

April 6, 2001

**SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 89**

The Honorable Richard Romero and  
Members of the Senate  
Executive-Legislative Building  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Honorable President and Members of the Senate:

I have this day VETOED and am returning SENATE BILL 657, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Fifth Legislature, First Session, 2001.

This bill would move Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court judges from the Magistrate Retirement Act to the Judicial Retirement Act. Currently, metropolitan and magistrate court judges can retire at any age with 24 years of service credit, or at age 60 with 15 years of service credit. This change would allow them to retire and receive their pension with 18 years of service credit if they are 50 years of age or older. I have been faced with decisions concerning increasing retirement benefits throughout my administration and have maintained the consistent position of refusing to do so. Having said this, it should be noted that I did approve significant pay increases for all judges.

Sincerely,

Gary E. Johnson  
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR:

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the Senate

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