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HOUSE BILL 486

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

INTRODUCED BY

William "Bill" R. Rehm

AN ACT

RELATING TO COURTS; MODIFYING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF  
METROPOLITAN COURT JUDGES; REQUIRING FIVE YEARS OF ACTUAL  
PRACTICE OF LAW PRIOR TO ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE.

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

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

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

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

B. No person shall be eligible for election or  
appointment to the office of metropolitan judge unless ~~he~~ the

.182981.3SA

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

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