

Supreme Court to develop district court facility standards to ensure consistent, safe and efficient courthouse facilities around the state.

3. The magistrate courts have a document entitled *Facility Standards for Magistrate Courts in New Mexico* approved by the New Mexico Supreme Court. It details minimum standards for square footage and space allocation, sound proofing for walls, security features, parking, signage, bathrooms, design elements and “circulation paths.” The standards are meant to facilitate the process of identifying a court’s needs and the eventual acquisition or renovation of space used by the magistrate courts. In addition, these standards take into consideration materials provided by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC).
4. Magistrate courts are funded through the state. District courts do not have minimum statewide standards because they are funded by individual county governments.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation associated with this bill; however, SB 840 could have an impact on counties in the future, depending on the facilities standards that are adopted by the Supreme Court and the extent to which certain counties may need to upgrade, renovate, expand or do repair work to the courthouse in their districts in order to meet the standards. As a result, it is suggested that the counties be included in the development of the facility standards. If not, potential conflicts may ensue.

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