

AN ACT

RELATING TO COURTS; PROVIDING THAT MAGISTRATES WHO HOLD OFFICE IN DISTRICTS WITH A POPULATION OF MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PERSONS IN THE LAST FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS MAY BE ELECTED IN THAT DISTRICT AS LONG AS THERE IS NO BREAK IN SERVICE.

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 35-2-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1968, Chapter 62, Section 41, as amended) is amended to read:

"35-2-1. QUALIFICATION--PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS.--

A. Each magistrate shall be a qualified elector of, and reside in, the magistrate district for which the magistrate is elected or appointed.

B. No person is eligible for election or appointment to the office of magistrate unless the person has graduated from high school or has attained the equivalent of a high school education as indicated by possession of a certificate of equivalency issued by the public education department based upon the record made on the general educational development test.

C. In magistrate districts with a population of more than two hundred thousand persons in the last federal decennial census, no person is eligible for election to the office of magistrate unless the person:

