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**Senate committee clears bill to transfer Statewide Education
Network to Broadband Office**

SANTA FE – Late this afternoon, the Senate Tax, Business and Transportation Committee cleared legislation by a vote of 6-3 that will move the Statewide Education Network (SEN) from the Public School Facilities Authority (PSFA) to the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE).

OBAE Acting Director Drew Lovelace and Senate Majority Whip Michael Padilla testified before the committee to seek legislative approval of [SB 401](#), the Broadband for Education Bill. The legislation calls for SEN staff, funds, projects and all operations to be moved to OBAE.

“The SB 401 proposal will make the program run more efficiently. SEN is currently run by OBAE, so the transfer will be seamless, and the move also provides OBAE with autonomy,” said **Lovelace**. “The transfer will also allow our office to leverage more education programs and allow for resiliency.”

SEN launched the program last July, connecting dozens of schools through a school-centric broadband network. The network will allow students and teachers to share classes, resources and educational and social services on their own network. SEN plans to connect all New Mexico schools through this bold, high-tech program by 2027.

PSFA already supports this proposal, and such a transfer will have no impact on SEN. Lovelace says such a transfer will allow for more middle mile broadband for SEN, something that will benefit broadband providers, schools and students. SEN middle mile could also be used in communications emergencies statewide.

The sponsors of SB 401 are [Sen. Michael Padilla](#), Majority Whip, [Rep. Debra Sarinana](#), [Rep. Tara Lujan](#) and [Rep. Joy Garratt](#).

The bill now heads to the Senate Finance Committee.

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The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion is dedicated to serving New Mexico with a commitment to make high-speed broadband accessible to all New Mexicans. OBAE's mission is to expand and improve high-speed internet service with passionate leadership that drives bold, equitable, affordable and inclusive broadband solutions. OBAE seeks results that honor the state's rich heritage and elevate quality of life for all.