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SENATE BILL 911

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

JOHN ARTHUR SMITH

AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS; PROMOTING CAMPAIGN COST REDUCTION BY SHORTENING THE PERIOD FOR EARLY VOTING BY TEN DAYS; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE NMSA 1978.

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

Section 1. Section 1-6A-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1993, Chapter 37, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-6A-5. PROCESSING APPLICATION. --

- A. The county clerk shall mark each completed absentee-early application with the date and time of receipt in the clerk's office and enter the required information in the absentee ballot register.
- B. If the applicant has no valid affidavit of registration on file in the county and he is not a federal qualified elector, he shall not be allowed to vote. The county

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clerk shall mark the application "rejected" and file the application in a separate file from those accepted.

- If the applicant presents proof of identification and is determined to be a voter or a federal qualified elector, the county clerk shall mark the application "accepted" and deliver a marksense ballot or allow the voter to vote on the direct-recording electronic machine. Upon acceptance of the application, an appropriate designation shall be made on the absentee register.
- Absentee-early voting may be done in person during the regular hours of business at the county clerk's office or other locations specified by the county clerk; provided that in class A counties, the county clerk shall establish not less than four alternative locations as satellite polling places. Absentee-early voting may be done from 8:00 a.m. on the [twentieth] tenth day preceding the election up until 5:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately prior to the date of the election. In voting absentee-early, the voter may be assisted by one person of the voter's own choice.
- The secretary of state and county clerk shall make reasonable efforts to publicize and inform voters of the times and locations for absentee-early voting."

- 2 -

Mr. President: FINANCE COMMITTEE.

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1997

March 6, 1997

Your **RULES COMMTTEE**, to whom has been referred

SENATE BILL 911

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it **DO PASS**, and thence referred to the

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Howes, Chairman

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8	Mr. President:				
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10	Your FINANCE COMMITTEE , to whom has been referred				
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14	has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it DO PASS .				
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(Chief Clerk)

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