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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1
57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026
INTRODUCED BY
Christine Chandler and Jeff Steinborn

A JOINT RESOLUTION
PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 12, SECTION 13 OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO ESTABLISH NOMINATING COMMITTEES
TO PROVIDE LISTS OF NOMINEES TO THE GOVERNOR FOR APPOINTMENT OF
NONSTUDENT MEMBERS TO THE BOARDS OF REGENTS OF STATE
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; PROVIDING THAT STUDENT MEMBERS OF
BOARDS OF REGENTS SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM A LIST PROVIDED BY AN
ELECTED STUDENT GOVERNING BODY OF THE INSTITUTION; PROVIDING
THAT, EXCEPT FOR A STUDENT MEMBER, MEMBERS OF THE BOARDS OF
REGENTS SHALL NOT HAVE CHANGED THEIR POLITICAL PARTY
REGISTRATION IN THE SIX MONTHS PRECEDING APPOINTMENT.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:
SECTION 1. It is proposed to amend Article 12, Section 13
of the constitution of New Mexico to read:

"A. The legislature shall provide for the control

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1 and management of each of the institutions, except the
2 university of New Mexico, by a board of regents for each
3 institution, consisting of five members, four of whom shall be
4 qualified electors of the state of New Mexico, one of whom
5 shall be a member of the student body of the institution and no
6 more than three of whom at the time of their appointment shall
7 be members of the same political party; provided that, except
8 for the student body member, members shall not have changed
9 their political party registration in the six months preceding
10 appointment; and provided [however] further that the student
11 body member provision in this subsection shall not apply to the
12 New Mexico school for the deaf, the New Mexico military
13 institute or the New Mexico school for the blind and visually
14 impaired, and for each of those three institutions all five
15 members of the board of regents shall be qualified electors of
16 the state of New Mexico.

17 B. The governor shall nominate from a list of names
18 provided by a nominating committee for each institution, as
19 provided by law, and by and with the consent of the senate
20 shall appoint the members of each board of regents for each of
21 the institutions. The terms of nonstudent members shall be for
22 staggered terms of six years, and the terms of student members
23 shall be two years.

24 C. The governor shall select, with the advice and
25 consent of the senate, a student member from a list provided by

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1 ~~[the president]~~ an elected student governing body of the
2 institution. ~~[In making the list, the president of the~~
3 ~~institution shall give due consideration to the recommendations~~
4 ~~of the student body president of the institution. Following~~
5 ~~the approval by the voters of this 2014 amendment and upon the~~
6 ~~first vacancy of a position on the northern New Mexico state~~
7 ~~school board of regents, the governor shall nominate and by and~~
8 ~~with the consent of the senate shall appoint a student member~~
9 ~~to serve a two-year term.]~~

10 D. The legislature shall provide for the control
11 and management of the university of New Mexico by a board of
12 regents consisting of seven members, six of whom shall be
13 qualified electors of the state of New Mexico, one of whom
14 shall be a member of the student body of the university of New
15 Mexico and no more than four of whom at the time of their
16 appointment shall be members of the same political party;
17 provided that, except for the student body member, members
18 shall not have changed their political party registration in
19 the six months preceding appointment. The governor shall
20 nominate from a list of names provided by a nominating
21 committee of the university, as provided by law, and by and
22 with the consent of the senate shall appoint the members of the
23 board of regents. ~~[The present five members shall serve out~~
24 ~~their present terms. The two additional members shall be~~
25 ~~appointed in 1987 for terms of six years. Following the~~

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1 ~~approval by the voters of this amendment and upon the first~~
2 ~~vacancy of a position held by a nonstudent member on the~~
3 ~~university of New Mexico's board of regents, the governor shall~~
4 ~~nominate and by and with the consent of the senate shall~~
5 ~~appoint a student member to serve a two-year term.]~~ The
6 governor shall select, with the advice and consent of the
7 senate, a student member from a list provided by [~~the president~~
8 ~~of the university of New Mexico. In making the list, the~~
9 ~~president of the university of New Mexico shall give due~~
10 ~~consideration to the recommendations of the student body~~
11 ~~president]~~ an elected student governing body of the university.

12 E. Members of the board shall not be removed except
13 for incompetence, neglect of duty or malfeasance in office.
14 Provided, however, no removal shall be made without notice of
15 hearing and an opportunity to be heard having first been given
16 such member. The supreme court of the state of New Mexico is
17 hereby given exclusive original jurisdiction over proceedings
18 to remove members of the board under such rules as it may
19 promulgate, and its decision in connection with such matters
20 shall be final.

21 F. The legislature shall provide for a nominating
22 committee for each state educational institution enumerated in
23 Article 12, Section 11 of this constitution to provide the
24 governor a list of nominees for appointment of nonstudent
25 members to the boards of regents of those institutions. The

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1 legislature shall provide for the appointment, terms, powers
2 and duties of a nominating committee; provided that no more
3 than fifty percent of the members of a nominating committee
4 shall be members of the same political party; and provided
5 further that members shall not have changed their political
6 party registration in the six months preceding appointment."

7 SECTION 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution
8 shall be submitted to the people for their approval or
9 rejection at the next general election or at any special
10 election prior to that date that may be called for that
11 purpose.