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SENATE BILL 261

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph Cervantes

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO; CREATING AN
INDEPENDENT CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMMISSION PURSUANT TO
ARTICLE 19, SECTION 1 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO; MAKING
AN APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

COMMISSION--CREATION--COMPOSITION.--The "constitutional
revision commission" is created as an independent commission
pursuant to Article 19, Section 1 of the constitution of New
Mexico. The commission shall be composed of fifteen voting
members and two advisory, nonvoting members. Members shall be
appointed pursuant to the following provisions:

A. three public members shall be appointed by the
speaker of the house of representatives, of whom no more than

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1 two shall belong to the same political party;

2 B. three public members shall be appointed by the
3 president pro tempore of the senate, of whom no more than two
4 shall belong to the same political party;

5 C. three public members shall be appointed by the
6 governor, of whom no more than two shall belong to the same
7 political party;

8 D. six public members shall be appointed by the New
9 Mexico legislative council;

10 E. the appointments shall be coordinated to ensure
11 that the different geographical areas of the state are
12 represented and that the members reflect the cultural,
13 economic, professional and ethnic diversity of New Mexico;

14 F. no more than eight members shall belong to the
15 same political party;

16 G. the chief justice of the New Mexico supreme
17 court or the chief justice's designee and the attorney general
18 or the attorney general's designee shall serve in an advisory,
19 nonvoting capacity; and

20 H. members considered for appointment to the
21 commission shall not have changed party affiliation for at
22 least one year prior to being appointed to the commission.

23 SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] OFFICERS--VACANCIES.--The
24 constitutional revision commission shall elect a chair and
25 other necessary officers from among its members. Vacancies on

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1 the commission shall be filled by appointment by the respective
2 appointing authority that made the original appointment, and
3 those appointments shall be subject to the same criteria
4 applicable to the initial appointments.

5 SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] POWERS AND DUTIES.--The
6 constitutional revision commission shall examine the
7 constitution of New Mexico and the constitutions of other
8 states to recommend changes in the constitution of New Mexico
9 as it deems desirable and necessary. Upon majority approval of
10 the fifteen voting members, legislation shall be drafted and
11 submitted to the legislature for its review in accordance with
12 the provisions of Article 19, Section 1 of the constitution of
13 New Mexico.

14 SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.--
15 The constitutional revision commission shall make a full report
16 of its findings and recommendations. The report and any
17 recommended constitutional revisions shall be made to the
18 governor and to each member of the fifty-third legislature not
19 later than thirty days prior to the convening of its second
20 regular session.

21 SECTION 5. [NEW MATERIAL] STAFFING.--The staff and
22 research work shall be done under the supervision of the chair
23 of the constitutional revision commission by employees approved
24 by the commission, assisted, upon request, by the legislative
25 council service.

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