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AN ACT

RELATING TO COUNTY SHERIFFS; ALLOWING THE HIGHEST-RANKING
DEPUTY SHERIFF TO EXERCISE THE POWERS OF SHERIFF UNTIL A
SHERIFF HAS BEEN APPOINTED AND QUALIFIED; DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Section 4-41-9 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1855-
1856, Chapter 2, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"4-41-9. POWERS OF DEPUTY SHERIFF.--Deputies are
authorized to discharge all the duties that belong to the
office of sheriff that may be placed under their charge by
their principals, with the same effect as though they were
executed by the respective sheriffs. If there is a vacancy
in the office of sheriff, the highest-ranking deputy sheriff
or under-sheriff, who is qualified to hold the office of
sheriff, shall exercise the powers of sheriff until a sheriff
is appointed and qualified."

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
peace, health and safety that this act take effect
immediately. _____