

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 20

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE, COUNTY CLERKS AND
UNIVERSITIES TO STUDY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF VOTER CONVENIENCE
CENTERS IN THE ELECTION PROCESS.

WHEREAS, in 2011, a change in law authorized counties to
consolidate up to ten precincts in one polling place for
election day voting; and

WHEREAS, in that same year, the law also authorized
counties to maintain alternative voting locations previously
used in the same election to be open for voting on election day
for any voter in the county, in addition to the polling
location established in each consolidated precinct; and

WHEREAS, these consolidated precinct polling locations and
alternative voting locations are often referred to as voter
convenience centers; and

1 WHEREAS, complaints have been reported in both urban and
2 rural areas about the voting experience in counties that used
3 voter convenience centers in the 2012 or 2014 elections; and

4 WHEREAS, these complaints have raised concerns about the
5 appropriateness of using voter convenience centers in certain
6 areas;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of state, county clerks
9 and an election expert associated with one of the state's
10 public universities be requested to conduct a study on the
11 effectiveness of voter convenience centers in the election
12 process in New Mexico; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of the study be
14 presented to the second session of the fifty-second
15 legislature; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the secretary of state, the association of
18 county clerks and the board of regents of each of the state's
19 public universities.