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SENATE BILL 203

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

INTRODUCED BY

Michael Padilla

AN ACT

RELATING TO COUNTIES; PROVIDING FOR QUALIFICATIONS TO SERVE AS  
SHERIFF.

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

SECTION 1. A new section of Chapter 4, Article 41 NMSA  
1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] SHERIFF--QUALIFICATIONS.--

A. In addition to other requirements imposed by  
law, in order to be elected or appointed as a sheriff, a person  
shall meet the following qualifications:

- (1) be at least twenty-one years of age;
- (2) have at least seven years of professional  
law enforcement experience;
- (3) be a resident of the state and of the

county for which the person is seeking to be elected or

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- 1 appointed sheriff for at least one year;
- 2 (4) not have been convicted of a felony;
- 3 (5) hold a certificate attesting to completion
- 4 of a basic law enforcement training program pursuant to Section
- 5 29-7-6.1 NMSA 1978; and
- 6 (6) not have been recalled from public office.

7 B. A candidate for election to the office of  
8 sheriff shall certify by notarized affidavit that the candidate  
9 meets the qualification requirements of Subsection A of this  
10 section to be filed with the declaration of candidacy.

11 C. A voter may challenge the candidacy for election  
12 to the office of sheriff of any person seeking nomination on  
13 the grounds that the person seeking nomination does not meet  
14 the qualification requirements of Subsection A of this section.  
15 The challenge shall be made by filing a petition in the  
16 district court within ten days after the last day for filing a  
17 declaration of candidacy or a statement of candidacy, which  
18 petition shall be heard in the same manner as provided in  
19 Subsection F of Section 1-8-26 NMSA 1978."