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SENATE BILL 837

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Leonard Lee Rawson

AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS; ELIMINATING THE STRAIGHT PARTY VOTE  
OPTION ON ELECTION BALLOTS.

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

Section 1. A new section of the Election Code is enacted  
to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] BALLOTS--NO STRAIGHT PARTY TICKET  
OPTION.--Ballots shall not provide the option to vote a  
straight party ticket with one mark or selection."

Section 2. Section 1-12-53 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1977,  
Chapter 222, Section 56, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-12-53. EMERGENCY SITUATIONS--VOTERS--EMERGENCY PAPER  
BALLOT--GENERAL ELECTION--MARKING.--The voter in preparing an  
emergency paper ballot in a general election shall

~~[A. if he wishes to vote a straight party ticket,~~

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 ~~mark a cross (X) or a check (V) in the circle beneath the name~~  
2 ~~of the party and his vote shall be considered as having been~~  
3 ~~cast for every candidate named on the ticket of that party on~~  
4 ~~the ballot, unless he also votes for one or more candidates in~~  
5 ~~some other column or for some person whose name is not printed~~  
6 ~~on the ballot;~~

7 B. ~~if he marks a cross (X) or a check (V) in any~~  
8 ~~circle and also desires to vote for a candidate of another~~  
9 ~~political party (the ticket of which also appears on the~~  
10 ~~ballot) or for any person by write in, mark a cross (X) or a~~  
11 ~~check (V) in the box immediately to the right of the name of~~  
12 ~~the candidate or write in the name of the person for whom he~~  
13 ~~desires to vote in the blank provided therefor and mark a cross~~  
14 ~~(X) or a check (V) in the box immediately to the right thereof,~~  
15 ~~and his vote shall be considered as having been cast for every~~  
16 ~~candidate of the political party below the party name where he~~  
17 ~~marked his cross (X) or a check (V) in the circle, except for~~  
18 ~~the candidates for whom he has otherwise voted; or~~

19 C. ~~if he wishes] mark the ballot by [omitting the~~  
20 ~~cross (X) or check (V) in the circle and] marking a cross (X)~~  
21 ~~or a check (V) in the box immediately to the right of the name~~  
22 ~~of every candidate or person for whom he desires to vote, and~~  
23 ~~his vote shall be considered as having been cast only for the~~  
24 ~~candidate or person opposite whose name the cross or check has~~  
25 ~~been marked. "~~

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