

HOUSE BILL 489

**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

INTRODUCED BY

Andrea Romero

AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER; CHANGING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE POSITION  
OF STATE ENGINEER.

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

SECTION 1. Section 72-2-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1907,  
Chapter 49, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

"72-2-1. APPOINTMENT--REMOVAL--QUALIFICATIONS--DUTIES--  
OFFICE--PRIVATE PRACTICE PROHIBITED.--There shall be a "state  
engineer" who shall be a technically qualified and registered  
professional engineer under the Engineering and ~~[Land]~~  
Surveying Practice Act or a qualified and appropriately  
credentialed hydrologist, geohydrologist, geologist,  
environmental scientist or attorney with at least ten years of  
experience and shall be appointed by the governor and confirmed  
by the senate. ~~[He]~~ The state engineer shall hold office for

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1 the term of two years or until [~~his~~] a successor has been  
2 appointed and has qualified. [~~He~~] The state engineer is  
3 subject to removal only for cause. [~~He~~] The state engineer has  
4 general supervision of waters of the state and of the  
5 measurement, appropriation, distribution thereof and such other  
6 duties as required. The salary of the state engineer shall be  
7 set by the governor, and [~~he~~] the state engineer shall receive  
8 necessary traveling expenses while away from [~~his~~] the office  
9 of the state engineer in the discharge of official duties  
10 pursuant to the provisions of the Per Diem and Mileage Act.  
11 The "office of the state engineer" shall be located at the seat  
12 of government. [~~He~~] The state engineer shall not engage in any  
13 private practice."

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