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AN ACT
RELATING TO ELECTIONS; DELAYING UNTIL 2025 THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE LOCAL ELECTION ACT AS APPLIED TO DISTRICTS CREATED
PURSUANT TO THE CONSERVANCY ACT OF NEW MEXICO; PROVIDING
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONDUCT OF DISTRICT ELECTIONS IN 2023;
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--DISTRICTS CREATED
PURSUANT TO THE CONSERVANCY ACT OF NEW MEXICO--CONDUCT OF
2023 ELECTION.--

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of The
Conservancy Act of New Mexico that provide for district
elections to be conducted pursuant to the Local Election Act,
a district organized pursuant to that act shall conduct its
2023 election in accordance with the provisions of this
section and election procedures adopted by the district's
board of directors. In 2025, a district shall conduct its
election pursuant to the Local Election Act. The secretary
of state shall work with the districts to identify barriers,
provide recommendations and coordinate efforts to ensure each
district's participation in the regular local election of
2025.

B. A district's board of directors shall select an
election director to provide election services. The election

1 director shall operate pursuant to a contract, which may be
2 approved by the secretary of state upon request of the board
3 of directors.

4 C. The 2023 election may be conducted by emergency
5 paper ballot, electronic voting machine or any other
6 state-certified tabulating voting machine.

7 D. For the middle Rio Grande conservancy district,
8 the 2023 election shall be held on October 3, 2023. For any
9 other district, the 2023 election shall be held on a date
10 determined by the district's board of directors that is:

11 (1) before the first Tuesday in October
12 2023; or

13 (2) the later of:

14 (a) forty-five days after the
15 adjournment of the state or county canvassing board for the
16 2023 regular local election; or

17 (b) forty-five days after any recount,
18 contest or other judicial inquiry regarding the 2023 regular
19 local election.

20 E. As used in this section, "district" means a
21 district organized pursuant to The Conservancy Act of
22 New Mexico.

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