

1 SENATE BILL 537

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Steven P. Neville and Peter Wirth

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION; ALLOWING
12 QUALIFYING CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES TO BE COMPLETED IN
13 PERSON OR ONLINE AND TO BE ENDORSED BY A UNIVERSITY, NONPROFIT
14 ORGANIZATION OR TRADE ORGANIZATION RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY IN AN
15 AREA RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

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

18 SECTION 1. Section 8-8-3.2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2013,
19 Chapter 64, Section 2) is amended to read:

20 "8-8-3.2. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
21 COMMISSIONERS.--

22 A. [~~Beginning July 1, 2013~~] A commissioner shall
23 complete:

24 (1) an ethics certificate course provided in
25 person or online by a New Mexico public post-secondary

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1 educational institution in the first twelve-month period after
2 taking office and at least one two-hour ethics course in each
3 subsequent twelve-month period that the commissioner serves in
4 office; and

5 (2) at least thirty-two hours of continuing
6 education relevant to the work of the commission in each
7 twelve-month period that the commissioner serves in office.
8 Continuing education courses may be completed in person or
9 online and shall be endorsed by the national association of
10 regulatory utility commissioners, by a university, nonprofit
11 organization or trade organization recognized nationally in an
12 area relevant to the work of the commission or by the relevant
13 licensing or professional association for a qualifying area of
14 study for degree holders pursuant to this section.

15 B. A commissioner shall be responsible for having
16 the endorsing organization submit certification of completion
17 of the hours of education required pursuant to Subsection A of
18 this section to the commission's chief of staff.

19 C. As an exception to Section 8-1-1 NMSA 1978, if a
20 commissioner fails to comply with the education requirements in
21 Subsection A of this section by the last day of a twelve-month
22 period, the commissioner's compensation for performing the
23 duties of the office shall be withheld by the commission until
24 the requirements for the preceding twelve-month period or
25 periods have been met."

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