 8 reading and language arts; 9 for grades three through eight, a (2) 10 standards-based writing assessment with the writing assessment 11 scoring criteria applied to the extended response writing 12 portions of the language arts standards-based assessments; and 13 (3) for one of grades three through five and 14 six through eight and for grade eleven, standards-based 15 assessments in science by the 2007-2008 school year. 16 The department shall involve appropriate C. 17 licensed school employees in the development of the standards-18 based assessments. 19 D. [Before August 5 of each year] The department 20 shall provide student scores on all standards-based assessments 21 taken during the prior school year and required in Subsection B 22 of this section on a regular rolling basis to students' 23 respective school districts in order to make test score data 24 available to assist school district staff with appropriate 25 grade-level and other placement for the current school year. .223743.2

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E. All students shall participate in the academic assessment program. The department shall adopt standards for reasonable accommodations in standards-based assessments for students with disabilities and limited English proficiency, including when and how accommodations may be applied. The legislative education study committee shall review the standards prior to adoption by the department.

F. Students who have been determined to be limited English proficient may be allowed to take the standards-based assessment in their primary language. A student who has attended school for three consecutive years in the United States shall participate in the English language reading assessment unless granted a waiver by the department based on criteria established by the department. An English language reading assessment waiver may be granted only for a maximum of two additional years and only on a case-by-case basis."

SECTION 5. Section 22-2C-11 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003, Chapter 153, Section 20, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-2C-11. ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM REPORTING--PARENT SURVEY--DATA SYSTEM--FISCAL INFORMATION.--

A. The department shall:

(1) issue a state identification number for each public school student for use in the accountability data system;

(2) adopt the format for reporting individual.223743.2

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student assessments to parents. The student assessments shall report each student's progress and academic needs as measured against state standards;

4 adopt the format for reporting [annual] (3) 5 progress on a regular rolling basis of public schools, school districts, state-chartered charter schools and the department. 6 7 A school district's report shall include reports of all locally 8 chartered charter schools in the school district. If the 9 department has adopted a state improving schools program, the 10 [annual] accountability report shall include the results of 11 that program for each public school. The [annual] 12 accountability report format shall be clear, concise and 13 understandable to parents and the general public. All [annual] 14 accountability reports shall ensure that the privacy of 15 individual students is protected;

(4) require that when public schools, school districts, state-chartered charter schools and the state disaggregate and report school data for demographic subgroups, they include data disaggregated by ethnicity, race, limited English proficiency, students with disabilities, poverty and gender; provided that ethnicity and race shall be reported using the following categories:

(a) Caucasian, non-Hispanic;

(b) Hispanic;

(c) African American;

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1	(d) American Indian or Alaska Native;
2	(e) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific
3	Islander;
4	(f) Asian;
5	(g) two or more races; and
6	(h) other; provided that if the sample
7	of students in any category enumerated in Subparagraphs (a)
8	through (g) of this paragraph is so small that a student in the
9	sample may be personally identifiable in violation of the
10	federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, the
11	report may combine that sample into the "other" category;
12	(5) report cohort graduation data annually for
13	the state, for each school district and for each state-
14	chartered charter school and each public high school, based on
15	information provided by all school districts and state-
16	chartered charter schools according to procedures established
17	by the department; provided that the report shall include the
18	number and percentage of students in a cohort who:
19	(a) have graduated by August 1 of the
20	fourth year after entering the ninth grade;
21	(b) have graduated in more than four
22	years, but by August l of the fifth year after entering ninth
23	grade;
24	(c) have received a state certificate by
25	exiting the school system at the end of grade twelve without
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having satisfied the requirements for a high school diploma as provided in Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978 or completed all course requirements but have not passed the graduation assessment or portfolio of standards-based indicators pursuant to Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978;

(d) have dropped out or whose status is 7 unknown;

8 (e) have exited public school and 9 indicated an intent to pursue a high school equivalency 10 credential; or

(f)

report annually, based on data provided by (6) school districts and state-chartered charter schools, the number and percentage of public school students in each cohort in the state in grades nine through twelve who have advanced to the next grade or graduated on schedule, who remain enrolled but have not advanced to the next grade on schedule, who have dropped out or whose other educational outcomes are known to the department; and

are still enrolled in public school;

establish technical criteria and (7) procedures to define which students are included or excluded from a cohort.

Local school boards and governing boards of Β. charter schools may establish additional indicators through which to measure the school district's or charter school's .223743.2

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performance.

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The school district's or state-chartered charter 2 C. 3 school's annual accountability report shall include a report of 4 four- and five-year graduation rates for each public high 5 school in the school district or state-chartered charter 6 school. All annual accountability reports shall ensure that 7 the privacy of individual students is protected. As part of 8 the graduation rate data, the school district or state-9 chartered charter school shall include data showing the number 10 and percentage of students in the cohort: 11 (1) who have received a state certificate by 12 exiting the school system at the end of grade twelve without 13 having satisfied the requirements for a high school diploma as 14 provided in Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978 or completed all course 15 requirements but have not passed the graduation assessment or 16 portfolio of standards-based indicators pursuant to Section 17 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978; 18 (2) who have dropped out or whose status is 19 unknown; 20 who have exited public school and (3) 21 indicated an intent to pursue a high school equivalency 22 credential; 23 (4) who are still enrolled; and 24 (5) whose other educational outcomes are known 25 to the school district. .223743.2

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D. The school district's or state-chartered charter 2 school's annual accountability report shall be adopted by the 3 local school board or governing body of the state-chartered charter school, shall be published no later than November 15 of each year and shall be published at least once each school year in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the 7 school district or state-chartered charter school is located as 8 well as online on the website of the school district or statechartered charter school. In publication, the report shall be 10 titled "The School District Report Card" or "The Charter School 11 Report Card" and disseminated in accordance with guidelines 12 established by the department to ensure effective communication with parents, students, educators, local policymakers and 14 business and community organizations.

The annual accountability report shall include Ε. the names of those members of the local school board or the governing body of the charter school who failed to attend annual mandatory training.

F. The annual accountability report shall include data on expenditures for central office administration and expenditures for the public schools of the school district or charter school.

G. The department shall create an accountability data system through which data from each public school and each school district or state-chartered charter school may be

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compiled and reviewed. The department shall provide the resources to train school district and charter school personnel in the use of the accountability data system.

H. The department shall verify data submitted by the school districts and state-chartered charter schools.

I. At the end of fiscal year 2005, after the budget approval cycle, the department shall produce a report to the legislature that shows for all school districts using performance-based program budgeting the relationship between that portion of a school district's program cost generated by each public school in the school district and the budgeted expenditures for each public school in the school district as reported in the district's performance-based program budget. At the end of fiscal year 2006 and subsequent fiscal years, after the budget approval cycle, the department shall report on this relationship in all public schools in all school districts in the state.

J. When all public schools are participating in performance-based budgeting, the department shall recommend annually to the legislature for inclusion in the general appropriation act the maximum percentage of appropriations that may be expended in each school district for central office administration.

K. The department shall disseminate its statewide accountability report to school districts and charter schools; .223743.2

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the governor, legislators and other policymakers; and business
 and economic development organizations.

L. As used in this section, "cohort" means a group of students who enter grade nine for the first time at the same time, plus those students who transfer into the group in later years and minus those students who leave the cohort for documented excusable reasons."

SECTION 6. Section 22-5-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1967, Chapter 16, Section 28, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-5-4. LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS--POWERS--DUTIES.--A local school board shall have the following powers or duties:

A. subject to the rules of the department, develop educational policies for the school district;

B. employ a local superintendent for the school district and fix the superintendent's salary;

C. review and approve the annual school district budget;

D. acquire, lease and dispose of property;

E. have the capacity to sue and be sued;

F. acquire property by eminent domain pursuant to
the procedures provided in the Eminent Domain Code;

G. issue general obligation bonds of the school district;

H. provide for the repair of and maintain all property belonging to the school district;

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I. for good cause and upon order of the district court, subpoena witnesses and documents in connection with a hearing concerning any powers or duties of the local school board;

J. except for expenditures for salaries, contract for the expenditure of money according to the provisions of the Procurement Code;

K. adopt rules pertaining to the administration of all powers or duties of the local school board;

L. accept or reject any charitable gift, grant, devise or bequest. The particular gift, grant, devise or bequest accepted shall be considered an asset of the school district or the public school to which it is given;

M. offer and, upon compliance with the conditions of such offer, pay rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction or other appropriate disciplinary disposition by the courts or juvenile authorities of offenders in case of theft, defacement or destruction of school district property. All such rewards shall be paid from school district funds in accordance with rules promulgated by the department; [and]

N. give prior approval for any educational program in a public school in the school district that is to be conducted, sponsored, carried on or caused to be carried on by a private organization or agency; <u>and</u>

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1	0 optimized on annual evolution process for local
	0. establish an annual evaluation process for local
2	superintendents using guidelines and evaluation metrics from
3	the department."
4	SECTION 7. Section 22-5-13 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,
5	Chapter 153, Section 24) is amended to read:
6	"22-5-13. LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD <u>MANDATORY</u> TRAINING
7	<u>A.</u> The department shall develop a mandatory
8	training course for local school board members that explains
9	[state board rules] department <u>rules</u> , policies and procedures,
10	statutory powers and duties of local school boards, legal
11	concepts pertaining to public schools, finance and budget,
12	including performance-based budgeting, and other matters deemed
13	relevant by the department. The department shall notify local
14	school board members of the dates of the training course, the
15	last of which shall not be later than three months after a
16	local school board election.
17	B. The training shall cover:
18	(1) laws and department policies and
19	procedures affecting local school boards or public schools;
20	(2) public school finance, budgeting and
21	fiduciary responsibilities of local school boards;
22	(3) a local school board's role in evaluating
23	and improving student academic achievement and using data to
24	set individual school goals for student academic achievement in
25	each of the school district's public schools;
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1	(4) a local school board's role in providing a
2	safe learning environment conducive to improving student
3	<u>outcomes;</u>
4	(5) legal concepts pertaining to local school
5	boards and school districts, including the Open Meetings Act
6	and the Inspection of Public Records Act;
7	(6) effective governance practices and
8	effective methods of supporting and supervising the local
9	superintendent; and
10	(7) other matters deemed relevant by the
11	department."
12	SECTION 8. A new section of the Public School Code is
13	enacted to read:
14	"[<u>NEW MATERIAL</u>] LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGSWEBCASTING
15	AND ARCHIVINGExcept as otherwise provided in this section,
16	live audio and video webcasts of local school board meetings
17	shall be accessible through the school district's website and
18	shall include a user interface that allows members of the
19	public to submit comments. A webcast shall begin as soon as
20	practicable after the chair has called the meeting to order and
21	shall terminate as soon as practicable after the local school
22	board has adjourned. Recordings of the webcasts shall be
23	posted on the school district's website within one week of the
24	meeting's conclusion and shall be publicly available for at
25	least five years following the date of the meeting unless the
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state records retention schedule provides otherwise."

SECTION 9. Section 22-8-13.2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2011, Chapter 12, Section 1) is amended to read:

"22-8-13.2. FINANCIAL REPORTING.--

A. [Each local superintendent or person in charge of the fiscal management of a charter school] The department shall provide quarterly reports on the financial position of the school district or charter school, as applicable, to the local school board of the school district or the governing body of the charter school for use in reviewing the financial status of the school district or charter school. The department shall develop [the forms] <u>a standard report</u> to be used for the financial reporting required under this section. The [forms] <u>standard report</u> shall provide for at least the following:

(1) a report on the budget status of the local school district or charter school, including the approved operating budget for revenues and expenses compared with yearto-date actual revenue and expenses;

(2) a statement of any budget adjustment requests;

(3) cash reports, including revenue, expenses, temporary loans and cash balances for operational, state and federal grants, capital outlay and debt service funds;

(4) voucher reports, including a list of issued warrants or checks;

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1 reports listing procurement, travel or gas (5) 2 card expenses; and 3 investment reports. (6) School districts and charter schools, in 4 Β. collaboration with the department, shall post the reports 5 required under Subsection A of this section on the school 6 7 district's or charter school's [web site] website. 8 C. As used in this section: 9 (1) "charter school" means a school organized 10 as a charter school pursuant to the provisions of the Charter 11 Schools Act; and 12 "governing body" means the governing (2) 13 structure of a charter school as set forth in the school's 14 charter." 15 SECTION 10. Section 22-8B-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1999, 16 Chapter 281, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read: 17 "22-8B-4. CHARTER SCHOOLS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES --18 OPERATION .--19 Α. A charter school shall be subject to all federal 20 and state laws and constitutional provisions prohibiting 21 discrimination on the basis of disability, physical or mental 22 handicap, serious medical condition, race, creed, color, sex, 23 gender identity, sexual orientation, spousal affiliation, 24 national origin, religion, ancestry or need for special 25 education services and shall not allow for the imposition of .223743.2

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discipline, discrimination or disparate treatment against a student based on the student's race, religion or culture or because of the student's use of protective hairstyles or cultural or religious headdresses.

5 A charter school shall be governed by a Β. 6 governing body in the manner set forth in the charter contract; 7 provided that a governing body shall have at least five 8 members; and provided further that no member of a governing 9 body for a charter school that is initially approved on or 10 after July 1, 2005 or whose charter is renewed on or after July 11 1, 2005 shall serve on the governing body of another charter 12 No member of a local school board shall be a member of school. 13 a governing body for a charter school or employed in any 14 capacity by a locally chartered charter school located within 15 the local school board's school district during the term of 16 office for which the member was elected or appointed.

C. A charter school shall be responsible for:

(1) its own operation, including preparation of a budget, subject to audits pursuant to the Audit Act; and

(2) contracting for services and personnel
matters.

D. A charter school may contract with a school district, a university or college, the state, another political subdivision of the state, the federal government or one of its agencies, a tribal government or any other third party for the .223743.2

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use of a facility, its operation and maintenance and the provision of any service or activity that the charter school is required to perform in order to carry out the educational program described in its charter contract. Facilities used by a charter school shall meet the standards required pursuant to Section 22-8B-4.2 NMSA 1978.

E. A conversion school chartered before July 1, 2007 may choose to continue using the school district facilities and equipment it had been using prior to conversion, subject to the provisions of Subsection F of this section.

F. A school district that has available land or one or more available facilities not currently used for other educational purposes shall make facilities and may make land available for lease, lease-purchase or purchase to the charter schools located in the school district for the charter schools' operations and shall notify the charter schools of that availability no later than May 1 of each year. The public school facilities authority shall annually ensure that each school district with available land or one or more available facilities has provided that notification. A school district may develop a facility prioritization plan that identifies which charter schools may lease, lease-purchase or purchase available school district facilities. School-district-owned land shall not be considered available to a charter school if the school district has justified future use of that land .223743.2

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1 through its five-year facilities master plan. An agreement for 2 the use of school district facilities by a charter school may 3 provide for reasonable lease payments approved by the public 4 school capital outlay council at the local market rate; 5 provided that the payments do not exceed the sum of the lease 6 reimbursement rate provided in Paragraph (1) of Subsection $[\pm]$ 7 J of Section 22-24-4 NMSA 1978 plus any reimbursement for 8 actual direct costs incurred by the school district in 9 providing the facilities; and provided further that any lease 10 payments received by a school district may be retained by the 11 school district and shall not be considered to be cash balances 12 in any calculation pursuant to Section 22-8-41 NMSA 1978. The 13 available facilities provided by a school district to a charter 14 school shall meet all occupancy standards as specified by the 15 public school capital outlay council. As used in this 16 subsection, "other educational purposes" includes health 17 clinics, daycare centers, teacher training centers, school 18 district administration functions and other ancillary services 19 related to a school district's functions and operations.

G. A locally chartered charter school may pay the costs of operation and maintenance of its facilities or may contract with the school district to provide facility operation and maintenance services.

H. Locally chartered charter school facilities are eligible for state and local capital outlay funds and shall be .223743.2

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included in the school district's five-year facilities plan.

I. A locally chartered charter school shall negotiate with a school district to provide transportation to students eligible for transportation under the provisions of the Public School Code. The school district, in conjunction with the charter school, may establish a limit for student transportation to and from the charter school site not to extend beyond the school district boundary.

9 J. A charter school shall be a nonsectarian,10 nonreligious and non-home-based public school.

K. Except as otherwise provided in the Public School Code, a charter school shall not charge tuition or have admission requirements.

L. With the approval of the chartering authority, a single charter school may maintain separate facilities at two or more locations within the same school district; but, for purposes of calculating program units pursuant to the Public School Finance Act, the separate facilities shall be treated together as one school.

M. A charter school shall be subject to the provisions of Section 22-2-8 NMSA 1978 and the Assessment and Accountability Act.

N. Within constitutional and statutory limits, a charter school may acquire and dispose of property; provided that, upon termination of the charter, all assets of the .223743.2

<u>underscored material = new</u> [bracketed material] = delete locally chartered charter school shall revert to the local school board and all assets of the state-chartered charter school shall revert to the state, except that, if all or any portion of a state-chartered charter school facility is financed with the proceeds of general obligation bonds issued by a local school board, the facility shall revert to the local school board.

8 0. The governing body of a charter school may
9 accept or reject any charitable gift, grant, devise or bequest;
10 provided that no such gift, grant, devise or bequest shall be
11 accepted if subject to any condition contrary to law or to the
12 terms of the charter. The particular gift, grant, devise or
13 bequest shall be considered an asset of the charter school to
14 which it is given.

P. The governing body may contract and sue and be sued. A local school board shall not be liable for any acts or omissions of the charter school.

Q. A charter school shall comply with all state and federal health and safety requirements applicable to public schools, including those health and safety codes relating to educational building occupancy.

R. A charter school is a public school that may contract with a school district or other party for provision of financial management, food services, transportation, facilities, education-related services or other services. The .223743.2

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governing body shall not contract with a for-profit entity for the management of the charter school.

s. To enable state-chartered charter schools to submit required data to the department, an accountability data system shall be maintained by the department.

A charter school shall comply with all Т. 7 applicable state and federal laws and rules related to 8 providing special education services. Charter school students with disabilities and their parents retain all rights under the 10 federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and its 11 implementing state and federal rules. Each charter school is 12 responsible for identifying, evaluating and offering a free 13 appropriate public education to all eligible children who are accepted for enrollment in that charter school. The state-15 chartered charter school, as a local educational agency, shall 16 assume responsibility for determining students' needs for special education and related services. The division may 18 promulgate rules to implement the requirements of this subsection.

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U. As used in this section:

"cultural or religious headdresses" (1)includes hijabs, head wraps or other headdresses used as part of an individual's personal cultural or religious beliefs;

"protective hairstyles" includes such (2) hairstyles as braids, locs, twists, tight coils or curls, .223743.2

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cornrows, bantu knots, afros, weaves, wigs or head wraps; and

(3) "race" includes traits historically associated with race, including hair texture, length of hair, protective hairstyles or cultural or religious headdresses."

SECTION 11. Section 22-8B-4.2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2005, Chapter 221, Section 3 and Laws 2005, Chapter 274, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-8B-4.2. CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITIES--STANDARDS.--

A. The facilities of a charter school that is approved on or after July 1, 2005 and before July 1, 2015 shall meet educational occupancy standards required by applicable New Mexico construction codes.

B. The facilities of a charter school whose charter has been renewed at least once shall be evaluated, prioritized and eligible for grants pursuant to the Public School Capital Outlay Act in the same manner as all other public schools in the state; provided that for charter school facilities in leased facilities, grants may be used to provide additional lease payments for leasehold improvements made by the lessor.

C. On or after July 1, 2011, a new charter school shall not open and an existing charter school shall not relocate unless the facilities of the new or relocated charter school, as measured by the New Mexico condition index, receive a condition rating equal to or better than the average condition for all New Mexico public schools for that year or .223743.2

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1 the charter school [demonstrates] attains, within eighteen 2 months of occupancy or relocation of the charter, [the way in 3 which the facilities will achieve] a rating equal to or better 4 than the average New Mexico condition index. 5 On or after July 1, 2015, a new charter school D. 6 shall not open and an existing charter shall not be renewed 7 unless the charter school: 8 is housed in a building that is: (1) 9 (a) owned by the charter school, the 10 school district, the state, an institution of the state, 11 another political subdivision of the state, the federal 12 government or one of its agencies or a tribal government; or 13 (b) subject to a lease-purchase 14 arrangement that has been entered into and approved pursuant to 15 the Public School Lease Purchase Act; or 16 if it is not housed in a building (2)17 described in Paragraph (1) of this subsection, demonstrates 18 that: 19 (a) the facility in which the charter 20 school is housed meets the statewide adequacy standards 21 developed pursuant to the Public School Capital Outlay Act and 22 the owner of the facility is contractually obligated to 23 maintain those standards at no additional cost to the charter 24 school or the state; and 25 (b) either: 1) public buildings are not .223743.2

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available or adequate for the educational program of the charter school; or 2) the owner of the facility is a nonprofit entity specifically organized for the purpose of providing the facility for the charter school.

E. Without the approval of the public school facilities authority pursuant to Section 22-20-1 NMSA 1978, a charter school shall not enter into a lease-purchase agreement.

F. The public school capital outlay council:

9 (1) shall determine whether facilities of a
10 charter school meet the educational occupancy standards
11 pursuant to the requirements of Subsection A of this section or
12 the requirements of Subsections B, C and D of this section, as
13 applicable; and

(2) upon a determination that specific requirements are not appropriate or reasonable for a charter school, may grant a variance from those requirements for that charter school."

SECTION 12. Section 22-8B-5.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2009, Chapter 18, Section 1) is amended to read:

"22-8B-5.1. GOVERNING BODY TRAINING.--

<u>A.</u> The department shall develop a mandatory training course for all governing body members that explains department rules, policies and procedures, statutory powers and duties of governing boards, legal concepts pertaining to public schools, finance and budget and other matters deemed relevant .223743.2

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1	by the department. The department shall notify the governing
2	body members of the dates of the training courses.
3	B. The mandatory training shall cover:
4	(1) laws and department policies and
5	procedures affecting governing bodies or charter schools;
6	(2) public school finance, budgeting and
7	fiduciary responsibilities of governing bodies, in particular
8	federal and state requirements for state-chartered charter
9	schools to receive and maintain the schools' status as boards
10	<u>of finance;</u>
11	(3) a governing body's role in evaluating and
12	improving student academic achievement and using data to set
13	the school's goals for student academic achievement;
14	(4) a governing body's role in providing a
15	safe learning environment conducive to improving student
16	outcomes;
17	(5) legal concepts pertaining to governing
18	bodies and charter schools, including the Open Meetings Act and
19	the Inspection of Public Records Act;
20	(6) effective governance practices and
21	effective methods of supporting and supervising the head
22	administrator; and
23	(7) other matters deemed relevant by the
24	<u>department.</u> "
25	SECTION 13. Section 22-8B-5.2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2011,
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Chapter 14, Section 7) is amended to read:

"22-8B-5.2. GOVERNING BODY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.--

3 A. A person shall not serve as a member of a 4 governing body or as an employee of a charter school if the 5 person or an immediate family member of the person is an owner, agent of, contractor with or otherwise has a financial interest 6 7 in a for-profit or nonprofit entity with which the charter 8 school contracts directly, for professional services, goods or 9 facilities. A violation of this subsection renders the 10 contract between the person or the person's immediate family 11 member and the charter school [voidable at the option of the 12 chartering authority, the department or the governing body 13 void. A person who knowingly violates this subsection may be 14 individually liable to the charter school for any financial 15 damage caused by the violation.

B. No member of a governing body or employee, officer or agent of a charter school shall participate in selecting, awarding or administering a contract with the charter school if a conflict of interest exists. A conflict of interest exists when the member, employee, officer or agent or an immediate family member of the member, employee, officer or agent has a financial interest in the entity with which the charter school is contracting. A violation of this subsection renders the contract [voidable] void.

C. Any employee, agent or board member of the .223743.2

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1 chartering authority who participates in the initial review, 2 approval, ongoing oversight, evaluation or charter renewal 3 process of a charter school is ineligible to serve on the 4 governing body of the charter school chartered by the 5 chartering authority.

As used in this section, "immediate family D. member" means spouse, father, father-in-law, mother, mother-in-8 law, son, son-in-law, daughter, daughter-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law or any other relative who 10 is financially supported."

SECTION 14. Section 22-8B-5.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2011, Chapter 14, Section 8) is amended to read:

"22-8B-5.3. CHARTERING AUTHORITY--POWERS--DUTIES--LIABILITY.--A chartering authority shall:

> evaluate charter applications; Α.

actively pursue the utilization of charter Β. schools to satisfy identified education needs and promote a diversity of educational choices;

19 C. approve charter applications that meet the 20 requirements of the Charter Schools Act;

decline to approve charter applications that D. fail to meet the requirements of the Charter Schools Act or are otherwise inadequate;

negotiate and execute, in good faith, charter Ε. contracts that meet the requirements of the Charter Schools Act .223743.2

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1 with each approved charter school;

2 F. monitor, in accordance with the requirements of 3 the Charter Schools Act and the terms of the charter contract, 4 the performance and legal compliance of charter schools under 5 their authority; determine whether a charter school merits 6 G. 7 suspension, revocation or nonrenewal; [and] 8 develop and maintain chartering policies and н. 9 practices consistent with nationally recognized principles and 10 standards for quality charter authorizing in all major areas of 11 authorizing, including: 12 organizational capacity and (1) 13 infrastructure: 14 evaluating charter applications; (2) 15 performance contracting; (3) 16 charter school oversight and evaluation; (4) 17 and 18 (5) charter school suspension, revocation and 19 renewal processes; and 20 I. annually review and approve all charter school 21 conflict-of-interest disclosure statements." 22 SECTION 15. A new section of the Charter Schools Act is 23 enacted to read: 24 "[NEW MATERIAL] GOVERNING BODY MEETINGS--WEBCASTING AND 25 ARCHIVING .-- Except as otherwise provided in this section, live .223743.2 - 34 -

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1 audio and video webcasts of governing body meetings shall be 2 accessible through the charter school's website and shall 3 include a user interface that allows members of the public to 4 submit comments. A webcast shall begin as soon as practicable 5 after the chair has called the meeting to order and shall 6 terminate as soon as practicable after the body has adjourned. 7 Recordings of the webcasts shall be posted on the charter 8 school's website within one week of the meeting's conclusion 9 and shall be publicly available for at least five years 10 following the date of the meeting unless the state records 11 retention schedule provides otherwise."

SECTION 16. Section 22-24-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1975, Chapter 235, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-24-4. PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND CREATED--USE.--

A. The "public school capital outlay fund" is created. Balances remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert.

B. Except as provided in Subsections G and $[\pm] \underline{J}$ through $[\underline{Q}] \underline{R}$ of this section, money in the fund may be used only for capital expenditures deemed necessary by the council for an adequate educational program.

C. The council may authorize the purchase by the authority of portable classrooms to be loaned to school districts to meet a temporary requirement. Payment for these .223743.2

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purchases shall be made from the fund. Title to and custody of the portable classrooms shall rest in the authority. The council shall authorize the lending of the portable classrooms to school districts upon request and upon finding that sufficient need exists. Application for use or return of state-owned portable classroom buildings shall be submitted by school districts to the council. Expenses of maintenance of the portable classrooms while in the custody of the authority shall be paid from the fund; expenses of maintenance and insurance of the portable classrooms while in the custody of a school district shall be the responsibility of the school district. The council may authorize the permanent disposition of the portable classrooms by the authority with prior approval of the state board of finance.

D. Applications for assistance from the fund shall be made by school districts to the council in accordance with requirements of the council. Except as provided in Subsection $[K] \ L$ of this section, the council shall require as a condition of application that a school district have a current five-year facilities plan that shall include a current preventive maintenance plan to which the school adheres for each public school in the school district.

E. The council shall review all requests for assistance from the fund and shall allocate funds only for those capital outlay projects that meet the criteria of the .223743.2 - 36 -

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1 Public School Capital Outlay Act.

2 F. Money in the fund shall be disbursed by warrant 3 of the department of finance and administration on vouchers 4 signed by the secretary of finance and administration following 5 certification by the council that an application has been approved or an expenditure has been ordered by a court pursuant 6 to Section 22-24-5.4 NMSA 1978. At the discretion of the 7 8 council, money for a project shall be distributed as follows: 9 (1) up to ten percent of the portion of the 10 project cost funded with distributions from the fund or five 11 percent of the total project cost, whichever is greater, may be 12 paid to the school district before work commences with the 13 balance of the grant award made on a cost-reimbursement basis; 14 or 15 (2) the council may authorize payments 16 directly to the contractor. 17 G. Balances in the fund may be annually 18 appropriated for the core administrative functions of the 19 authority pursuant to the Public School Capital Outlay Act, 20 and, in addition, balances in the fund may be expended by the 21 authority, upon approval of the council, for project management 22 expenses; provided that: 23 the total annual expenditures from the (1)24 fund for the core administrative functions pursuant to this 25 subsection shall not exceed five percent of the average annual .223743.2

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1 grant assistance authorized from the fund during the three 2 previous fiscal years; and

3 (2) any unexpended or unencumbered balance
4 remaining at the end of a fiscal year from the expenditures
5 authorized in this subsection shall revert to the fund.

6 <u>H. The council shall develop a standardized</u>
7 <u>facility lease for use by all charter schools for all new</u>
8 <u>leases, amendments and renewals entered into after July 1,</u>
9 2023.

10 [H-] I. The fund may be expended by the council for 11 building system repair, renovation or replacement initiatives 12 with projects to be identified by the council pursuant to 13 Section 22-24-4.6 NMSA 1978; provided that money allocated 14 pursuant to this subsection shall be expended within three 15 years of the allocation.

[1.] J. The fund may be expended annually by the council for grants to school districts for the purpose of making lease payments for facilities, including facilities leased by charter schools. For leases, amendments and renewals entered into after July 1, 2023, these payments may reimburse only base rent for leases pre-approved by the council using the standardized lease format approved by the council. The grants shall be made upon application by the school districts and pursuant to rules adopted by the council; provided that an application on behalf of a charter school shall be made by the .223743.2

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1 school district, but, if the school district fails to make an 2 application on behalf of a charter school, the charter school 3 may submit its own application. The following criteria shall apply to the grants: 4 5 the amount of a grant to a school district (1)or charter school shall not exceed: 6 7 (a) the actual annual lease payments owed for leasing a facility; or 8 9 (b) seven hundred dollars (\$700) 10 multiplied by the MEM using the leased facilities; provided 11 that in fiscal year 2009 and in each subsequent fiscal year, 12 this amount shall be adjusted by the percentage change between 13 the penultimate calendar year and the immediately preceding 14 calendar year of the consumer price index for the United 15 States, all items, as published by the United States department 16 of labor; 17 a grant received for the lease payments of (2) 18 a charter school may be used by that charter school as a state 19 match necessary to obtain federal grants pursuant to the 20 federal Every Student Succeeds Act; 21 at the end of each fiscal year, any (3) 22 unexpended or unencumbered balance of the grant shall revert to 23 the fund; 24 (4) no grant shall be made for lease payments 25 due pursuant to a financing agreement under which the .223743.2 - 39 -

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1	facilities may be purchased for a price that is reduced
2	according to the lease payments made unless:
3	(a) the agreement has been approved
4	pursuant to the provisions of the Public School Lease Purchase
5	Act; and
6	(b) the facilities are leased by a
7	charter school;
8	(5) if the lease payments are made pursuant to
9	a financing agreement under which the facilities may be
10	purchased for a price that is reduced according to the lease
11	payments made, neither a grant nor any provision of the Public
12	School Capital Outlay Act creates a legal obligation for the
13	school district or charter school to continue the lease from
14	year to year or to purchase the facilities nor does it create a
15	legal obligation for the state to make subsequent grants
16	pursuant to the provisions of this subsection; and
17	(6) as used in this subsection:
18	(a) "MEM" means: 1) the average full-
19	time-equivalent enrollment using leased facilities on the
20	second and third reporting dates of the prior school year; or
21	2) in the case of an approved charter school that has not
22	commenced classroom instruction, the estimated full-time-
23	equivalent enrollment that will use leased facilities in the
24	first year of instruction, as shown in the approved charter
25	school application; provided that, after the second reporting
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1 date of the current school year, the MEM shall be adjusted to 2 reflect the full-time-equivalent enrollment on that date; and 3 "facilities" includes the space (b) needed for school activities. 4 5 [J.] K. In addition to other authorized 6 expenditures from the fund, up to one percent of the average 7 grant assistance authorized from the fund during the three 8 previous fiscal years may be expended in each fiscal year by 9 the authority to pay the state fire marshal, the construction 10 industries division of the regulation and licensing department and local jurisdictions having authority from the state to 11 12 permit and inspect projects for expenditures made to permit and 13 inspect projects funded in whole or in part under the Public 14 School Capital Outlay Act. The authority may enter into 15 contracts with the state fire marshal, the construction 16 industries division or the appropriate local authorities to 17 carry out the provisions of this subsection. Such a contract 18 may provide for initial estimated payments from the fund prior 19 to the expenditures if the contract also provides for 20 additional payments from the fund if the actual expenditures 21 exceed the initial payments and for repayments back to the fund 22 if the initial payments exceed the actual expenditures. Money 23 distributed from the fund to the state fire marshal or the 24 construction industries division pursuant to this subsection 25 shall be used to supplement, rather than supplant,

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1 appropriations to those entities.

[K.] L. Pursuant to guidelines established by the council, allocations from the fund may be made to assist school districts in developing and updating five-year facilities plans required by the Public School Capital Outlay Act; provided that:

(1) no allocation shall be made unless the council determines that the school district is willing and able to pay the portion of the total cost of developing or updating the plan that is not funded with the allocation from the fund. Except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this subsection, the portion of the total cost to be paid with the allocation from the fund shall be determined pursuant to the methodology in Subsection B of Section 22-24-5 NMSA 1978; or

(2) the allocation from the fund may be used to pay the total cost of developing or updating the plan if: (a) the school district has fewer than an average of six hundred full-time-equivalent students on the second and third reporting dates of the prior school year; or (b) the school district meets all of the following requirements: 1) the school district has fewer than an average of one thousand full-time-equivalent students on the second and third reporting dates of the prior school year; 2) the school district has at least seventy percent of its students eligible for free or reduced-fee lunch; 3) the state .223743.2

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1 share of the total cost, if calculated pursuant to the 2 methodology in Subsection B of Section 22-24-5 NMSA 1978, would 3 be less than fifty percent; and 4) for all educational 4 purposes, the school district has a residential property tax 5 rate of at least seven dollars (\$7.00) on each one thousand 6 dollars (\$1,000) of taxable value, as measured by the sum of 7 all rates imposed by resolution of the local school board plus 8 rates set to pay interest and principal on outstanding school 9 district general obligation bonds. 10 [L.] M. Upon application by a school district, 11 allocations from the fund may be made by the council for the 12 purpose of demolishing abandoned school district facilities; 13 provided that: 14 the costs of continuing to insure an (1)15 abandoned facility outweigh any potential benefit when and if a 16 new facility is needed by the school district; 17 (2) there is no practical use for the 18 abandoned facility without the expenditure of substantial 19 renovation costs; and 20 (3) the council may enter into an agreement 21 with the school district to fully fund the demolition of the 22 abandoned school district facility if Paragraphs (1) and (2) of 23 this subsection are satisfied. 24 [M.] N. Up to ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) of 25 the fund may be expended each year for an education technology .223743.2

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infrastructure deficiency corrections initiative pursuant to Section 22-24-4.5 NMSA 1978; provided that funding allocated pursuant to this section shall be expended within three years of its allocation.

[N-] O. For each fiscal year from 2018 through 2022, twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) of the fund is reserved for appropriation by the legislature to the instructional material fund or to the transportation distribution of the public school fund. The secretary shall certify the need for the issuance of supplemental severance tax bonds to meet an appropriation from the public school capital outlay fund to the instructional material fund or to the transportation distribution of the public school fund. Any portion of an amount of the public school capital outlay fund that is reserved for appropriation by the legislature for a fiscal year, but that is not appropriated before the first day of that fiscal year, may be expended by the council as provided in this section.

 $[\Theta_{\cdot}]$ <u>P.</u> Up to ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) of the fund may be expended in each of fiscal years 2019 through 2022 for school security system project grants made in accordance with Section 22-24-4.7 NMSA 1978.

[P.] Q. The fund may be expended in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024 for a pre-kindergarten classroom facilities initiative in accordance with Section 22-24-12 NMSA .223743.2

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2	$[Q_{\bullet}]$ <u>R</u> . The council may fund pre-kindergarten
3	classrooms with a qualifying, awarded standards-based project;
4	provided that pre-kindergarten classroom space shall not be
5	included in the project prioritization calculation adopted by
6	the council pursuant to Section 22-24-5 NMSA 1978. The council
7	shall develop pre-kindergarten classroom standards to use when
8	funding pre-kindergarten space."
9	SECTION 17. APPLICABILITYThe provisions of this act
10	apply to the 2023-2024 school year and subsequent school years.
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