RELATING TO THE DISTRICT COURTS; ALLOWING DISTRICT COURTS TO RECOVER COSTS FOR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION ON A SLIDING FEE SCALE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 34-6-45 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986, Chapter 26, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"34-6-45. DISTRICT COURTS--ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION--FEE.--

A. In addition to fees collected pursuant to, and subject to exceptions set forth in, Section 34-6-40 NMSA 1978 for docketing of civil cases in any judicial district that has established an alternative dispute resolution program, the district court clerk shall collect a fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) on all new and reopened civil cases except domestic relations cases. The fee shall be deposited for credit to the district court alternative dispute resolution fund pursuant to the provisions of Section 34-6-44 NMSA 1978.

B. A judicial district may establish an alternative dispute resolution program by court rule approved by the supreme court. Parties shall pay the cost of the alternative dispute resolution program pursuant to a sliding fee scale approved by the supreme court. The sliding fee scale shall be based on ability to pay. The fee shall be

paid to the district court to be credited to the fund."______ HB 131

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