

American Legion Auxiliary  
New Mexico Girls State  
**Resolution**



Principal Author: Ajalaa Claussen

Resolution No: 24 Committee: C

Status:

Passed by:  Committee  House  Senate  Governor

Tabled by:  Committee  House  Senate

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Simple Title of Resolution: House Bill 5 section 14 proposed amendment on small school adjustment requirements

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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**72<sup>nd</sup> SESSION – AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE – 2019**

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INTRODUCED BY

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*Ajalaa Claussen*

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A RESOLUTION

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An amendment to New Mexico House Bill 5 section fourteen that delineates the eligibility

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of a school to receive the small school adjustment fund. This amendment seeks to expand

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the eligibility requirements based on the term rural rather than on unit numbers in hopes of

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bringing much-needed financial aid to the small communities of New Mexico.

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE:

1           SECTION 1. As stated in section fourteen, page twenty-five, line twelve of  
2 **House Bill 5, “An approved public school, including a charter school, with a MEM of**  
3 **fewer than four hundred . . . that is geographically located in a school district with**  
4 **fewer than two thousand MEM, is eligible for additional program units.” This section,**  
5 **intended to supply financial support to rural communities, outlines the size of a rural**  
6 **community that is eligible to receive money from the small school adjustment fund.**  
7 **However, this limitation does not meet the same quota requirements that designates**  
8 **a community as rural defined by the National Census Bureau. According to a report**  
9 **report issued in December of 2016 by U.S. Census Bureau “. . . the Census Bureau**  
10 **began implementing criteria, through a uniform set of objective rules, which**  
11 **consistently define urbanized areas with a population of 50,000 or more.” Areas with**  
12 **smaller population or population density are considered to be rural. In the essence**  
13 **of this definition, it is asked that the max MEM be raised to at 3,000 to accommodate**  
14 **the technically rural schools that will no longer be able to remain open without this**  
15 **vital funding. As this new limit was enacted in the spring 2019 legislative session**  
16 **and funding that was previously supplied to 93 schools will decrease tenfold. By**  
17 **raising the cap to 3,000 it saves about seven schools that are vital in ensuring a**  
18 **quality education to those in less fortunate, impoverished areas in New Mexico.**  
19 **These seven school will hardly make a dent in the overall budget for they were**  
20 **funded Year’s prior, however, keeping their doors open will leave a lasting impact on**  
21 **these rural communities. By ensuring a quality education to the youth of New**  
22 **Mexico, the representatives ensure a brighter future for all of New Mexico.**

23           SECTION 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution shall be submitted to the  
24 people for their approval or rejection at the next general election or at any special election  
25 prior to that date that may be called for that purpose.