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HOUSE BILL 307
42ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1996
INTRODUCED BY
BEN LUJAN

AN ACT
RELATING TO DISTRICT ATTORNEYS; ENACTING THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYS'
EXPERT WITNESS ACT; CREATING A FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

Section 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "District Attorneys' Expert
Witness Act".

Section 2. PURPOSE.--The purpose of the District Attorneys' Expert Witness Act is
to:

- A. provide district attorneys' offices with a contingency fund in the event that
general fund appropriations are insufficient to cover the cost of expert witness expenses; and
- B. assist district attorneys' offices with the timely prosecution of criminal
cases.

Section 3. DISTRICT ATTORNEYS' EXPERT WITNESS FUND CREATED--
ADMINISTRATION--DISTRIBUTION.--

- A. There is created in the state treasury the "district attorneys' expert witness
fund" to be administered by the administrative office of the district attorneys.
- B. All balances in the district attorneys' expert witness fund are appropriated

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1 to the administrative office of the district attorneys for payment to district attorneys' offices for
2 the purpose of paying expert witness expenses. Payments shall be made only upon an offer of
3 proof by a district attorney that general fund appropriations are insufficient to cover the cost of
4 expert witness expenses.

5 C. Payments from the district attorneys' expert witness fund shall be made
6 upon vouchers issued and signed by the director of the administrative office of the district
7 attorneys upon warrants drawn by the secretary of finance and administration.

8 Section 4. APPROPRIATION.--Seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) is
9 appropriated from the general fund to the district attorneys' expert witness fund for expenditure
10 in fiscal year 1997 to carry out the purposes of the District Attorneys' Expert Witness Act.
11 Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 1997 shall revert
12 to the general fund.

13 Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July
14 1, 1996.

State of New Mexico
House of Representatives

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FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 1996

February 10, 1996

Mr. Speaker:

Your **JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**, to whom has been referred

HOUSE BILL 307

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it **DO PASS**,
and thence referred to the **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE**
COMMITTEE.

Respectfully submitted,

Cisco McSorley, Chairman

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FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 1996

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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 7 For 1 Against

Yes: 7

No: Stewart

Excused: Baca, King, Larranaga, Luna, Sanchez, R.G.

Absent: None

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