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HOUSE BILL 526

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Cristina Parajón and Carrie Hamblen and Angel M. Charley

AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE REGISTRATION OF
QUALIFIED RESIDENTS WHO ARE SIXTEEN OR SEVENTEEN YEARS OF AGE
TO VOTE IN REGULAR LOCAL ELECTIONS, MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND
SPECIAL LOCAL ELECTIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1-4-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969,
Chapter 240, Section 60, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-4-2. REGISTRATION OF QUALIFIED RESIDENTS--RIGHT TO
VOTE IN PRIMARY.--

A. Any qualified resident of New Mexico shall be
permitted within the provisions of the Election Code to submit
a voter registration certificate in paper form, through the
online voter registration portal provided by the secretary of
state, electronically when conducting an in-person transaction

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1 at the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue
2 department or as otherwise prescribed by the secretary of
3 state. The certificate shall be processed by the county clerk
4 in the same manner as for a qualified elector, but the
5 qualified resident shall not become a voter nor be considered a
6 voter, except as provided by this section and Section 1-4-2.1
7 NMSA 1978.

8 B. If a qualified resident submits a voter
9 registration certificate in accordance with the provisions of
10 Subsection A of this section and pursuant to the requirements
11 of Section 1-4-8 NMSA 1978, the qualified resident shall:

12 (1) become a voter upon the qualified
13 resident's eighteenth birthday;

14 (2) be considered a voter for the purpose of
15 participation in a statewide or special election where the
16 qualified resident will turn eighteen on or before the day of
17 the statewide or special election; or

18 (3) be considered a voter for the purpose of
19 participation in a political party primary election where the
20 qualified resident will turn eighteen on or before the day of
21 the general election immediately succeeding the primary
22 election.

23 C. Any resident of New Mexico who may be a
24 qualified elector upon the resident's eighteenth birthday, who
25 obtains a license, permit or identification card from the motor

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1 vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department and who
2 has not submitted a voter registration certificate pursuant to
3 Subsection A of this section shall be sent a notification by
4 the secretary of state advising the resident of the
5 requirements and opportunity to register to vote and a uniform
6 resource locator for a web page where the resident may submit a
7 voter registration certificate online. When applicable, a
8 notification shall be sent to a resident described in this
9 subsection within the sixty days following the resident's
10 seventeenth birthday, when the resident obtained a license,
11 permit or identification card from the motor vehicle division
12 prior to the resident's seventeenth birthday and within thirty
13 days prior to the resident's eighteenth birthday."

14 SECTION 2. A new section of the Election Code, Section
15 1-4-2.1 NMSA 1978, is enacted to read:

16 "1-4-2.1. [NEW MATERIAL] REGISTRATION OF QUALIFIED
17 RESIDENTS--RIGHT TO VOTE IN REGULAR LOCAL ELECTIONS, SPECIAL
18 LOCAL ELECTIONS AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS THAT ARE NOT HELD WITH
19 REGULAR LOCAL ELECTIONS.--

20 A. Any qualified resident of New Mexico shall be
21 permitted within the provisions of the Election Code to submit
22 a voter registration certificate in paper form, through the
23 online voter registration portal provided by the secretary of
24 state, electronically when conducting an in-person transaction
25 at the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue

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1 department or as otherwise prescribed by the secretary of
2 state. The certificate shall be processed by the county clerk
3 in the same manner as for a qualified elector, but the
4 qualified resident shall not become a regular local election
5 voter nor be considered a regular local election voter except
6 as provided by this section.

7 B. If a qualified resident submits a voter
8 registration certificate in accordance with the provisions of
9 Subsection A of this section and pursuant to the requirements
10 of Section 1-4-8 NMSA 1978, the qualified resident shall:

11 (1) become a regular local election voter upon
12 the qualified resident's sixteenth birthday; or

13 (2) be considered a regular local election
14 voter for the purpose of participation in a regular local
15 election, special local election and municipal election where
16 the qualified resident will turn sixteen on or before the day
17 of the regular local election, special local election or
18 municipal election.

19 C. For the purposes of this section, "regular local
20 election voter" means a qualified resident who has registered
21 in accordance with the provisions of this section, met the
22 conditions specified in Subsection B of this section and is
23 therefore qualified to vote in all elections subject to the
24 provisions of the Local Election Act."

25 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the

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provisions of this act is January 1, 2026.

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