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SENATE BILL 245

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Steven P. Neville

AN ACT

RELATING TO JUDICIAL DISTRICTS; CREATING THE FOURTEENTH
JUDICIAL DISTRICT; MODIFYING THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT;
PROVIDING FOR TRANSFER OF JUDGES, DISTRICT ATTORNEYS,
PERSONNEL, APPROPRIATIONS, CONTRACTS AND OBLIGATIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 34-6-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1941,
Chapter 75, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"34-6-1. JUDICIAL DISTRICTS.--The state shall be divided
into judicial districts as follows:

A. first judicial district, the counties of Santa
Fe, Rio Arriba and Los Alamos;

B. second judicial district, the county of
Bernalillo;

C. third judicial district, the county of Dona Ana;

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underscoring material = new
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- 1 D. fourth judicial district, the counties of
2 Guadalupe, San Miguel and Mora;
- 3 E. fifth judicial district, the counties of Eddy,
4 Chaves and Lea;
- 5 F. sixth judicial district, the counties of Grant,
6 Luna and Hidalgo;
- 7 G. seventh judicial district, the counties of
8 Socorro, Torrance, Sierra and Catron;
- 9 H. eighth judicial district, the counties of Taos,
10 Colfax and Union;
- 11 I. ninth judicial district, the counties of Curry
12 and Roosevelt;
- 13 J. tenth judicial district, the counties of Quay,
14 DeBaca and Harding;
- 15 K. eleventh judicial district, the [counties]
16 county of McKinley [~~and San Juan~~];
- 17 L. twelfth judicial district, the counties of Otero
18 and Lincoln; [~~and~~]
- 19 M. thirteenth judicial district, the counties of
20 Cibola, Sandoval and Valencia; and
- 21 N. fourteenth judicial district, the county of San
22 Juan."

23 SECTION 2. Section 34-6-14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1968,
24 Chapter 69, Section 17, as amended) is amended to read:

25 "34-6-14. JUDGES--ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT.--There
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1 shall be [~~eight~~] three district judges in the eleventh judicial
2 district. [~~The judges of divisions one, three, four, six and~~
3 ~~eight shall reside and maintain their principal offices in San~~
4 ~~Juan county. The judges of divisions two, five and seven shall~~
5 ~~reside and maintain their principal offices in McKinley~~
6 ~~county.]"~~

7 SECTION 3. A new Section 34-6-16.1 NMSA 1978 is enacted
8 to read:

9 "34-6-16.1. [NEW MATERIAL] JUDGES--FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL
10 DISTRICT.--There shall be five judges in the fourteenth
11 judicial district."

12 SECTION 4. TEMPORARY PROVISION--TRANSFER OF JUDGES,
13 DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, PERSONNEL, APPROPRIATIONS, CONTRACTS AND
14 OBLIGATIONS.--

15 A. Judges serving in eleventh judicial district
16 divisions one, three, four, six and eight who maintain their
17 offices in San Juan county shall be transferred to divisions
18 one, two, three, four and five, respectively, of the fourteenth
19 judicial district, together with all budgets, personnel, money,
20 funds, appropriations, accounts, furniture, equipment, office
21 supplies and other things of value and all contracts, debts,
22 liabilities or other obligations attributable to those
23 divisions.

24 B. The district attorney serving in the eleventh
25 judicial district division one, composed of San Juan county, is

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1 transferred to the fourteenth judicial district and shall
2 retain all budgets, personnel, money, funds, appropriations,
3 accounts, furniture, equipment, office supplies and other
4 things of value and all contracts, debts, liabilities or other
5 obligations attributable to division one.

6 C. The district attorney serving in the eleventh
7 judicial district division two, composed of McKinley county,
8 shall become the sole district attorney for the eleventh
9 judicial district and shall retain all budgets, personnel,
10 money, funds, appropriations, accounts, furniture, equipment,
11 office supplies and other things of value and all contracts,
12 debts, liabilities or other obligations attributable to
13 division two.

14 SECTION 5. TEMPORARY PROVISION--JUDICIAL ELECTIONS.--

15 A. Candidates running for the position of district
16 judge from divisions one, three, four, six and eight of the
17 eleventh judicial district shall be elected by the qualified
18 voters of San Juan county at the general election held in 2020.

19 B. Candidates running for the position of district
20 judge from divisions two, five and seven of the eleventh
21 judicial district shall be elected by the qualified voters of
22 McKinley county at the general election held in 2020.

23 SECTION 6. REPEAL.--Sections 36-1-8.2 and 36-1-8.3 NMSA
24 1978 (being Laws 1981, Chapter 25, Sections 1 and 2, as
25 amended) are repealed.

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