

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL 980

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

AN ACT

RELATING TO COURTS; ELIMINATING A MAGISTRATE JUDGE POSITION IN
THE LEA MAGISTRATE DISTRICT.

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

Section 1. Section 35-1-16 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1968,
Chapter 62, Section 18, as amended) is amended to read:

"35-1-16. MAGISTRATE COURT--LEA DISTRICT.--

A. Until January 1, 2007, there shall be five magistrates in Lea magistrate district, division 1 in Lovington, divisions 2 and 5 operating as a single court in Hobbs, division 3 in Eunice and division 4 in Tatum. The division 3 magistrate shall ride circuit to Jal on a regularly scheduled basis and shall ride circuit to Hobbs as needed.

B. On January 1, 2007, there shall be four magistrates in the Lea magistrate district, division 4 in

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underscored material = new
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1 Lovington, divisions 1 and 2 operating as a single court in
2 Hobbs and division 3 in Eunice. The division 4 magistrate
3 shall ride circuit to Tatum on a regularly scheduled basis.
4 The division 3 magistrate shall ride circuit to Jal on a
5 regularly scheduled basis and shall ride circuit to Hobbs as
6 needed.

7 C. Magistrate judges shall not be elected at-large
8 from the district, but shall be elected by the voters of the
9 division for which the magistrate sits. Magistrate judges
10 shall reside in their divisions, but shall have districtwide
11 jurisdiction. For the 2006 and subsequent elections, the
12 composition of the divisions for elections and residence
13 purposes is as follows:

14 (1) division 1 is composed of Lea county
15 precincts 23 through 30, 32 and 41 through 43;

16 (2) division 2 is composed of Lea county
17 precincts 33 through 35, 44, 51 through 55 and 61;

18 (3) division 3 is composed of Lea county
19 precincts 20, 22, 31, 36, 62 and 71 through 74; and

20 (4) division 4 is composed of Lea county
21 precincts 2, 3, 10 through 18 and 21."

22 Section 2. TEMPORARY PROVISION--COURT CLOSURES--CLERK
23 POSITIONS--OTHER RESOURCES.--The magistrate court clerk
24 positions assigned to the magistrate courts shall not be
25 decreased as a result of this act, but the administrative

1 office of the courts shall reassign positions from the
2 abolished court to other magistrate courts. The administrative
3 office of the courts shall reassign other resources, including
4 furniture, equipment and supplies, to other magistrate courts
5 as needed.

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