

AN ACT

RELATING TO CONSERVANCY DISTRICTS; AMENDING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN CONSERVANCY DISTRICT ELECTIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 73-18-25 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 281, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"73-18-25. CONSERVANCY DISTRICTS TO WHICH ACT APPLIES.--Sections 73-18-25 through 73-18-43 NMSA 1978 apply to conservancy districts organized under the laws of New Mexico having a contract with the United States under the reclamation laws of the United States, as provided under Chapter 73, Article 18 NMSA 1978, and having an area of land of all classes within the exterior boundaries of the district of more than one hundred thousand acres and less than one hundred forty-five thousand acres."

SECTION 2. Section 73-18-27 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 281, Section 3) is amended to read:

"73-18-27. CALLING OF FIRST ELECTION.--The board of directors of the conservancy district shall meet at the office of the conservancy district at 10:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday of August 1955 and shall call an election in the election precincts outside the municipality to be held on the second Tuesday in October 1955. The election shall be called by the board of directors by resolution that shall fix a

voting place for each election precinct within the district outside the municipality and designate the necessary qualified electors of each election precinct to act as judges of the election in each precinct. In the discretion of the board of directors of the conservancy district, the election may be held at any place within the district. Judges of the elections shall be paid an amount to be determined by the board of directors for service. Expenses of the elections shall be paid by the district. In each odd-numbered year after 1955, elections shall be called in the same manner and at the same times as provided in Sections 73-18-25 through 73-18-43 NMSA 1978 for the election of directors to succeed any directors whose terms expire in that year."

SECTION 3. Section 73-18-30 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 281, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

"73-18-30. QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTORS.--The board of directors of the conservancy district shall, by resolution, adopt a plan with necessary rules and regulations by which nonresident owners of land or other owners of land may vote for directors by absentee ballot."

SECTION 4. Section 73-18-32 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 281, Section 8, as amended) is amended to read:

"73-18-32. VOTING RIGHTS.--

A. In district precinct elections, landowners owning one acre of irrigable land five months preceding the

election shall be entitled to one vote for each acre of irrigable land or major fraction of an acre owned by the landowner up to one hundred sixty acres. Landowners owning less than one acre of irrigable land have no vote. A landowner may vote in all voting precincts in which the landowner has irrigable land, entitling the landowner to vote as provided in Sections 73-18-30 and 73-18-31 NMSA 1978.

B. For director-at-large, all persons who are over the age of eighteen and who have been the owners of real estate within the district for more than two months preceding the election shall be entitled to one vote.

C. All persons who are over the age of eighteen and who have been the owners of real estate within any municipality within the district for more than two months preceding the election shall be entitled to one vote for director representing the municipal election precinct.

D. To qualify voters to vote for directors-at-large and for director representing the municipal voting precinct, the ownership of real estate by the spouse shall be considered also ownership by the other spouse."

SECTION 5. Section 73-18-34 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 281, Section 10) is amended to read:

"73-18-34. BECOMING A CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR.--Any person wishing to become a candidate for the office of director in any district shall, by the last Friday of July

before the election, file in the office of the secretary of the district a declaration of candidacy, stating the election precinct for which the person is a candidate, accompanied by a petition signed by not less than ten qualified electors of the election precinct for which the person is a candidate to represent. No declaration of candidacy shall be accepted by the secretary unless accompanied by such petition, signed by electors."

SECTION 6. Section 73-18-36 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 281, Section 12) is amended to read:

"73-18-36. COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS.--Each director shall receive compensation payable out of the funds of the district in an amount to be determined by the board of directors of the district; provided that no director may receive an increase in compensation during the term for which that director was elected."
