

HOUSE BILL 6

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

Angelica Rubio and Andrea Romero and Patricia Roybal Caballero
and Leo Jaramillo

AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING; CLARIFYING THE REQUIREMENT FOR A WRITTEN
STATEMENT OF DEDUCTIONS IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; INCREASING
CERTAIN CIVIL PENALTIES; INCREASING THE TIME PERMITTED TO
REMEDY NONPAYMENT OF RENT FOR A RENTAL AGREEMENT; INCREASING
PERIODS OF TIME REQUIRED FOR NONPAYMENT NOTICES; REQUIRING THE
ISSUANCE OF A JUDGMENT OF RESTITUTION PRIOR TO A WRIT OF
RESTITUTION; CLARIFYING THAT ISSUANCE AND EXECUTION OF A WRIT
OF RESTITUTION ARE STAYED DURING AN APPEAL; PROHIBITING AN
OWNER FROM REFUSING TO RENEW OR SEEKING TO TERMINATE A RENTAL
AGREEMENT DURING A DECLARED EMERGENCY OR DISASTER; DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Section 47-8-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1975,
Chapter 38, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

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1 "47-8-1. SHORT TITLE.--[Sections 47-8-1 through 47-8-51]
2 Chapter 47, Article 8 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Uniform
3 Owner-Resident Relations Act"."

4 SECTION 2. Section 47-8-15 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1975,
5 Chapter 38, Section 15, as amended) is amended to read:

6 "47-8-15. PAYMENT OF RENT.--

7 A. The resident shall pay rent in accordance with
8 the rental agreement. In the absence of an agreement, the
9 resident shall pay as rent the fair rental value for the use of
10 the premises and occupancy of the dwelling unit.

11 B. Rent is payable without demand or notice at the
12 time and place agreed upon by the parties. Unless otherwise
13 agreed, rent is payable at the dwelling unit. Unless otherwise
14 agreed, periodic rent is payable at the beginning of any term
15 of one month or less and otherwise in equal monthly
16 installments at the beginning of each monthly period. The date
17 of one month to the same date of the following month shall
18 constitute a term of one month.

19 C. Unless the rental agreement fixes a definite
20 term, the residency is week-to-week in the case of a person who
21 pays weekly rent and in all other cases month-to-month.

22 D. If the rental agreement provides for the
23 charging of a late fee and if the resident does not pay rent in
24 accordance with the rental agreement, the owner may charge the
25 resident a late fee in an amount not to exceed ten percent of

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1 the total rent payment for each rental period that the resident
2 is in default. If the resident's rent is subsidized by a
3 government agency, the maximum late fee shall be ten percent of
4 the portion of the rent that the resident pays for the dwelling
5 unit and shall not include the portion paid by the government
6 agency. To assess a late fee, the owner shall provide notice
7 of the late fee charged no later than the last day of the next
8 rental period immediately following the period in which the
9 default occurred.

10 E. An owner may not assess a fee from the resident
11 for occupancy of the dwelling unit by a reasonable number of
12 guests for a reasonable length of time. This shall not
13 preclude charges for use of premises or facilities other than
14 the dwelling unit by guests.

15 F. An owner may increase the rent payable by the
16 resident in a month-to-month residency by providing written
17 notice to the resident of the proposed increase at least thirty
18 days prior to the periodic rental date specified in the rental
19 agreement or, in the case of a fixed term residency, at least
20 thirty days prior to the end of the term. In the case of a
21 periodic residency of less than one month, written notice shall
22 be provided at least one rental period in advance of the first
23 rental payment to be increased.

24 G. Unless agreed upon in writing by the owner and
25 the resident, a resident's payment of rent may not be allocated

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1 to any deposits or damages.

2 H. For each cash, check or money order payment made
3 by a resident or on a resident's behalf, an owner shall provide
4 the resident a written or electronic receipt that shall include
5 the amount of the payment, the date of payment and the
6 resident's name."

7 SECTION 3. Section 47-8-18 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1975,
8 Chapter 38, Section 18, as amended) is amended to read:

9 "47-8-18. DEPOSITS.--

10 A. An owner is permitted to demand from the
11 resident a reasonable deposit to be applied by the owner to
12 recover damages, if any, caused to the premises by the resident
13 during [~~his~~] the term of residency. [~~(1)~~] Under the terms of
14 an annual rental agreement, if the owner demands or receives of
15 the resident [~~such~~] a deposit in an amount greater than one
16 month's rent, the owner shall be required to pay to the
17 resident annually an interest equal to the passbook interest
18 permitted to savings and loan associations in this state by the
19 federal home loan bank board on such deposit. [~~(2)~~] Under the
20 terms of a rental agreement of a duration less than one year,
21 an owner shall not demand or receive from the resident [~~such~~] a
22 deposit in an amount in excess of one month's rent.

23 B. It is not the intention of this section to
24 include the last month's prepaid rent, which may be required by
25 the rental agreement as a deposit as defined in Subsection [D]

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1 E of Section 47-8-3 NMSA 1978. Any deposit as defined in
2 [~~Paragraph (1) of~~] Subsection A of this section shall not be
3 construed as prepaid rent.

4 C. Upon termination of the residency, property or
5 money held by the owner as deposits may be applied by the owner
6 to the payment of rent and the amount of damages [~~which~~] that
7 the owner has suffered by reason of the resident's
8 noncompliance with the rental agreement or Section 47-8-22 NMSA
9 1978. No deposit shall be retained to cover normal wear
10 and tear. In the event actual cause exists for retaining any
11 portion of the deposit for nonpayment of rent, late fees,
12 utilities, repairs, cleaning or other legitimate damages or
13 charges, the owner shall provide the resident with an itemized
14 written list of the deductions from the deposit and the balance
15 of the deposit, if any, within thirty days of the date of
16 termination of the rental agreement or resident departure,
17 whichever is later. The owner is deemed to have complied with
18 this section by mailing, emailing or hand delivering the
19 statement and any payment required to the last known address of
20 the resident. [~~Nothing in this section shall preclude the~~
21 ~~owner from retaining portions of the deposit for nonpayment of~~
22 ~~rent or utilities, repair work or other legitimate damages]~~ If
23 the statement and any payment are mailed but returned as
24 undeliverable or if the last known address is the vacated
25 dwelling unit, the owner shall mail, email or hand deliver at

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1 least one additional notice if an alternative address has been
2 provided to the owner by the resident or the resident's
3 representative.

4 D. If the owner fails to provide the resident with
5 a written statement of deductions from the deposit and the
6 balance shown by the statement to be due, within thirty days of
7 the termination of the tenancy, the owner:

8 (1) shall forfeit the right to withhold any
9 portion of the deposit for any charge, including rent other
10 than the minimum periodic payment due under the lease for a
11 dwelling accrued through the date of termination or resident
12 departure, whichever is later, late fees, utilities, repairs,
13 cleaning or other damages or charges;

14 (2) shall forfeit the right to assert [~~any~~] a
15 counterclaim in [~~any~~] an action brought to recover that
16 deposit;

17 (3) shall be liable to the resident for court
18 costs and reasonable [~~attorneys'~~] attorney fees; and

19 (4) shall forfeit the right to assert an
20 independent action against the resident for [~~damages to the~~
21 ~~rental property~~] any charge, including rent other than the
22 minimum periodic payment due under the lease for a dwelling
23 accrued through the date of termination or resident departure,
24 whichever is later, late fees and other penalties, utilities,
25 repairs, cleaning or other damages or charges. Notwithstanding

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1 any other provision of law, nothing in this section shall
2 prevent the owner from retaining a portion of the deposit or
3 bringing a separate action for the minimum periodic payment due
4 under the lease for a dwelling actually due prior to the
5 resident vacating the premises.

6 E. An owner who [~~in bad faith~~] retains a deposit,
7 or any portion thereof, knowing that retention to be in
8 violation of this section is liable to the resident for a civil
9 penalty in the amount of [~~two hundred fifty dollars (\$250)~~
10 ~~payable to the resident~~] twice the amount improperly withheld."

11 SECTION 4. Section 47-8-33 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1975,
12 Chapter 38, Section 33, as amended) is amended to read:

13 "47-8-33. BREACH OF AGREEMENT BY RESIDENT AND RELIEF BY
14 OWNER.--

15 A. Except as provided in the Uniform Owner-Resident
16 Relations Act, if there is noncompliance with Section 47-8-22
17 NMSA 1978 materially affecting health and safety or upon the
18 initial material noncompliance by the resident with the rental
19 agreement or [~~any~~] a separate agreement, the owner shall
20 deliver a written notice to the resident specifying the acts
21 and omissions constituting the breach, including the dates and
22 specific facts describing the nature of the alleged breach, and
23 stating that the rental agreement will terminate upon a date
24 not less than seven days after receipt of the notice if the
25 breach is not remedied in seven days.

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1 B. Upon the second material noncompliance with the
2 rental agreement or any separate agreement by the resident,
3 within six months of the initial breach, the owner shall
4 deliver a written notice to the resident specifying the acts
5 and omissions constituting the breach, including the dates and
6 specific facts describing the nature of the alleged breach, and
7 stating that the rental agreement shall terminate upon a date
8 not less than seven days after receipt of the notice. If the
9 subsequent breach occurs more than six months after the initial
10 breach, it shall constitute an initial breach for purposes of
11 applying the provisions of this section.

12 C. The initial notice provided in this section
13 shall state that the rental agreement will terminate upon the
14 second material noncompliance with the rental agreement or any
15 separate agreement by the resident, within six months of the
16 initial breach. To be effective, ~~[any]~~ a notice pursuant to
17 this subsection shall be given within thirty days of the breach
18 or knowledge thereof.

19 D. If rent is unpaid when due and the resident
20 fails to pay rent within ~~[three]~~ eleven calendar days after
21 written notice from the owner of nonpayment, ~~[and his]~~ the
22 owner may terminate the rental agreement pursuant to this
23 subsection. The notice shall state the owner's intention to
24 terminate the rental agreement. The owner may terminate the
25 rental agreement and the resident shall ~~[immediately deliver~~

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1 ~~possession of the dwelling unit; provided that~~ voluntarily
2 deliver possession, contest the termination in court or seek
3 redress in response. The tender of the full amount due, in the
4 manner stated in the notice, prior to the expiration of the
5 [~~three-day~~] eleven-day notice shall bar any action for
6 nonpayment of rent.

7 E. In any court action for possession for
8 nonpayment of rent or other charges where the resident disputes
9 the amount owed because:

10 (1) the resident has abated rent pursuant to
11 Section 47-8-27.2 or 47-8-4 NMSA 1978; or

12 (2) the owner has allocated rent paid by the
13 resident as payment for damages to the premises, then, if the
14 owner is the prevailing party, the court shall enter a [~~writ of~~
15 ~~restitution~~] judgment conditioned upon the right of the
16 resident to remedy by depositing the judgment amount with the
17 court within [~~three~~] twenty-one days of entry of judgment. If
18 the resident has satisfied the judgment, including all rent,
19 costs, fees and interest accrued as set with the court, within
20 [~~three~~] twenty-one days, the [~~writ~~] judgment shall be vacated
21 and the petition as to that issue shall be dismissed. If the
22 resident has not satisfied the judgment [~~within three days, the~~
23 ~~owner may execute upon the writ without further order of the~~
24 ~~court~~] as set by the court, the court shall issue the writ of
25 restitution without further order.

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1 F. Except as provided in the Uniform Owner-Resident
2 Relations Act, the owner may recover damages and obtain
3 injunctive or other relief for ~~[any]~~ noncompliance by the
4 resident with the rental agreement or this section or Section
5 47-8-22 NMSA 1978.

6 G. In a judicial action to enforce a remedy for
7 which prior written notice is required, relief may be granted
8 based only upon the grounds set forth in the written notice
9 served; provided, however, that this shall not bar a defendant
10 from raising any and all defenses or counterclaims for which
11 written notice is not otherwise required by the Uniform Owner-
12 Resident Relations Act.

13 H. When the last day for remedying any breach
14 pursuant to written notice required under the Uniform Owner-
15 Resident Relations Act occurs on a weekend or federal holiday,
16 the period to remedy shall be extended until the next day that
17 is not a weekend or federal holiday.

18 I. If the resident knowingly commits or consents to
19 another person in the dwelling unit or on the premises
20 knowingly committing a substantial violation, the owner shall
21 deliver a written notice to the resident specifying the time,
22 place and nature of the act constituting the substantial
23 violation and that the rental agreement will terminate upon a
24 date not less than three days after receipt of the notice.

25 J. In any action for possession ~~[under]~~ pursuant to
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1 Subsection I of this section, it shall be a defense that the
2 resident is a victim of domestic violence. If the resident has
3 filed for or secured a temporary domestic violence restraining
4 order as a result of the incident that is the basis for the
5 termination notice or as a result of a prior incident, the writ
6 of restitution shall not issue. In all other cases ~~[where]~~ in
7 which domestic violence is raised as a defense, the court shall
8 have the discretion to evict the resident accused of the
9 violation, while allowing the tenancy of the remainder of the
10 residents to continue undisturbed.

11 K. In any action for possession ~~[under]~~ pursuant to
12 Subsection I of this section, it shall be a defense that the
13 resident did not know of, and could not have reasonably known
14 of or prevented, the commission of a substantial violation by
15 any other person in the dwelling unit or on the premises.

16 L. In ~~[an]~~ any action for possession ~~[under]~~
17 pursuant to Subsection I of this section, it shall be a defense
18 that the resident took reasonable and lawful actions in defense
19 of ~~[himself]~~ the resident, others or ~~[his]~~ the resident's
20 property.

21 M. In any action for possession ~~[under]~~ pursuant to
22 Subsection I of this section, if the court finds that the
23 action was frivolous or brought in bad faith, the petitioner
24 shall be subject to a civil penalty equal to two times the
25 amount of the monthly rent, plus damages and costs."

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1 SECTION 5. Section 47-8-37 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1975,
2 Chapter 38, Section 37) is amended to read:

3 "47-8-37. NOTICE OF TERMINATION AND DAMAGES.--

4 A. The owner or the resident may terminate a week-
5 to-week residency by a written notice given to the other at
6 least seven days prior to the termination date specified in the
7 notice.

8 B. The owner or the resident may terminate a month-
9 to-month residency by a written notice given to the other at
10 least thirty days prior to the periodic rental date specified
11 in the notice.

12 C. If the resident remains in possession without
13 the owner's consent after expiration of the term of the rental
14 agreement or its termination, the owner may bring an action for
15 possession, and, if the resident's holdover is willful and not
16 in good faith, the owner, in addition, may recover the damages
17 sustained by ~~[him]~~ the owner and reasonable ~~[attorney's]~~
18 attorney fees. If the owner consents to the resident's
19 continued occupancy, Subsection C of Section ~~[15 of the Uniform~~
20 ~~Owner-Resident Relations Act]~~ 47-8-15 NMSA 1978 applies."

21 SECTION 6. Section 47-8-39 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1975,
22 Chapter 38, Section 39, as amended) is amended to read:

23 "47-8-39. OWNER RETALIATION PROHIBITED.--

24 A. An owner may not retaliate against a resident
25 who is in compliance with the rental agreement and not

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1 otherwise in violation of any provision of the Uniform Owner-
2 Resident Relations Act. [~~by increasing rent, decreasing~~
3 ~~services or by bringing or threatening to bring an action for~~
4 ~~possession because~~] A resident may prove retaliation if:

5 (1) an owner brings or threatens to bring an
6 action for possession, decreases services, increases rent,
7 refuses to renew a rental agreement or serves a notice of
8 termination under Section 47-8-37 NMSA 1978; and

9 (2) the resident has within the previous six
10 months:

11 [~~1~~] (a) complained to a government
12 agency charged with responsibility for enforcement of a minimum
13 building or housing code of a violation applicable to the
14 premises materially affecting health and safety;

15 [~~2~~] (b) organized or become a member
16 of a residents' union, association or similar organization;

17 [~~3~~] (c) acted in good faith to
18 exercise [~~his~~] the resident's rights provided [~~under~~] pursuant
19 to the Uniform Owner-Resident Relations Act or any other law,
20 order or regulation governing owner-resident relations,
21 including when the resident makes a written request or
22 complaint to the owner to make repairs to comply with the
23 owner's obligations [~~under~~] pursuant to Section 47-8-20 NMSA
24 1978 or any other law, order or regulation governing owner-
25 resident relations;

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1 [~~(4)~~] (d) made a fair housing complaint
2 to a government agency charged with authority for enforcement
3 of laws or [~~regulations~~] rules prohibiting discrimination in
4 rental housing;

5 [~~(5)~~] (e) prevailed in a lawsuit as
6 either plaintiff or defendant or has a lawsuit pending against
7 the owner relating to the residency;

8 [~~(6)~~] (f) testified on behalf of another
9 resident; [~~or~~

10 ~~(7)~~] (g) abated rent in accordance with
11 the provisions of Section 47-8-27.1 or 47-8-27.2 NMSA 1978;

12 (h) complained to the owner about the
13 functioning or safety of a mechanical device or service of a
14 gas, electric or water utility company or an owner-supplied
15 appliance; or

16 (i) requested a reasonable accommodation
17 for disability under the federal Fair Housing Act, Section 504
18 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the federal
19 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Human Rights Act
20 or any other applicable federal, state or local fair housing or
21 human rights law.

22 B. If the owner acts in violation of Subsection A
23 of this section, the resident [~~is~~] shall be entitled to the
24 remedies provided in Section 47-8-48 NMSA 1978 and the
25 violation shall be a defense in [~~any~~] an action against [~~him~~]

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1 the resident for possession.

2 C. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection A
3 of this section, the owner may increase the rent or change
4 services upon appropriate notice at the end of the term of the
5 rental agreement or as provided [~~under~~] pursuant to the terms
6 of the rental agreement if the owner can establish that the
7 increased rent or changes in services are consistent with those
8 imposed on other residents of similar rental units and are not
9 directed at the particular resident, but are uniform.

10 D. The order of proof for any action or affirmative
11 defense under this section shall be that the resident shall be
12 required to prove that the resident has engaged in conduct
13 protected by this section. The owner shall then be required to
14 articulate a reason for the action that is not protected by
15 this section, and the resident shall then be required to prove
16 that the reason given by the owner is a pretext for retaliation
17 prohibited by this section."

18 SECTION 7. Section 47-8-40 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1975,
19 Chapter 38, Section 40, as amended) is amended to read:

20 "47-8-40. ACTION FOR POSSESSION BY OWNER.--

21 A. Notwithstanding Subsections A, [~~and~~] B and C of
22 Section 47-8-39 NMSA 1978, an owner may bring an action for
23 possession, and dispute a claim of retaliation asserted by the
24 tenant, if:

25 (1) the violation of the applicable minimum

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1 building or housing code was caused primarily by lack of
2 reasonable care by the resident or other person in [~~his~~] the
3 resident's household or upon the premises with the resident's
4 consent;

5 (2) the resident is in default in rent;

6 (3) there is a material noncompliance with the
7 rental agreement that would otherwise give rise to the owner's
8 right to terminate the rental agreement;

9 (4) a resident knowingly commits or consents
10 to any other person in the dwelling unit or on the premises
11 knowingly committing a substantial violation; or

12 (5) compliance with the applicable building or
13 housing code requires alteration, remodeling or demolition that
14 would effectively deprive the resident of use of the dwelling
15 unit.

16 B. The maintenance of an action under Subsection A
17 of this section does not release the owner from liability under
18 Section 47-8-20 NMSA 1978.

19 C. Any right of an owner to bring an action under
20 this section shall be subject to the federal Fair Housing Act
21 and other applicable fair housing and human rights laws."

22 SECTION 8. Section 47-8-43 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1975,
23 Chapter 38, Section 43, as amended) is amended to read:

24 "47-8-43. ISSUANCE OF SUMMONS AND TRIAL SETTING.--

25 A. The summons shall be issued and directed, with a

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1 copy of the petition attached to the summons, and shall state
2 the cause of the complaint, the answer day for other causes of
3 action and notice that if the defendant fails to appear,
4 judgment shall be entered against ~~[him]~~ the defendant. The
5 summons may be served pursuant to the New Mexico rules of civil
6 procedure and returned as in other cases. Trial of the action
7 for possession shall be set as follows:

8 (1) for any matter brought by the owner for
9 possession, not less than ~~[seven or]~~ fourteen days nor more
10 than ~~[ten]~~ twenty-one days after the service of summons; or

11 (2) for ~~[any]~~ a matter brought by the resident
12 for possession, not less than three or more than five days
13 after the service of summons.

14 B. Upon finding of good cause, the court may
15 continue the date of hearing on the action for possession ~~[for~~
16 ~~up to seven days from the date of the initial hearing]~~.

17 C. To the extent practicable, the court shall
18 maintain a resource list of nonprofit legal service providers
19 and state and local entities that provide rental assistance to
20 qualifying applicants. A copy of the resource list shall be
21 provided to the plaintiff at the time of filing of the petition
22 and shall be served by the plaintiff along with the summons and
23 copy of the complaint upon the defendant."

24 SECTION 9. Section 47-8-46 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1975,
25 Chapter 38, Section 46, as amended) is amended to read:

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1 "47-8-46. WRIT OF RESTITUTION.--

2 A. Upon petition for restitution filed by the owner
3 if judgment is rendered against the defendant for restitution
4 of the premises, the court shall declare the forfeiture of the
5 rental agreement and shall, at the request of the plaintiff or
6 ~~[his]~~ the plaintiff's attorney, issue a ~~[writ]~~ judgment of
7 restitution ordering the resident to vacate the premises by a
8 specified date; provided that the resident shall be allowed not
9 less than fifteen days nor more than twenty days to vacate the
10 premises after entry of judgment and, upon good cause shown,
11 may be allowed additional time to vacate the premises, and for
12 good cause shown in a restitution case based upon grounds
13 involving dangerous or disruptive conduct by the resident, the
14 time allowed the resident to vacate may be shortened to not
15 less than seven days. If the resident does not vacate the
16 premises within the time ordered by the judgment, the court
17 shall issue a writ of restitution directing the sheriff to
18 restore possession of the premises to the plaintiff ~~[on a~~
19 ~~specified date not less than three nor more than seven days~~
20 ~~after entry of judgment]~~.

21 B. Upon a petition for restitution filed by the
22 resident, if judgment is rendered against the defendant for
23 restitution of the premises, the court shall, at the request of
24 the plaintiff or ~~[his]~~ the plaintiff's attorney, issue a writ
25 of restitution directing the sheriff to restore possession of

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1 the premises to the plaintiff within twenty-four hours after
2 entry of judgment.

3 C. In cases filed based on nonpayment of rent, if
4 at any time prior to entry of judgment or prior to expiration
5 of the period set by the court to vacate after entry of
6 judgment, or for any longer period as ordered by the court, a
7 resident tenders payment of all rent, costs, fees and interest
8 accrued as of that date or as ordered by the court, the
9 petition for writ of restitution shall be dismissed, any
10 judgment shall be vacated and the tenancy shall continue under
11 the rental agreement in place prior to the action by the owner.
12 Tender of amounts due may be made to the owner or to the court
13 to be held in escrow for distribution to the owner upon
14 dismissal of the petition."

15 SECTION 10. Section 47-8-47 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1975,
16 Chapter 38, Section 47, as amended) is amended to read:

17 "47-8-47. APPEAL STAYS EXECUTION.--

18 A. If either party feels aggrieved by the judgment,
19 that party may appeal as in other civil actions. An appeal by
20 the defendant shall, automatically and without further order of
21 the court, stay the issuance and execution of any writ of
22 restitution. [provided that] After a notice of appeal is
23 filed, no writ of restitution shall be executed except on order
24 of the court entered after the filing date of the appeal.

25 B. In cases in which the resident is the appellant,

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1 ~~[the execution of the writ of restitution shall not be stayed~~
2 ~~unless]~~ the resident shall, within five days of the filing of
3 the notice of appeal, ~~[pays]~~ pay to the owner or into an escrow
4 account with a professional escrow agent an amount equal to the
5 rental amount that shall come due from the day following the
6 judgment through the end of that rental period. The resident
7 shall continue to pay the monthly rent established by the
8 rental agreement at the time the complaint was filed, on a
9 monthly basis on the date rent would otherwise become due.
10 Payments pursuant to this subsection by a subsidized resident
11 shall not exceed the actual amount of monthly rent paid by that
12 resident. When the resident pays the owner directly, the owner
13 shall immediately provide a written or electronic receipt to
14 the resident upon demand. When the resident pays into an
15 escrow account the resident shall cause such amounts to be paid
16 over to the owner immediately upon receipt unless otherwise
17 ordered by the court. Upon the failure of the resident or the
18 escrow agent to make the first partial payment within five days
19 of the filing of a notice of appeal or a monthly rent payment
20 on the first day rent would otherwise be due, the owner may
21 serve ~~[a three-day]~~ an eleven-day written notice on the
22 resident pursuant to Subsection D of Section 47-8-33 NMSA 1978.
23 If the resident or the resident's escrow agent fails to pay the
24 rent within the ~~[three]~~ eleven days, a hearing on the issue
25 shall be scheduled within ten days from the date the court is

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1 notified of the failure to pay rent. In the case of an appeal
2 de novo, the hearing shall be in the court in which the appeal
3 will be heard. If, at the hearing, the court finds that rent
4 has not been paid, the court shall immediately lift the stay
5 and issue the writ of restitution unless the resident
6 demonstrates a legal justification for failing to comply with
7 the rent payment requirement.

8 C. If an owner refuses or is unavailable to accept
9 a rent payment made pursuant to Subsection B of this section,
10 the court shall permit the resident to pay the necessary amount
11 to be held by the court.

12 [~~B.~~] D. In order to stay the execution of a money
13 judgment, the trial court, within its discretion, may require
14 an appellant to deposit with the clerk of the trial court the
15 amount of judgment and costs or to give a supersedeas bond in
16 the amount of judgment and costs with or without surety. Any
17 bond or deposit shall not be refundable during the pendency of
18 any appeal."

19 SECTION 11. A new section of the Uniform Owner-Resident
20 Relations Act is enacted to read:

21 "[NEW MATERIAL] RENEWAL OF RENTAL AGREEMENT DURING A
22 DECLARED EMERGENCY.--

23 A. In the event of a declaration of an emergency or
24 disaster issued by the governor or a declaration of an
25 emergency or disaster by joint resolution of the legislature

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1 that includes quarantine, isolation or social distancing
2 measures and a moratorium is issued prohibiting or staying the
3 issuance of a writ of restitution based on nonpayment of rent,
4 an owner shall not refuse to renew or seek to terminate any
5 rental agreement that expires during, or for thirty days after,
6 the termination of the declaration of emergency or disaster if
7 the residence is located in the geographical region covered by
8 the declaration of emergency or disaster, if the owner's
9 motivation for seeking to terminate or not renew a tenancy is
10 nonpayment of rent.

11 B. A rental agreement that is renewed during the
12 period of time provided in Subsection A of this section shall
13 be for a month-to-month residency, unless the resident and
14 owner agree to a longer term.

15 C. Nothing in this section shall prohibit an owner
16 from:

17 (1) refusing to renew a rental agreement if
18 the owner, in good faith, seeks to take possession of the
19 property for personal use and occupancy as a primary residence,
20 or for the personal use and occupancy as a primary residence of
21 a member of the owner's immediate family; or

22 (2) commencing an action for possession
23 pursuant to Subsection A, B or I of Section 47-8-33 NMSA 1978."

24 SECTION 12. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
25 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

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