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August 15, 1846, The U.S. Army of the West led by General Stephen Watts Kearny occupied New Mexico. On September 22, 1846 General Kearny issued a set of laws to govern New Mexico. These laws are known as the Kearny Code. The code was published in Spanish and English, October 6, 1846.

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was executed February 2, 1848, ratified May 30, 1848 and proclamation made July 4, 1848, provided for New Mexico's incorporation into the Union at the proper time. The treaty was written in Spanish and English.

The Organic Act of September 9, 1850 established the Territory of "New Mexico."

Congressional Joint Resolution No. 8, August 21, 1911 admitted the Territories of New Mexico and Arizona as States in to the Union.

January 6, 1912, President William Howard Taft, proclaimed New Mexico a State. "Now therefore, I, William Howard Taft, President of the United States of America, do in accordance with the provisions of the Act of Congress and the joint resolution of Congress herein named, declare and proclaim the fact that the fundamental conditions imposed by Congress on the State of New Mexico to entitle that State to admission have been ratified and accepted, and the admission of the State into the Union on equal footing with the other States is now complete."

New Mexico was admitted as a State into the Union, under the name "New Mexico". This bill and the history provided by the Commission of Public Records raises the interesting question of whether New Mexico acquired its name under the state's constitution or by the act of Congress admitting it as a state. As a matter of state sovereignty and federalism, however, the state probably has the authority to change its own name. Indeed, during the state's territorial period, when it was not a sovereign but rather a subject of the federal government, Congress accorded it a tremendous level of independence and self-government. By accepting the Territory's proposed constitution and admitting the state into the union as "New Mexico," Congress only respected the decision the state had already made for itself as an essential component of sovereignty.

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