

1 BILL

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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6 DISCUSSION DRAFT

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO COURTS; MODIFYING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF
12 METROPOLITAN COURT JUDGES; REQUIRING FIVE YEARS OF ACTUAL
13 PRACTICE OF LAW AND THREE YEARS OF RESIDENCE IN THIS STATE
14 PRIOR TO ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE.

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

17 SECTION 1. Section 34-8A-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1979,
18 Chapter 346, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

19 "34-8A-4. METROPOLITAN COURT--JUDGES.--

20 A. Metropolitan judges shall be elected as provided
21 in Section 34-8A-4.1 NMSA 1978. The governor shall fill
22 vacancies in the office of metropolitan judge, by appointment
23 of persons who possess the personal qualifications established
24 by law, until the next general election.

25 B. No person shall be eligible for election or

.190319.2SA

1 appointment to the office of metropolitan judge unless ~~[he]~~ the
2 person is a member of the New Mexico bar ~~[of and]~~, has
3 ~~[practiced in this state]~~ been in the actual practice of law
4 ~~for [a period of three years]~~ at least five years preceding
5 assumption of office and has resided in this state for at least
6 three years immediately preceding assumption of office. There
7 shall be a chief metropolitan judge of a metropolitan court.
8 The chief metropolitan judge shall designate each metropolitan
9 judge position as a separate and consecutively numbered
10 division, and any additional metropolitan judge authorized
11 within a metropolitan court shall be designated as metropolitan
12 judge of the next consecutive division. A district court judge
13 may designate a metropolitan judge as a special master."

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