

AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS; PROVIDING FOR PRECINCT BOARD TRAINING MANUALS; CHANGING REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS; ELIMINATING PROVISIONS FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS; CLARIFYING WHEN THE ABSENT VOTER PRECINCT POLLING PLACES MAY BE OPEN; CHANGING REQUIREMENTS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF VOTER INFORMATION; REQUIRING REPORTING OF FAILED REGISTRATIONS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF INVESTIGATION OR PROSECUTION; REQUIRING APPEALS OF COUNTY CLERK DECISIONS CONCERNING THE COUNTING OF THE VOTER'S PROVISIONAL BALLOT; REQUIRING THIRD-PARTY REGISTRATION ORGANIZATIONS TO REGISTER WITH THE STATE; CHANGING THE FILING DATE FOR MINOR PARTY CANDIDATES; CHANGING PROVISIONS FOR RECOUNT AND RECHECK COSTS; PROVIDING FOR HANDLING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS; PROVIDING PRECINCT REPORTING PROCEDURES; PROVIDING PENALTIES; AMENDING, REPEALING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE ELECTION CODE; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Section 1. A new section of the Election Code is enacted to read:

"REPORTING OF VOTE TOTALS BY PRECINCT--VOTING DATA MAINTAINED BY PRECINCT.--

A. The county clerk shall report to the secretary of state the vote totals in each precinct on election night.

B. The county clerk shall maintain voting data by precinct that includes the number of voters who voted early in-person, absentee by mail and on election day and the number of voters who voted using each type of voting system. The county clerk shall report this data to the secretary of state within sixty days following the election, and to no other person. The secretary of state shall then combine the data within a precinct to the extent necessary to protect the secrecy of each voter's ballot in accordance with rules issued by the secretary of state before the data as processed becomes a public record."

Section 2. Section 1-2-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 240, Section 25, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-2-4. SECRETARY OF STATE--TRAINING AND INSTRUCTIONS TO PRECINCT BOARDS--TRAINING MANUAL.--

A. The secretary of state shall provide:

(1) instructions for the precinct board, which shall include a brief nontechnical explanation of its duties as required by the Election Code; and

(2) a single training manual containing standard guidelines for the operations and processes of statewide elections, including pre-election day activities, election-day activities and post-election-day activities. Separate manuals for voting systems may be provided for each county, or if the single training manual is in a looseleaf

binder format, sections for the voting systems used in a given county may be inserted in the training manual for that county.

B. When any specific duty is imposed by the instructions issued under the Election Code, the duty shall be deemed to be a requirement of the law."

Section 3. Section 1-4-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 240, Section 63, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-4-5. METHOD OF REGISTRATION--UNLAWFUL USE OF INFORMATION--PENALTY.--

A. A qualified elector may apply to a registration officer or agent for registration.

B. The registration officer or agent or qualified elector shall fill out each of the blanks on the certificate of registration by typing or printing in ink. The qualified elector shall be given a receipt that shall contain:

(1) a number traceable to the registration agent or officer;

(2) a statement informing the qualified elector that if the qualified elector does not receive confirmation of the qualified elector's registration within fifteen days of the receipt date, the qualified elector should contact the office of the county clerk in the county where the qualified elector resides; and

(3) a toll-free number for the office of the county clerk and an address for the web site of the secretary

of state.

C. The qualified elector shall subscribe a certificate of registration as follows:

(1) by signing the certificate of registration using the qualified elector's given name, middle name or initial and last name; or

(2) if any qualified elector seeking to register is unable to read and write either the English or Spanish language or is unable to read or write because of some physical disability, the certificate of such person shall be filled out by a registration officer or agent and the name of the qualified elector so registering shall be subscribed by the making of the qualified elector's mark.

D. When properly executed by the registration agent or officer, or qualified elector, the original of the certificate of registration shall be presented, either in person or by mail by the qualified elector or by the registration agent or officer, to the county clerk of the county in which the qualified elector resides.

E. Only when the certificate of registration is properly filled out, subscribed by the qualified elector and accepted for filing by the county clerk as evidenced by the county clerk's signature or stamp and the date of acceptance thereon shall it constitute an official public record of the registration of the qualified elector. It is unlawful for the

qualified elector's date of birth or any portion of the qualified elector's social security number required on the certificate of registration to be copied, conveyed or used by anyone other than the person registering to vote, either before or after it is filed with the county clerk, except by elections administrators for purposes of the registration process.

F. A person who unlawfully copies, conveys or uses information from a certificate of registration is guilty of a fourth degree felony."

Section 4. Section 1-4-5.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1993, Chapter 314, Section 7 and Laws 1993, Chapter 316, Section 7, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-4-5.1. METHOD OF REGISTRATION--FORM.--

A. A qualified elector may apply for registration by mail, in the office of the secretary of state or county clerk or with a registration agent or officer.

B. A person may request certificate of registration forms from the secretary of state or any county clerk in person, by telephone or by mail for that person or for other persons.

C. Except as provided in Subsection D of this section, a qualified elector who wishes to register to vote shall fill out completely and sign the certificate of registration. The qualified elector may seek the assistance

of any person in completing the certificate of registration.

D. A qualified elector who has filed for an order of protection pursuant to the provisions of the Family Violence Protection Act and who presents a copy of that order from a state or tribal court to the registration officer shall not be required to provide physical residence address information on the certificate of registration.

E. Completed certificates of registration may be mailed or presented in person by the registrant or any other person to the secretary of state or presented in person by the registrant or any other person to the county clerk of the county in which the registrant resides.

F. If the registrant wishes to vote in the next election, the completed and signed certificate of registration shall be delivered or mailed and postmarked at least twenty-eight days before the election.

G. Upon receipt of a certificate of registration, the secretary of state shall send the certificate to the county clerk in the county where the qualified elector resides.

H. Only when the certificate of registration is properly filled out, signed by the qualified elector and accepted for filing by the county clerk as evidenced by the county clerk's signature or stamp and the date of acceptance thereon and when notice has been received by the registrant

shall it constitute an official public record of the registration of the qualified elector.

I. The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of the certificate of registration, which form shall be a postpaid mail-in format and shall be printed in Spanish and English. The certificate of registration form shall be clear and understandable to the average person and shall include brief but sufficient instructions to enable the qualified elector to complete the form without assistance. The form shall also include:

(1) the question "Are you a citizen of the United States of America?" and boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether the applicant is or is not a citizen;

(2) the question "Will you be at least eighteen years of age on or before election day?" and boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether the applicant will be eighteen years of age or older on election day;

(3) the statement "If you checked 'no' in response to either of these questions, do not complete this form.";

(4) a statement informing the applicant that:

(a) if the form is submitted by mail by the applicant and the applicant is registering for the first

time in New Mexico, the applicant must submit with the form a copy of: 1) a current and valid photo identification; or 2) a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, student identification card or other government document, including identification issued by an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo, that shows the name and current address of the applicant; and

(b) if the applicant does not submit the required identification, the applicant will be required to do so when voting in person or absentee; and

(5) a statement requiring the applicant to swear or affirm that the information supplied by the applicant is true."

Section 5. Section 1-4-5.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2005, Chapter 270, Section 18) is amended to read:

"1-4-5.3. REGISTRATION--LACK OF PHYSICAL ADDRESS.--

A. If a qualified elector resides in an area lacking a specific physical address, the qualified elector shall be allowed to substitute a mailing address along with a description, such as a map or the latitude and longitude, indicating where the qualified elector resides. The qualified elector shall be assigned to a precinct based on the geographic description of where the qualified elector resides.

B. The secretary of state shall issue rules regarding acceptable forms of non-physical addresses."

Section 6. Section 1-4-11 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 240, Section 67, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-4-11. DUTIES OF COUNTY CLERK--UPON RECEIPT OF CERTIFICATES.--

A. Upon receipt of a complete certificate of registration, if in proper form, the county clerk shall determine if the qualified elector applying for registration is already registered in the registration records of the county. If the qualified elector is not already registered in the county and if the certificate of registration is received within the time allowed by law for filing certificates of registration in the county clerk's office, the county clerk shall sign or stamp, in the space provided therefor on each copy of the certificate, the qualified elector's name and the date the certificate was accepted for filing in the county registration records. Voter information shall be handed or mailed immediately to the qualified elector and to no other person.

B. If the qualified elector is already registered in the county as shown by the qualified elector's original certificate of registration currently on file in the county registration records, the county clerk shall not accept the new certificate of registration unless it is filed pursuant to Section 1-4-13, 1-4-15, 1-4-17 or 1-4-18 NMSA 1978. If the applicant's certificate of registration is rejected for any

reason, the county clerk shall stamp or write the word "rejected" on the new certificate of registration and hand or mail it, if possible, to the applicant with an explanation why the new certificate of registration was rejected and what remedial action, if any, the applicant must take to bring the registration up to date or into compliance with the Election Code.

C. If the qualified elector does not register in person, indicates that the qualified elector has not previously voted in a general election in New Mexico and does not provide the registration officer with the required identification, the registration officer shall indicate this on the qualified elector's certificate of registration and the county clerk shall note this on the appropriate precinct signature roster."

Section 7. Section 1-4-49 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2005, Chapter 270, Section 17) is amended to read:

"1-4-49. THIRD-PARTY REGISTRATION AGENTS--REGISTRATION REQUIRED--PROCEDURES--REPORTS--PENALTY.--

A. Registration agents who either register or assist persons to register to vote on behalf of an organization that is not a state or federal agency shall register with the secretary of state, and the organization shall register and provide the secretary of state with:

(1) the names of the officers of the

organization and the name and permanent address of the organization;

(2) the names, permanent addresses, temporary addresses, if any, and dates of birth of each person registering persons to vote in the state on behalf of the organization; and

(3) a sworn statement from each registration agent employed by or volunteering for the organization stating that the agent will obey all state laws and rules regarding the registration of voters on a form that gives notice of the criminal penalties for false registration.

B. Organizations employing registration agents or using volunteer registration agents shall deliver or mail a certificate of registration to the secretary of state or county clerk within forty-eight hours of its completion by the person registering to vote or deliver it the next business day if the appropriate office is closed for that forty-eight-hour period.

C. The secretary of state may issue rules to ensure the integrity of the registration process, including rules requiring that organizations account for all state and federal registration forms used by their registration agents.

D. A person who intentionally violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a petty misdemeanor and the person's third-party registration agent status shall

be revoked. If the person who violates a provision of this section is an employee of an organization and has decision-making authority involving the organization's voter registration activities or is an officer of the organization, that organization shall be subject to civil penalties as described in Subsection E of this section.

E. If the secretary of state reasonably believes that a person committed a violation of the provisions of this section, the secretary of state shall refer the matter to the attorney general or a district attorney for enforcement. The attorney general or district attorney may institute a civil action in district court for a violation of the provisions of this section or to prevent a violation of the provisions of this section. An action for relief may include a permanent or temporary injunction, a restraining order or any other appropriate order, including a civil penalty of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each violation, not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000)."

Section 8. Section 1-6-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 240, Section 130, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-6-4. ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION--FEDERAL QUALIFIED ELECTOR--OVERSEAS VOTER.--

A. Application by a federal qualified elector or an overseas voter for an absentee ballot shall be made on the official postcard form prescribed or authorized by the federal

government to the county clerk of the county of the applicant's residence. The form shall allow the applicant to receive an absentee ballot for all elections within an election cycle.

B. Application by a voter for an absentee ballot shall be made only on a form prescribed by the secretary of state in accordance with federal law. The form shall identify the applicant and contain information to establish the applicant's qualification for issuance of an absentee ballot under the Absent Voter Act; provided that on the application form for a general election ballot there shall be no box, space or place provided for designation of the voter's political party affiliation.

C. Each application for an absentee ballot shall be subscribed by the applicant and shall require the applicant's printed name, year of birth and unique identifier to be supplied by the applicant, which shall constitute the required form of identification, except for new registrants who have registered by mail and at that time did not provide acceptable identification. The secretary of state shall issue rules to exempt voters from submitting identification only as required by federal law and shall review and, if necessary, update these rules no later than March 15 of even-numbered years.

D. An application for an absentee ballot by a

federal qualified elector or an overseas voter shall be accepted at any time preceding the general election."

Section 9. Section 1-6-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 240, Section 131, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-6-5. PROCESSING APPLICATION--ISSUANCE OF BALLOT.--

A. The county clerk shall mark each completed absentee ballot application with the date and time of receipt in the clerk's office and enter the required information in the absentee ballot register. The county clerk shall then determine if the applicant is a voter, an absent uniformed services voter or an overseas voter.

B. If the applicant does not have a valid certificate of registration on file in the county and is not a federal qualified elector or if the applicant states that the applicant is a federal qualified elector but the application indicates the applicant is not a federal qualified elector, an absentee ballot shall not be issued and the county clerk shall mark the application "rejected" and file the application in a separate file from those accepted.

C. The county clerk shall notify in writing each applicant of the fact of acceptance or rejection of the application and, if rejected, shall explain why the application was rejected.

D. If the applicant has on file with the county a valid certificate of registration that indicates that the

applicant is a voter who is a new registrant and who registered by mail without submitting the required voter identification, the county clerk shall notify the voter that the voter must submit with the absentee ballot the required physical form of identification. The county clerk shall note on the absentee ballot register and signature roster that the applicant's absentee ballot must be returned with the required identification.

E. If the county clerk finds that the applicant is a voter other than a federal qualified elector or overseas voter, the county clerk shall mark the application "accepted" and, beginning twenty-eight days before the election, deliver an absentee ballot to the voter in the county clerk's office or mail to the applicant an absentee ballot and the required envelopes for use in returning the ballot. If the county clerk finds that the applicant is a federal qualified elector or overseas voter, the county clerk shall mark the application "accepted" and beginning forty-five days before the election, mail to the applicant an absentee ballot and the required envelopes for use in returning the ballot. Acceptance of an application of a federal qualified elector constitutes registration for the election in which the ballot is to be cast. Acceptance of an application from an overseas voter who is not an absent uniformed services voter constitutes a request for changing information on the certificate of

registration of any such voter. An absent voter shall not be permitted to change party affiliation during those periods when change of party affiliation is prohibited by the Election Code. Upon delivery of an absentee ballot to a voter in the county clerk's office or mailing of an absentee ballot to an applicant who is a voter, an appropriate designation shall be made on the signature line of the signature roster next to the name of the voter who has been provided or mailed an absentee ballot.

F. If an application for an absentee ballot is delivered in person to the county clerk and is accepted, the county clerk shall provide the voter an absentee ballot and it shall be marked by the applicant in a voting booth of a type prescribed by the secretary of state, sealed in the proper envelopes and otherwise properly executed and returned to the county clerk or the clerk's authorized representative before the voter leaves the office of the county clerk. The act of marking the absentee ballot in the office of the county clerk shall be a convenience to the voter in the delivery of the absentee ballot and does not make the office of the county clerk a polling place subject to the requirements of a polling place in the Election Code other than is provided in this subsection. It is unlawful to solicit votes, display or otherwise make accessible any posters, signs or other forms of campaign literature whatsoever in the clerk's office or

alternate voting location. Absentee ballots may be marked in person at the county clerk's office during the regular hours and days of business beginning on the twenty-eighth day preceding the election and from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately prior to the date of the election. In marking the absentee ballot, the voter, pursuant to the provisions of Section 1-12-15 NMSA 1978, may be assisted by one person of the voter's choice.

G. Absentee ballots shall be sent to applicants not later than on the Friday immediately prior to the date of the election.

H. An absentee ballot shall not be delivered or mailed by the county clerk to any person other than the applicant for such ballot.

I. The secretary of state and each county clerk shall make reasonable efforts to publicize and inform voters of the times and locations for absentee voting; provided, however, that notice is provided at least ten days before early voting begins.

J. The secretary of state shall establish procedures for the submittal, when required by federal law, of required voter identification with mailed-in absentee ballots."

Section 10. Section 1-6-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 240, Section 136, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-6-10. RECEIPT OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS BY CLERK.--

A. The county clerk shall mark on each completed official mailing envelope the date and time of receipt in the clerk's office, record this information in the absentee ballot register and safely keep the official mailing envelope unopened in a locked and number-sealed ballot box until it is delivered to the proper absent voter precinct board or until it is canceled and destroyed in accordance with law.

B. The county clerk shall accept completed official mailing envelopes until 7:00 p.m. on election day and the county clerk or absent voter precinct board shall accept completed official mailing envelopes from precincts within the county of the voters who turned in their absentee ballots at their precinct by the close of polls on election day. Any completed official mailing envelope received after that time shall not be delivered to a precinct board but shall be preserved by the county clerk until the time for election contests has expired. In the absence of a restraining order after expiration of the time for election contests, the county clerk shall destroy all late official mailing envelopes without opening or permitting the contents to be examined, cast, counted or canvassed. Before their destruction, the county clerk shall count the numbers of late ballots from voters, federal voters, overseas citizen voters and federal qualified electors and report the number from each category to

the secretary of state.

C. At 5:00 p.m. on the Monday immediately preceding the date of election, the county clerk shall record the numbers of the unused absentee ballots and shall publicly destroy in the county clerk's office all such unused ballots. The county clerk shall execute a certificate of destruction, which shall include the numbers on the absentee ballots destroyed. A copy of the certificate of destruction shall be sent to the secretary of state."

Section 11. Section 1-6-14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1971, Chapter 317, Section 11, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-6-14. HANDLING ABSENTEE BALLOTS BY ABSENT VOTER PRECINCT BOARDS.--

A. Before opening an official mailing envelope, the presiding judge and the election judges shall determine that the required information has been completed on the reverse side of the official mailing envelope.

B. If the voter's signature is missing, the presiding judge shall write "Rejected" on the front of the official mailing envelope. The election clerks shall enter the voter's name in the signature rosters and shall write the notation "Rejected--Missing Signature" in the "Notations" column of the signature rosters. The presiding judge shall place the official mailing envelope unopened in an envelope provided for rejected ballots, seal the envelope and write the

voter's name on the front of the envelope and deposit it in the locked ballot box.

C. A lawfully appointed challenger may examine the official mailing envelope and may challenge the ballot of any absent voter for the following reasons:

(1) the official mailing envelope has been opened prior to being received by the absent voter precinct board; or

(2) the person offering to vote is not a federal voter, federal qualified elector, overseas voter or voter as provided in the Election Code.

Upon the challenge of an absentee ballot, the election judges and the presiding election judge shall follow the same procedure as when ballots are challenged when a person attempts to vote in person. If a challenge is upheld, the official mailing envelope shall not be opened but shall be placed in an envelope provided for challenged ballots. The same procedure shall be followed in canvassing and determining the validity of challenged absentee ballots as with other challenged ballots.

D. If the official mailing envelope has been properly subscribed and the voter has not been challenged:

(1) the election clerks shall enter the absent voter's name and residence address as shown on the official mailing envelope in the signature rosters and shall

mark the notation "AB" opposite the voter's name in the "Notations" column of the signature rosters; and

(2) only between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the five days preceding election day, including Saturday and Sunday, and beginning at 7:00 a.m. on election day, under the personal supervision of the presiding election judge, shall the election judges open the official mailing envelope and the official inner envelope and insert the enclosed ballot into an electronic voting machine to be registered and retained until votes are counted and canvassed following the closing of the polls on election night.

E. It is unlawful for a person to disclose the results of a count and tally or the registration on a voting machine of absentee ballots prior to the closing of the polls.

F. Absentee ballots shall be counted and tallied on an electronic voting machine as provided in the Election Code.

G. Absent voter precinct polls shall close in accordance with Section 1-6-23 NMSA 1978, and the results of the election shall be certified as prescribed by the secretary of state.

H. If an absentee ballot does not contain the identification required pursuant to Subsection D of Section 1-6-5 NMSA 1978, it shall be handled as a provisional paper ballot in accordance with the Election Code."

Section 12. Section 1-6-23 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1975, Chapter 255, Section 95, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-6-23. ABSENT VOTER PRECINCT POLLING PLACE--HOURS ON ELECTION DAY AND SUBSEQUENT DAYS.--The county clerk or statutorily appointed supervisor of the election shall determine the hours between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. during which the absent voter precinct polling place shall be open for delivery and registering of absentee ballots on the five days preceding election day and the hours during which the absent voter precinct polling place shall be open for the delivery, registering and counting of ballots on election day and subsequent days until all ballots are counted; provided that the absent voter precinct polling place opens at 7:00 a.m. on election day."

Section 13. Section 1-8-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 240, Section 152, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-8-2. NOMINATION BY MINOR POLITICAL PARTY-- CONVENTION-DESIGNATED NOMINEES.--

A. If the rules of a minor political party require nomination by political convention:

(1) the chair and secretary of the state political convention shall certify to the secretary of state the names of their party's nominees for United States senator, United States representative, all elective state offices, legislative offices elected from multicounty districts, the

public regulation commission, all elective judicial officers in the judicial department and all offices representing a district composed of more than one county; and

(2) the chair and secretary of the county political convention shall certify to the county clerk the names of their party's nominees for elected county offices and for legislative offices elected from a district located wholly within one county or that is composed of only one county.

B. The names certified to the secretary of state shall be filed on the twenty-first day following the primary election in the year of the general election and shall be accompanied by a petition containing a list of signatures and addresses of voters totaling not less than one percent of the total number of votes cast at the last preceding general election for the office of governor or president of the United States, as the case may be:

(1) in the state for statewide offices; and

(2) in the district for offices other than statewide offices.

The petition shall contain a statement that the voters signing the petition are residents of the state, district, county or area to be represented by the office for which the person being nominated is a candidate.

C. The names certified to the county clerk shall be filed on the twenty-first day following the primary

election in the year of the general election and shall be accompanied by a petition containing a list of signatures and addresses of voters totaling not less than one percent of the total number of votes cast at the last preceding general election for the office of governor or president of the United States, as the case may be:

(1) in the county for countywide offices;
and

(2) in the district for offices other than countywide offices.

The petition shall contain a statement that the voters signing the petition are residents of the state, district, county or area to be represented by the office for which the person being nominated is a candidate.

D. Persons certified as nominees shall be members of that party before the day the governor issues the primary election proclamation.

E. No voter shall sign a petition prescribed by this section for more persons than the number of minor party candidates necessary to fill the office at the next ensuing general election."

Section 14. Section 1-11-12.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2005, Chapter 270, Section 9) is amended to read:

"1-11-12.1. VOTER INFORMATION--DISTRIBUTION.--

A. Between sixty and seventy-five days before each

general election, the secretary of state shall send to each active registered voter in each county voter information indicating the voter's name, address and voting precinct and the name of the current county clerk in that county; provided, however, that a registrant shall still be sent voter information upon filing of the registrant's certificate of registration with the county clerk as provided in Section 1-4-12 NMSA 1978.

B. The secretary of state shall promulgate rules to ensure that all registered voters receive voter information."

Section 15. Section 1-12-8.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2005, Chapter 270, Section 62) is amended to read:

"1-12-8.1. CONDUCT OF ELECTION--USE OF VOTER'S RECEIPT OF CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION--PROCEDURES.--If a voter whose name is not in the signature roster presents the voter's receipt of the voter's certificate of registration, the voter shall be allowed to vote on a provisional ballot in the proper precinct in accordance with the provisions of Section 1-12-7.1 NMSA 1978. The election judge shall inform the voter that the voter will be notified by the county clerk to provide a copy of the receipt of the certificate of registration to the county clerk if the original certificate is not located. A note shall be entered on the signature roster indicating that the voter's certificate of registration should be checked by

the county clerk. For the purposes of investigation or prosecution, the county clerk shall provide the district attorney and the secretary of state with the person's name and address and the corresponding receipt number of the person's certificate of registration for each person whose certificate of registration is not located."

Section 16. Section 1-12-8.2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2005, Chapter 270, Section 60) is amended to read:

"1-12-8.2. CONDUCT OF ELECTION--ELECTION DAY DELIVERY OF ABSENTEE BALLOT BY VOTER--PROCEDURES.--

A. A voter who requested and received an absentee ballot shall be allowed to deliver the official mailing envelope containing the voter's absentee ballot on election day to the precinct in which the voter is registered if the voter presents the official mailing envelope to the election judge before the polls close on election day.

B. The election judge shall note on the signature roster that the voter delivered the absentee ballot in person on election day. The precinct board shall deliver the unopened official mailing envelopes to the absent voter precinct board or county clerk before midnight on election day."

Section 17. Section 1-12-25.2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003, Chapter 356, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-12-25.2. CONDUCT OF ELECTION--PROVISIONAL VOTING--

INFORMATION TO VOTER--STATUS OF VOTER'S BALLOT.--

A. If a voter is required to vote on a provisional paper ballot, the election judge shall give the voter written instructions on how the voter may determine whether the vote was counted and, if the vote was not counted, the reason it was not counted.

B. The county clerk shall establish a free access system, such as a toll-free telephone number or internet web site, that a voter who casts a provisional paper ballot may access to ascertain whether the voter's ballot was counted and, if the vote was not counted, the reason it was not counted and how to appeal the decision pursuant to rules issued by the secretary of state. Access to information about an individual voter's provisional ballot is restricted to the voter who cast the ballot.

C. Beginning with the closing of the polls on election day through the tenth day following the election, the county clerk shall notify by mail each person whose provisional ballot was not counted of the reason the ballot was not counted. The voter shall have until the Friday prior to the meeting of the state canvassing board to appeal to the county clerk a decision to reject the voter's ballot."

Section 18. Section 1-14-15 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, Chapter 48, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-14-15. RECOUNTS--RECHECKS--COST OF PROCEEDINGS.--

A. An applicant for a recount shall deposit with the proper canvassing board or, in the case of an office for which the state canvassing board issues a certificate of nomination or election, with the secretary of state sufficient cash, or a sufficient surety bond, to cover the cost of a recount for each precinct for which a recount is demanded. An applicant for a recheck shall deposit with the proper canvassing board or, in the case of an office for which the state canvassing board issues a certificate of nomination or election, with the secretary of state sufficient cash, or a sufficient surety bond, to cover the cost of the recheck for each voting machine to be rechecked. The state canvassing board shall determine the estimated actual cost of a recount per precinct and a recheck per voting machine no later than March 15 of even-numbered years. The secretary of state shall post the recount and recheck cost determinations on the secretary of state's web site when the state canvassing board issues its cost determinations.

B. The deposit or surety bond shall be security for the payment of the costs and expenses of the recount or recheck in case the results of the recount or recheck are not sufficient to change the results of the election.

C. If it appears that error or fraud sufficient to change the winner of the election has been committed, the costs and expenses of the recount or recheck shall be paid by

the state upon warrant issued by the secretary of finance and administration supported by a voucher of the secretary of state, or shall be paid by the county upon warrant of the county clerk from the general fund of the county, as the case may be.

D. If no error or fraud appears to be sufficient to change the winner, the costs and expenses for the recount or recheck shall be paid by the applicant. Costs shall consist of any docket fees, mileage of the sheriff in serving summons and fees and mileage of precinct board members, at the same rates allowed witnesses in civil actions. If error or fraud has been committed by a precinct board, the board members shall not be entitled to such mileage or fees."

Section 19. Section 1-14-22 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2005, Chapter 270, Section 76) is amended to read:

"1-14-22. CONTESTS AND RECOUNTS--PROVISIONAL, ABSENTEE AND OTHER PAPER BALLOTS.--The secretary of state shall issue rules governing and allowing procedures for reviewing the qualification of provisional ballot envelopes, absentee and other paper ballots in the case of a contest or recount of election results. All rejected provisional paper ballot envelopes shall be included in any contest or recount of election results, and a review of the qualification of provisional ballot envelopes shall occur in a recount."

Section 20. REPEAL.--Section 1-6-10.2 NMSA 1978 (being

Laws 2003, Chapter 378, Section 1) is repealed.

Section 21. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

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