SENATE BILL 643

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Lisa A. Torraco

AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS; CHANGING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR VOTER REGISTRATION; CHANGING PROCEDURES FOR CANCELING VOTER REGISTRATION; PROVIDING PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION BY ELECTRONIC MEANS; PROVIDING FOR VERIFICATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION DATA.

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

SECTION 1. A new section of Chapter 1, Article 4 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] PROCESSING UNTIMELY RECEIVED CERTIFICATES
OF REGISTRATION.--If any qualified elector submits a
certificate of registration to a state agency pursuant to
Section 1-4-5.2 NMSA 1978 prior to the close of registration
for any election, which registration is not received by the
county clerk's office or is lost, the applicant shall be

permitted to complete a new certificate of registration in the
office of the county clerk. Upon proof of the completion of
the certificate of registration prior to the close of
registration, the qualified elector shall be added to the
statewide voter file."

SECTION 2. A new section of Chapter 1, Article 4 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] NOTICE OF REGISTRATION--CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION.--

- A. When a person who has previously registered to vote in another state applies for voter registration in New Mexico, the person shall provide on the certificate of registration form all information needed to cancel any previous registration. The county clerk shall notify the state elections office of the applicant's previous state of the change in registration.
- B. A county clerk receiving official information that a voter has registered to vote in another state shall immediately cancel that voter's certificate of registration in the statewide voter file."
- SECTION 3. Section 1-4-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 240, Section 63, as amended) is amended to read:
- "1-4-5. METHOD OF REGISTRATION--UNLAWFUL USE OF INFORMATION--PENALTY.--
- A. A qualified elector may apply to <u>register to</u>
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vote by completing a state certificate of registration form or federal voter registration application, with or without the assistance of a registration officer or agent [for registration].

- B. The registration officer or agent or qualified elector shall fill out each of the blanks on the certificate of registration by typing or printing in ink or completing the form electronically. The qualified elector shall be given a receipt that shall contain:
- (1) a number traceable to the registration agent or officer or online transaction;
- (2) a statement informing the qualified elector that if the qualified elector does not receive confirmation of the qualified elector's registration within fifteen days of the receipt date, the qualified elector should contact the office of the county clerk in the county where the qualified elector resides; and
- (3) a toll-free number for the office of the county clerk and an address for the web site of the secretary of state.
- C. The qualified elector shall subscribe a certificate of registration as follows:
- (1) by signing the certificate of registration using the qualified elector's [given] first name [middle name or initial] and last name and middle name or initial if used;

register is unable to read and write either the English or Spanish language or is unable to read or write because of some physical disability, the certificate of such person shall be filled out by a registration officer or agent and the name of the qualified elector so registering shall be subscribed by the making of the qualified elector's mark.

- D. When properly executed by the registration agent or officer or qualified elector, the original of the certificate of registration shall be presented, either in person [or], by mail or electronically by the qualified elector or by the registration agent or officer, to the county clerk of the county in which the qualified elector resides.
- E. Only when the certificate of registration is properly filled out, subscribed by the qualified elector, verified by the county clerk and accepted for filing by the county clerk as evidenced by the county clerk's signature or stamp and the date of acceptance thereon shall it constitute an official public record of the registration of the qualified elector. It is unlawful for the qualified elector's month and day of birth or any portion of the qualified elector's social security number required on the certificate of registration to be copied, conveyed or used by anyone other than the person registering to vote, either before or after it is filed with

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the county clerk, and by elections administrators in their official capacity.

F. A person who unlawfully copies, conveys or uses information from a certificate of registration is guilty of a fourth degree felony."

SECTION 4. Section 1-4-5.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1993, Chapter 314, Section 7 and Laws 1993, Chapter 316, Section 7, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-4-5.1. METHOD OF REGISTRATION--FORM.--

A. A qualified elector may apply for registration by mail, <u>in person or electronically</u>; in the office of the secretary of state or county clerk; or with a registration agent or officer.

[B. A person may request certificate of registration forms from the secretary of state or any county clerk in person, by telephone or by mail for that person or for other persons.

 G_{r}] B_{r} . Except as provided in Subsection [P] C of this section, a qualified elector who wishes to register to vote shall fill out completely and sign the certificate of registration and submit the proper identification if registering electronically. The qualified elector may seek the assistance of any person in completing the certificate of registration.

 $[rac{D_{ullet}}{C_{ullet}}]$ A qualified elector who has filed for an .198794.3SA

order of protection pursuant to the provisions of the Family
Violence Protection Act and who presents a copy of that order
from a state or tribal court to the registration officer shall
not be required to provide physical residence address
information on the certificate of registration.

[E.] D. Completed certificates of registration may be mailed or presented in person by the registrant or any other person to the secretary of state or presented in person by the registrant or any other person to the county clerk of the county in which the registrant resides. Electronic voter registration applications shall be submitted to the clerk as provided in this section.

[F.] E. If the [registrant] qualified elector wishes to vote in the next election, the completed and signed certificate of registration shall be delivered or mailed and postmarked at least twenty-eight days before the election.

 $[G_{ullet}]$ F_{ullet} Upon receipt of a certificate of registration, the secretary of state shall send the certificate to the county clerk in the county where the qualified elector resides.

 $[H \cdot]$ $G \cdot$ Only when the certificate of registration is properly filled out, signed by the qualified elector, verified by the county clerk and accepted for filing by the county clerk as evidenced by the county clerk's signature or stamp and the date of acceptance thereon and when notice has

been received by the [registrant] qualified elector shall it constitute an official public record of the registration of the qualified elector.

[1.] H. The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of the certificate of registration, which form shall be in a postpaid mail-in format. [and shall be printed] Both paper and electronic certificate of registration forms shall be available in Spanish and English. The certificate of registration form shall be clear and understandable to the average person and shall include brief but sufficient instructions to enable the qualified elector to complete the form without assistance. The form shall also include:

- (1) the question "Are you a citizen of the United States of America?" and boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether the applicant is or is not a citizen;
- (2) the question "Will you be at least eighteen years of age on or before election day?" and boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether the applicant will be eighteen years of age or older on election day;
- (3) the statement "If you checked 'no' in response to either of these questions, do not complete this form.";

[(4) a statement informing the applicant that:

(a) if the form is submitted by mail by

the applicant and the applicant is registering for the first

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time in New Mexico, the applicant must submit with the form a
copy of: 1) a current and valid photo identification; or 2) a
current utility bill, bank statement, government check,
paycheck, student identification card or other government
document, including identification issued by an Indian nation,
tribe or pueblo, that shows the name and current address of the
applicant; and
(b) if the applicant does not submit the

required identification, the applicant will be required to do so when voting in person or absentee;] and

 $[\frac{(5)}{(4)}]$ a statement requiring the applicant to swear or affirm that the information supplied by the applicant is true."

SECTION 5. Section 1-4-5.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 240, Section 125, as amended) is amended to read:

REGISTRATION--FORM.--"1-4-5.4.

- The secretary of state shall prescribe the form and assure that the certificate of registration to be used in any county is compatible with the data processing systems.
- В. The certificate of registration form shall require the following elements of information concerning the applicant for registration: name, gender, residence, municipality, post office, county of former registration, social security number, date of birth, political party affiliation, zip code, telephone number or email address at the .198794.3SA

applicant's option and statement of qualification for voting.

- C. On paper certificate of registration forms, provision shall be made for the usual signature or mark of the applicant, for the signature of the county clerk and for the dates of such signatures. Electronically submitted certificate of registration forms shall retain the dates of submission by the applicant and acceptance by the county clerk.
- D. The certificate form may be multipurpose by providing for an indication of whether the certificate of registration is for a new registration, a change in the existing registration or a cancellation of an existing registration. Provision shall be made on any multipurpose form for entry of any existing registered information for which a change may be requested.
- E. The <u>paper</u> certificate of registration forms shall be serially numbered and shall be furnished promptly and in adequate supply by the secretary of state upon application from the county clerk."
- SECTION 6. Section 1-4-5.5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1975, Chapter 255, Section 78, as amended) is amended to read:
- "1-4-5.5. REQUESTS FOR VOTER DATA, MAILING LABELS OR SPECIAL VOTER LISTS.--
- A. The county clerk or secretary of state shall furnish voter data, mailing labels or special voter lists only upon written request to the county clerk or the secretary of .198794.3SA

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state and after compliance with the requirements of this section; provided, however, all requesters shall be treated equally in regard to the charges and the furnishing of the materials.

- In furnishing voter data, mailing labels or special voter lists, the county clerk or secretary of state shall not provide data or lists that include voters' social security numbers, codes used to identify agencies where voters have registered, a voter's day and month of birth [or voters' telephone numbers if prohibited by voters], any information derived from the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department or the federal social security administration file that is not otherwise contained on the certificate of registration or, if prohibited by a voter, the voter's telephone number or email address.
- Each requester of voter data, mailing labels or special voter lists shall sign an affidavit that the voter data, mailing labels and special voter lists shall be used for governmental or election and election campaign purposes only and shall not be made available or used for unlawful purposes.
- The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of the affidavit."
- SECTION 7. Section 1-4-11 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 240, Section 67, as amended) is amended to read:
- "1-4-11. DUTIES OF COUNTY CLERK--UPON RECEIPT OF .198794.3SA

CERTIFICATES. --

A. Upon receipt of a complete certificate of registration, if in proper form, the county clerk shall determine if the [qualified elector applying for registration is already registered in the registration records of the county] information submitted by the applicant is valid by comparing the information on the certificate of registration with information provided by the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department or the federal social security administration.

B. For a paper certificate of registration, if the applicant is otherwise eligible and the name reasonably matches, and the date of birth and social security number match the information for the applicant maintained by the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department or the federal social security administration, the applicant shall be registered to vote.

C. For an electronic certificate of registration form, if the applicant is otherwise eligible, and the date of birth, social security number, driver's license number or state identification card number, and expiration date of the driver's license or state identification card number match, and the name reasonably matches, the information maintained by the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department or the federal social security administration, the applicant shall be

registered to vote.

D. If the information required in Subsection B or C of this section, as applicable, provided by the applicant does not match the information maintained by the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department or the federal social security administration, the applicant may provide a copy of the required voter identification. If the applicant provides such identification and is otherwise eligible, the applicant shall be registered to vote.

E. If the information required in Subsection B or C of this section, as applicable, provided by the applicant does not match the information maintained by the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department or the federal social security administration, and the applicant does not provide the required voter identification, the applicant shall be provisionally registered to vote. An identification notice shall be sent to the voter within forty-eight hours of the voter being placed in provisional status. The voter shall provide the corrected information or a copy of an acceptable form of the required voter identification containing a photograph of the voter in order to be registered to vote.

F. A provisionally registered voter shall vote on a provisional ballot. The provisional ballot of a voter who was provisionally registered on the date registration is closed may be counted if the voter provides the required voter

<u>identification</u> 1	pursuant	to	Section	1-12-25.4	NMSA	1978.

G. If an update to a certificate of registration is submitted that does not match the information maintained by the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department or the federal social security administration, the existing certificate of registration shall remain valid until a valid update is submitted, and the voter shall not be considered a provisional voter.

H. If the qualified elector is not already registered in the county and if the certificate of registration is received within the time allowed by law for filing certificates of registration in the county clerk's office, the county clerk shall sign or stamp, in the space provided therefor on each copy of the certificate, the qualified elector's name and the date the certificate was accepted for filing in the county registration records. Voter information shall be handed or mailed immediately to the qualified elector and to no other person.

[B. If the qualified elector is already registered in the county as shown by the qualified elector's original certificate of registration currently on file in the county registration records, the county clerk shall not accept the new certificate of registration unless it is filed pursuant to Section 1-4-13, 1-4-15, 1-4-17 or 1-4-18 NMSA 1978.]

 $\underline{\text{I.}}$ If the applicant's certificate of registration .198794.3SA

is rejected for any reason, the county clerk shall stamp or write the word "rejected" on the new certificate of registration and hand [or], mail [it] or transmit it electronically, if possible, to the applicant with an explanation of why the new certificate of registration was rejected and what remedial action, if any, the applicant must take to bring the registration up to date or into compliance with the Election Code.

[C. If the qualified elector does not register in person, indicates that the qualified elector has not previously voted in a general election in New Mexico and does not provide the registration officer with the required identification, the registration officer shall indicate this on the qualified elector's certificate of registration and the county clerk shall note this on the appropriate precinct signature roster.]

SECTION 8. Section 1-4-12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 240, Section 68, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-4-12. DUTIES OF COUNTY CLERK--FILING OF CERTIFICATES.--

- A. Certificates of registration, if in proper form and verified in accordance with Section 1-4-11 NMSA 1978, shall be processed and filed by the county clerk as follows:
- (1) a voter identification card shall be delivered or mailed to the voter; and
- (2) the original certificate, <u>or a paper copy</u>
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of an electronic certificate, shall be filed alphabetically by surname and inserted into the county register pursuant to Section 1-5-5 NMSA 1978.

- B. The county clerk shall [on Monday of each week] timely process all certificates of registration that are in proper form and [that were received in his office up to 5:00 p.m. on the preceding Friday] verified. No voter shall be denied the right to vote in any election because a properly submitted form was not timely processed by the county clerk.
- C. The contents of certificates of registration, except for the voter's social security number and [date] month and day of birth, are public records."
- SECTION 9. Section 1-4-13 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 240, Section 69, as amended by Laws 1993, Chapter 314, Section 12 and also by Laws 1993, Chapter 316, Section 12) is amended to read:
 - "1-4-13. CHANGE OF NAME--CORRECTING ERROR.--
- A. Any voter who changes [his] the voter's name or discovers an error in [his] the voter's certificate of registration may have the name on [his] the certificate changed or the error corrected by filing an application to change the certificate of registration.
- B. The application to change the certificate of registration shall show the name by which the qualified elector previously registered, [his] the voter's change of name or

correction of error and a request that the change be shown on [his] the voter's certificate of registration. The application shall be subscribed by the voter. When completed, the application shall be filed with the county clerk and retained for six years in a file established for that purpose.

C. The county clerk shall note the change of name or correction of error on the voter's certificate of registration."

SECTION 10. Section 1-4-15 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 240, Section 71, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-4-15. REGISTRATION--CHANGE OF PARTY AFFILIATION.--

- A. A voter may change the voter's designated party affiliation by executing a new certificate of registration indicating the change of party affiliation.
- B. A voter who has previously declined to designate a party affiliation but who desires to designate a party affiliation shall execute a new certificate of registration indicating the desired party affiliation.
- C. A voter who does not designate on the certificate of registration a party affiliation shall be considered to have declined to designate a party affiliation.

 Whenever a voter fails to make any affirmative designation of a party or declination of a party affiliation, the county clerk shall notify the voter that the voter has been registered without a party affiliation."

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SECTION 11. Section 1-4-18.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2013, Chapter 91, Section 1) is amended to read:

"1-4-18.1. ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION UPDATES.--

A. In addition to updating a certificate of registration in person or by mail, a voter may [in accordance with the provisions of Sections 1-4-15 through 1-4-18 NMSA 1978] update an existing certificate of registration electronically by completing a certificate of registration form on the secretary of state's web site [Upon receipt of an updated certificate of registration, the secretary of state shall transmit the certificate to the county clerk of the county in which the registrant resides, and the county clerk shall print the updated certificate, file it in the county's register of voters and enter it into the statewide voter file.

B. A certificate of registration updated electronically shall be electronically authenticated by the registrant using an electronic signature in conformance with the Electronic Authentication of Documents Act and the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act. A certificate of registration that is electronically authenticated in accordance with the provisions of this subsection shall be deemed to have been subscribed and sworn to by the registrant.

C. The secretary of state shall ensure that the web site used for electronic registration is secure and that the confidentiality of all users and integrity of data submitted

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1	are preserved. The secretary of state shall implement the
2	provisions of this section no later than June 30, 2015] or
3	through any application maintained by a state agency for
4	electronic voter registration that is approved by the secretary
5	of state, if the person is qualified to register to vote and
6	has a current New Mexico driver's license or state
7	identification card issued by the motor vehicle division of the
8	taxation and revenue department.
9	B. An online certificate of registration form shall
10	contain all of the information that is required for a paper
11	form except that the applicant shall be required to provide:
12	(1) the applicant's full New Mexico driver's
13	license or state identification card number; and
14	(2) the date the New Mexico driver's license
15	or state identification card was issued.
16	C. For an applicant's registration or change in
17	registration to be accepted, the applicant shall mark the box
18	associated with the following statement included as part of the
19	online certificate of registration form:
20	"By clicking on the box below, I swear or affirm all of the
21	<pre>following:</pre>
22	(1) I am the person whose name and identifying

to vote in the state of New Mexico;

(2) all the information I have provided on
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information is provided on this form, and I desire to register

this form is true and correct as of the date I am submitting this form; and

(3) I authorize the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department to transmit to the secretary of state my signature, photograph and address that is on file with the motor vehicle division and understand that such signature will be used by my county clerk on this online application for admission as a voter as if I had signed this form personally.".

D. Upon receipt of an electronic certificate of registration form, the secretary of state or approved agency shall transmit the form to the county clerk of the county in which the applicant resides, through the electronic statewide voter file. The county clerk shall verify that the information provided on the form matches the information maintained for the applicant by the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department or the federal social security administration pursuant to Section 1-4.5.1 NMSA 1978. The county clerk shall verify that:

(1) the applicant has an authentic New Mexico driver's license or state identification card issued by the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department and that the driver's license or identification number provided by the applicant matches the driver's license or state identification card number for that person on file with the

4 <u>date</u> 5 <u>divis</u> 6 7 <u>appli</u> 8 <u>with</u>

division;

- (2) the date of issuance of the driver's license or identification card listed on the form matches the date of issuance of that card for that person on file with the division;
- (3) the date of birth provided by the applicant matches the date of birth for that person on file with the division; and
- (4) the applicant's social security number
 matches the social security number for that person on file with
 the division.
- E. If the information provided by the applicant matches the information on the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department databases for any driver's license or state identification card holder and is matched as provided in Subsection C of this section, the county clerk shall proceed with the processing of the certificate of registration. The county clerk shall print the certificate, file it in the county's register of voters and enter the person into the county statewide voter file as a registered voter. The statewide voter file system shall be capable of receiving electronic voter registration application information, including electronic signatures, photographs and other data provided by the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department or the federal social security

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administration. The county clerk shall import the applicant's digitized signature, address and photograph, if available, upon a successful match of that applicant's information with that contained in the motor vehicle division's database.

F. A certificate of registration form submitted electronically shall be electronically authenticated by the registrant using an electronic signature in conformance with the Electronic Authentication of Documents Act and the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act. A certificate of registration form that is electronically authenticated in accordance with the provisions of this subsection shall be deemed to have been subscribed and sworn to by the applicant.

G. All certificate of registration forms submitted on a web site maintained by the secretary of state shall be deemed timely filed if they are submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on the final day for voter registration prior to an election.

H. The secretary of state shall ensure that the web site used for electronic registration is secure and that the confidentiality of all users and integrity of data submitted are preserved. The secretary of state shall implement the provisions of this section no later than January 1, 2017."

SECTION 12. Section 1-4-25 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 240, Section 81, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-4-25. CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION-DETERMINATION OF .198794.3SA

bracketed material] = delete

DEATH . --

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For purposes of cancellation of registration, the death of a voter shall be ascertained by obituary notices [or], a form for reporting deceased voters from a funeral home, probate records [or], by comparison of registration records with [monthly] weekly certified lists of deceased residents filed with the secretary of state or by comparison with a certified list of deceased voters from the federal social security administration.

- The state registrar of vital statistics shall file [monthly] weekly with the secretary of state certified lists of deceased residents over the age of eighteen years, sorted by county, regardless of the place of death.
- The [monthly] weekly certified list of deceased residents shall show the:
 - (1) name;
 - (2) age;
 - (3) sex;
 - (4) marital status;
 - (5) birth place;
 - birth date; (6)
 - (7) social security number, if any;
 - address; and (8)
 - place and date of death of the deceased (9)

resident.

- D. The secretary of state shall, upon receipt of the [monthly] certified list of deceased residents, forward each county's list to the county clerk.
- E. The county clerk shall, upon receipt of the [monthly] certified list of deceased residents, cancel any deceased resident's certificate of registration.
- F. Upon receipt of a notarized document from the president or governor of an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo or from a tribal enrollment clerk indicating that a tribal member is deceased, the county clerk shall cancel the certification of registration of that deceased tribal member.
- G. At the time funeral arrangements are made, a funeral director or funeral service licensee is encouraged to make available to near relatives of the deceased a form upon which the near relative may report the status of the deceased voter to the board of elections of the county in which the deceased was registered to vote. A funeral director or funeral service licensee may obtain forms for reporting the status of deceased voters from the county board of elections.
- H. The secretary of state may determine if any of the persons listed on the federal social security administration death master file or reported as deceased by the vital records department of another state are registered to vote and prepare a list of those registrants for each county clerk. The county clerk shall change the status of those

2	<u>system.</u> "
3	SECTION 13. Section 1-4-27.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2001,
4	Chapter 46, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:
5	"1-4-27.1. CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION FOLLOWING
6	CONVICTIONELIGIBILITY FOR VOTING UPON SATISFACTION OF
7	CONDITIONS
8	A. When a voter has been convicted of a felony in
9	any state or federal court, the voter's registration shall be
10	canceled.
11	B. A person convicted of a felony who is otherwise
12	a qualified elector is eligible to register to vote when that
13	person:
L 4	(1) has been unconditionally discharged from a
15	correctional facility or detention center;
16	(2) has completed all conditions of parole or
17	supervised probation; or
18	(3) has had the conviction overturned on
19	appeal.
20	C. The secretary of state shall each [month] week
21	maintain current in the statewide voter registration electronic
22	management system the eligibility status of persons convicted
23	of felonies to register to vote pursuant to this section.
24	D. The corrections department, the New Mexico
25	sentencing commission and the administrative office of the
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registrants to "deceased" in the statewide voter registration

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courts shall deliver to the secretary of state information and data as needed to carry out the provisions of this section.

E. The secretary of state shall request from the United States attorney for the district of New Mexico, in conformance with 42 U.S.C. Section 1973gg-6(g), information and data as needed to carry out the provisions of this section."

SECTION 14. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2015.

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