

HOUSE GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS AND INDIAN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL 526

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS; PERMITTING PERSONS AT LEAST SIXTEEN
YEARS OF AGE TO BE QUALIFIED ELECTORS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1-1-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969,
Chapter 240, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-1-4. QUALIFIED ELECTOR.--

A. As used in the Election Code and rules
promulgated by the secretary of state, "qualified elector"
means any resident of this state who is qualified to vote under
the provisions of the constitution of New Mexico and the
constitution of the United States and includes any qualified
resident who is at least sixteen years of age.

B. As used in all other statutes and rules of New
Mexico, unless otherwise defined, "qualified elector" means a

1 "voter" as that term is defined in Section 1-1-5 NMSA 1978."

2 SECTION 2. Section 1-1-5.10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,
3 Chapter 212, Section 15) is amended to read:

4 "1-1-5.10. QUALIFIED RESIDENT.--As used in the Election
5 Code, "qualified resident" means an individual who is under the
6 age of [~~eighteen~~] sixteen and, except for the age requirement,
7 otherwise satisfies the state's voter eligibility requirements
8 as a qualified elector or a federal qualified elector."

9 SECTION 3. Section 1-4-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969,
10 Chapter 240, Section 60, as amended) is amended to read:

11 "1-4-2. REGISTRATION OF QUALIFIED RESIDENTS--RIGHT TO
12 VOTE IN PRIMARY.--

13 A. Any qualified resident of New Mexico shall be
14 permitted within the provisions of the Election Code to submit
15 a voter registration certificate in paper form, through the
16 online voter registration portal provided by the secretary of
17 state, electronically when conducting an in-person transaction
18 at the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue
19 department or as otherwise prescribed by the secretary of
20 state. The certificate shall be processed by the county clerk
21 in the same manner as for a qualified elector, but the
22 qualified resident shall not become a voter nor be considered a
23 voter except as provided by this section.

24 B. If a qualified resident submits a voter
25 registration certificate in accordance with the provisions of

.231372.1

1 Subsection A of this section and pursuant to the requirements
2 of Section 1-4-8 NMSA 1978, the qualified resident shall:

3 (1) become a voter upon the qualified
4 resident's [~~eighteenth~~] sixteenth birthday;

5 (2) be considered a voter for the purpose of
6 participation in a statewide or special election where the
7 qualified resident will turn [~~eighteen~~] sixteen on or before
8 the day of the statewide or special election; or

9 (3) be considered a voter for the purpose of
10 participation in a political party primary election where the
11 qualified resident will turn [~~eighteen~~] sixteen on or before
12 the day of the general election immediately succeeding the
13 primary election.

14 C. Any resident of New Mexico who may be a
15 qualified elector upon the resident's [~~eighteenth~~] sixteenth
16 birthday, who obtains a license, permit or identification card
17 from the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue
18 department and who has not submitted a voter registration
19 certificate pursuant to Subsection A of this section shall be
20 sent a notification by the secretary of state advising the
21 resident of the requirements and opportunity to register to
22 vote and a uniform resource locator for a web page where the
23 resident may submit a voter registration certificate online.
24 When applicable, a notification shall be sent to a resident
25 described in this subsection within the sixty days following

.231372.1

1 the resident's [~~seventeenth~~] fifteenth birthday, when the
2 resident obtained a license, permit or identification card from
3 the motor vehicle division prior to the resident's
4 [~~seventeenth~~] fifteenth birthday and within thirty days prior
5 to the resident's [~~eighteenth~~] sixteenth birthday."

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