

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2  
2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026**

3 INTRODUCED BY  
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10 A JOINT RESOLUTION  
11 PROPOSING TO AMEND ARTICLE 4 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO  
12 TO LIMIT STATE LEGISLATORS TO NO MORE THAN TWELVE YEARS OF  
13 ELECTED SERVICE AS A LEGISLATOR, TO ADD A NEW SECTION TO CREATE  
14 AN INDEPENDENT CITIZEN COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH, ADJUST AND  
15 LIMIT THE SALARIES OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND TO AMEND  
16 SECTION 10 TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF A SALARY TO LEGISLATORS.  
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18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

19 SECTION 1. It is proposed to amend Article 4, Section 4  
20 of the constitution of New Mexico to read:

21 "A. Members of the [~~legislature~~] senate shall be  
22 elected [~~as follows: those senators from Bernalillo, Chaves,~~  
23 ~~Curry, DeBaca, Grant, Lea, Lincoln, Luna, Sandoval, San Juan,~~  
24 ~~San Miguel, Socorro, Taos, Torrance, Union and Valencia~~  
25 ~~counties for a term of six years starting January 1, 1961, and~~

1 ~~after serving such terms shall be elected]~~ for a term of four  
2 years, ~~[thereafter; those senators from all other counties for~~  
3 ~~the terms of four years]~~ and members of the house of  
4 representatives shall be elected for a term of two years.  
5 ~~[They]~~

6 B. Members of the legislature shall be elected on  
7 the day provided by law for holding the general election of  
8 state officers or representatives in congress. If a vacancy  
9 occurs in the office of senator or member of the house of  
10 representatives, for any reason, the county commissioners of  
11 the county wherein the vacancy occurs shall fill such vacancy  
12 by appointment. Such legislative appointments as provided in  
13 this section shall be for a term ending on December 31,  
14 subsequent to the next succeeding general election.

15 C. A person who has served as a member of the  
16 legislature for a total of twelve years shall not be eligible  
17 for further election or appointment to the senate or the house  
18 of representatives, and a person shall not be eligible for  
19 election or appointment to the senate or the house of  
20 representatives if the term of that office would result in the  
21 person's total years of service in the legislature exceeding  
22 twelve years."

23 SECTION 2. It is proposed to amend Article 4 of the  
24 constitution of New Mexico by adding a new Section 43 to read:

25 "A. The "citizen commission on legislative

1 salaries" is established as an independent state agency for the  
2 purpose of establishing, adjusting and limiting the salaries of  
3 members of the legislature.

4 B. The citizen commission on legislative salaries  
5 is composed of nine public members, not more than four of whom  
6 shall belong to the same political party at the time of  
7 appointment, and whose appointments, terms and qualifications  
8 shall be provided by law.

9 C. The citizen commission on legislative salaries  
10 shall research, review and consider the establishment of  
11 salaries for members of the legislature, adopt a final report  
12 on its determination to establish, adjust or limit those  
13 salaries and file that report with the secretary of state on or  
14 before October 1, 2029 and every four years thereafter.

15 D. The salaries established, adjusted or limited as  
16 adopted in the final report of the commission shall become  
17 effective on the first full state employee pay period in July  
18 following the filing of the report with the secretary of state  
19 beginning July 1, 2030.

20 E. An affirmative vote of at least five members of  
21 the citizen commission on legislative salaries is required for  
22 adoption of a report of the commission establishing, adjusting  
23 or limiting salaries for members of the legislature.

24 F. A member of the citizen commission on  
25 legislative salaries shall serve without compensation, but is

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1 entitled to receive per diem and mileage as provided by law for  
2 nonsalaried public officials."

3 SECTION 3. It is proposed to amend Article 4, Section 10  
4 of the constitution of New Mexico to read:

5 "Each member of the legislature shall receive:

6 A. per diem at the [~~internal revenue service~~] per  
7 diem rate set by the federal general services administration or  
8 successor agency for federal employees and officials for the  
9 city of Santa Fe for each day's attendance during each session  
10 of the legislature and the internal revenue service standard  
11 mileage rate for each mile traveled in going to and returning  
12 from the seat of government by the usual traveled route, once  
13 each session as defined by Article 4, Section 5 of this  
14 constitution;

15 B. per diem expense and mileage at the same rates  
16 as provided in Subsection A of this section for service at  
17 meetings required by legislative committees established by the  
18 legislature to meet in the interim between sessions; [~~and~~]

19 C. a salary established, adjusted or limited  
20 pursuant to Section 43 of this article; and

21 [~~C.~~] D. no other compensation, perquisite or  
22 allowance."

23 SECTION 4. The amendment proposed by this resolution  
24 shall be submitted to the people for their approval or  
25 rejection at the next general election or at any special

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underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 election prior to that date that may be called for that  
2 purpose.

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