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HOUSE BILL 4

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph M Thompson

AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS; REQUIRING VOTER IDENTIFICATION BY  
SIGNATURE VERIFICATION; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR VOTING  
WHEN DIGITAL FACSIMILE SIGNATURE VERIFICATION IS UNAVAILABLE;  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

Section 1. A new section of the Election Code, Section  
1-12-8.1 NMSA 1978, is enacted to read:

"1-12-8.1. [~~NEW MATERIAL~~] VOTER IDENTIFICATION BY  
SIGNATURE VERIFICATION--PROCEDURE--EXEMPTION--ALTERNATIVES.--

A. The signature rosters at each polling place and  
each place where early in-person voting is allowed shall  
contain digital facsimile signatures of each registered voter  
on the roster.

B. A voter shall sign the signature roster before

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1 casting a ballot on election day or when voting early in  
2 person pursuant to Section 1-6-5 NMSA 1978. If the actual  
3 signature of a voter is significantly at variance from the  
4 digital facsimile signature on the signature roster and a  
5 member of the precinct board or, during early voting, an  
6 officer of the county clerk's office present at the place of  
7 voting does not have personal knowledge of the identity of the  
8 voter, the voter shall vote in accordance with the procedures  
9 in Subsection F of this section.

10 C. In determining the validity of a signature, the  
11 precinct board or, during early voting, an officer of the  
12 county clerk's office present at the place of voting may  
13 consider factors such as the age or disability of the voter.

14 D. A voter qualifying for assistance pursuant to  
15 Section 1-12-12 NMSA 1978 is exempt from the requirements of  
16 Subsection B of this section.

17 E. All counties shall comply with the provisions  
18 of this section on or before the 2004 primary election.

19 F. If a polling place, county clerk's office or  
20 location where early in-person voting is allowed is unable to  
21 provide for digital facsimile signature verification,  
22 alternative identification shall be used. Before voting, the  
23 voter shall present a New Mexico voter identification card; a  
24 social security card; a valid New Mexico driver's license or  
25 any other identification card issued by an agency of the

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1 state, one of its political subdivisions or the United States;  
2 or any valid employee identification card containing a  
3 photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter  
4 in the ordinary course of the employer's business. If a voter  
5 is entitled to vote except that he is unable to present one of  
6 these forms of identification, he shall be allowed to vote  
7 after executing a statement swearing or affirming that he is  
8 the named registered voter he claims to be. "

9 Section 2. APPROPRIATION. -- Two hundred fifty thousand  
10 dollars (\$250,000) is appropriated from the general fund to  
11 the secretary of state for expenditure in fiscal years 2003  
12 and 2004 for disbursement to counties for purchasing digital  
13 facsimile signature printers. Any unexpended or unencumbered  
14 balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2004 shall revert  
15 to the general fund.