

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Cliff R. Pirtle

5
6
7
8
9
10 A JOINT RESOLUTION

11 PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE 6, SECTIONS 4 AND 8 OF THE
12 CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO REQUIRE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES TO
13 BE ELECTED FROM DISTRICTS RATHER THAN IN STATEWIDE ELECTIONS
14 AND REQUIRING JUSTICES TO RESIDE IN THE DISTRICTS WHEN THEY ARE
15 FIRST ELECTED OR APPOINTED.

16
17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

18 SECTION 1. It is proposed to amend Article 6, Section 4
19 of the constitution of New Mexico to read:

20 "A. The supreme court of the state shall consist of
21 at least five justices, who shall be chosen as provided in this
22 constitution. One of the justices shall be selected as chief
23 justice as provided by law.

24 B. The state shall be divided into at least five
25 districts from which justices shall be elected, with one

.202991.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 justice elected from each district, as provided by law."

2 SECTION 2. It is proposed to amend Article 6, Section 8
3 of the constitution of New Mexico to read:

4 "A. No person shall be qualified to hold the office
5 of justice of the supreme court unless that person is at least
6 thirty-five years old and has been in the actual practice of
7 law for at least ten years preceding that person's assumption
8 of office and has resided in this state for at least three
9 years immediately preceding that person's assumption of office.
10 The actual practice of law shall include a lawyer's service
11 upon the bench of any court of this state. The increased
12 qualifications provided by this 1988 amendment shall not apply
13 to justices and judges serving at the time this amendment
14 passes or elected at the general election in 1988.

15 B. A justice of the supreme court, at the time the
16 justice is first appointed to fill a vacancy or elected to
17 office, shall reside in the district from which the justice is
18 appointed or elected as provided by law. The provisions of
19 this 2016 amendment shall not apply to justices serving at the
20 time this amendment is adopted or to justices elected at the
21 general election in 2016."

22 SECTION 3. The amendment proposed by this resolution
23 shall be submitted to the people for their approval or
24 rejection at the next general election or at any special
25 election prior to that date that may be called for that

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

purpose.