

# Chapter 4

## Counties

### Article 1

#### Bernalillo County

##### § 4-1-1. [Original county boundaries.]

The boundaries of the county of Bernalillo are as follows: drawing a direct line toward the east toward the Bosque de los Pinos, touching the Canon Infierno, and terminating with the boundaries of the territory, drawing a direct line from the Bosque de los Pinos, crossing the Rio del Norte in the direction of the Quelites del Rio Puerco, and continuing in the direction of the canon of Juan Tafoya, until it terminates with the boundaries of the territory; on the north by the boundaries of Santa Ana and San Miguel; on the east and west by the boundaries of this territory.

History: Laws 1851-1852, p. 292; C.L. 1865, ch. 42, § 9; C.L. 1884, § 250; C.L. 1897, § 516; Code 1915, § 1062; C.S. 1929, § 33-101; 1941 Comp., § 15-101; 1953 Comp., § 15-1-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of San Miguel county, see 4-25-1 NMSA 1978. As to creation or change of counties, see 4-33-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to change of county seats, see 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to prohibition against local or special laws locating or changing county seats or changing county lines, except in creating new counties, see N.M. Const., art. IV, § 24. As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3.

Compiler's notes. - The county of Santa Ana, which is referred to in this section, was created by Act of Jan. 9, 1852, p. 292 (C.L. 1865, ch. 42, § 8), which read: "The boundaries of the county of Santa Ana are as follows: on the east and north by the boundaries of the county of Santa Fe; on the south from a point above the last houses of Bernalillo, where the lands previously known as those belonging to the Indians of Santa Ana are divided, drawing a direct line toward the east over the mountain until it reaches the parallel dividing the counties of San Miguel and Santa Fe, from said dividing point of the lands of the Indians of Santa Ana, drawing a line westward crossing the Rio del Norte, and terminating with the boundaries of the territory, are the boundaries of this county."

The county of Santa Ana was abolished by Laws 1876, ch. 8, § 1, which read: "The county of Santa Ana in this territory is hereby abolished; and all that portion of the territory of New Mexico heretofore embraced and included within the limits of the said county of Santa Ana, is hereby incorporated into and made a part of the county of

Bernalillo."

Bernalillo county, which originally touched both the east and west borders of the territory, has been greatly reduced in size since its creation.

The present boundaries of Bernalillo county may be as follows: commencing at the southwest corner of section 34, township 8 north, range 5 east; thence east [description from 4-30-1 NMSA 1978] on the township line between townships 7 and 8 north to the southeast corner of township 8 north, range 7 east; thence north on the range line between ranges 7 and 8 east to the northeast corner of township 8 north, range 7 east, on the second standard parallel north; thence west on said standard parallel to the southeast corner of township 9 north, range 6 east; thence north on the range line between ranges 6 and 7 east [description from 4-30-1 NMSA 1978 and 4-26-1 NMSA 1978] to the northeast corner of township 11 north of range 6 east; thence west [description from 4-23-1 NMSA 1978] on the township line between townships 11 and 12 north to the boundary line of Valencia county [described in 4-1-1 NMSA 1978 as being on the straight line running from the Quelites del Rio Puerco (an old community on the Rio Puerco just below its junction with the Rio San Jose) in the direction of the Canon of Juan Tafoya]; thence in a south-southeasterly direction along said boundary line to its intersection with a line directly west from the Bosque de los Pinos (township line between townships 7 and 8 north); thence east along said township line toward the Bosque de los Pinos to the center of the Rio Grande; thence following the thread of the river upstream in a northeasterly direction to a point immediately west of a point [description from 4-1-2 NMSA 1978] on the east bank of the Rio Grande where the southern foot of the Loma de Isleta strikes the Rio Grande; thence easterly to the Canon del Infierno; thence following up the Canon del Infierno to the point where it crosses the section line between sections 27 and 28 in township 8 north of range 5 east; thence, south along section line to the point of beginning. [The Bernalillo-Valencia line from the Canon del Infierno (Hell canyon) to the old boundary between the two counties is not defined by law. The accepted boundary seems to be that described in the last two clauses above.]

A change in the boundary between Santa Fe and Bernalillo counties was also made by Laws 1891, ch. 55 (Code 1915, § 1063; C.S. 1929, § 33-102; 1941 Comp., § 15-101, n.) which read: "After February 25, 1891, the dividing line between the counties of Santa Fe and Bernalillo shall be as follows: commencing at the southeast corner of township 9 north, of range 11 east, on the second correction line north, according to the United States public land surveys in New Mexico; thence running west along said correction line between townships 8 and 9 north, to the southwest corner of township 9 north, range 7 east, and from thence north along the dividing line between ranges 6 and 7 east to a point due west of the northwest corner of the tract of land known as the Mesita de Juana Lopez grant, as established by the surveys made by the government of the United States; thence due east to said northwest corner; thence due north 1 mile to a point; thence due west to the said dividing line between ranges 6 and 7 east; thence north along said dividing line to the northwest corner of the county of Santa Fe as at present established; it being understood that all of the country adjacent to the above-

described lines, from the point of commencement on the south side and the west side thereof as far north as the present northern boundary of the county of Bernalillo, shall hereafter be a part of the county of Bernalillo."

The sections in this article were compiled respectively in art. 1 and art. 25 of ch. 24 of the 1915 Code. They were not reenacted by their inclusion therein, but were compiled for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

### **§ 4-1-2. [Change in south boundary.]**

All that portion of the county of Bernalillo situated south of a line commencing at a point on the east bank of the Rio Grande where the southern foot of the Loma de Isleta strikes the Rio Grande, and running thence to the Canon del Infierno, and then following the old line of both counties to the east, shall be cut off from the county of Bernalillo, and included within the county of Valencia. All the above-described land shall be annexed to and form part of precinct number fifteen of the county of Valencia.

History: Laws 1869-1870, ch. 16, § 1; C.L. 1884, § 279; C.L. 1897, § 535; Code 1915, § 1118; C.S. 1929, § 33-3002; 1941 Comp., § 15-102; 1953 Comp., § 15-1-2.

Cross-references. - As to original boundaries of Valencia county, see 4-32-1 NMSA 1978.

## **Article 2**

### **Catron County**

#### **§ 4-2-1. [County boundaries.]**

That the county of Catron is hereby created out of that portion of the state of New Mexico lying and being situate within the following metes and bounds:

beginning at the corner marking the southeast corner of township 9 south, range 9 west and the southwest corner of township 9 south, range 8 west, New Mexico principal meridian and base lines, as shown by the United States survey, and located on the north boundary of Sierra county; thence north on the range line between range 8 west and range 9 west through townships 9, 8, 7 and 6 south, New Mexico principal meridian and base lines to the United States first standard parallel south line; thence west on said first standard parallel south to the southeast corner of township 5 south, range 9 west, and the southwest corner of township 5 south, range 8 west, New Mexico principal meridian and base lines; thence north on the range line between range 8 west and range 9 west, New Mexico principal meridian and base lines, through townships 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 south to the New Mexico base line, United States survey; thence west on

said New Mexico base line to the southeast corner of township 1 north, range 9 west and the southwest corner of township 1 north, range 8 west, New Mexico principal meridian and base lines; thence north on the range line between range 8 west and range 9 west, New Mexico principal meridian and base lines through townships 1, 2, 3 and 4 north, to the south boundary line of Valencia county; thence westerly along the south boundary line of Valencia county to the boundary line between the states of New Mexico and Arizona; thence southerly along said boundary line between the states of New Mexico and Arizona to a point where the north boundary line of Grant county intersects said state boundary lines; thence easterly along said north boundary line of Grant county to the western boundary line of Sierra county; thence northerly along the western boundary line of Sierra county to the northwest corner of Sierra county, and thence easterly along the north [boundary] line of Sierra county to the place of beginning.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 28, § 1; C.S. 1929, § 33-201; 1941 Comp., § 15-201; 1953 Comp., § 15-2-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundary between Grant and Catron counties, see 4-9-2 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Sierra county, see 4-27-1 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Valencia county, see 4-32-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Catron county was created out of the western portion of Socorro county.

The boundary line between Catron and Valencia counties is in reality the section line 2 miles south of the first standard parallel north.

Attempt to abolish county and distribute territory void. - Laws 1927, ch. 185, attempting to abolish Catron county and to distribute its territory between two other counties, was void as violating N.M. Const., art. IV, § 24, prohibiting the passage of local or special laws changing county lines, except in creating new counties. State ex rel. Dow v. Graham, 33 N.M. 504, 270 P. 897 (1928).

## **§ 4-2-2. [County seat; courthouse, jail and public buildings.]**

The county seat of said county of Catron shall be established at Reserve, in said county, and the board of county commissioners of said county shall select and designate suitable and convenient places at said county seat for the sites for the erection of a courthouse, jail and other public buildings of said county.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 28, § 2; C.S. 1929, § 33-202; 1941 Comp., § 15-202; 1953 Comp., § 15-2-2.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Compiler's notes. - Laws 1921, ch. 28, §§ 3 to 13 contained temporary provisions concerning the officers and finances of the new county.

### **§ 4-2-3. [Courthouse and jail bonds; repayment.]**

The county of Catron may issue bonds for courthouse and jail purposes to an amount not exceeding fifteen thousand (\$15,000) dollars, which bonds shall be issued in the manner as provided by the constitution of New Mexico, payable absolutely thirty years from their date and at the option of said county twenty years from their date.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 28, § 18; C.S. 1929, § 33-218; 1941 Comp., § 15-204; 1953 Comp., § 15-2-4.

Cross-references. - As to bonds for courthouses, jails, bridges, hospitals and libraries, see 4-49-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to state, county and municipal indebtedness, see N.M. Const., art. IX, § 1 et seq.

Compiler's notes. - This section may be inoperative. See State ex rel. Perea v. Board of Comm'rs, 25 N.M. 338, 182 P. 865 (1919), which held that a similar section applying to De Baca county was inoperative because it provided that the bonds might be issued in accordance with the constitution, but did not state that they could be issued in accordance with the laws of the state.

### **§ 4-2-4. [Road and bridge bonds.]**

The county of Catron may issue bonds for the purpose of constructing and repairing public roads and bridges in an amount not exceeding twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) dollars, which bonds shall be issued in the manner as provided by the constitution of New Mexico, payable absolutely thirty years from their date, and at the option of said county twenty years from their date.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 28, § 19; C.S. 1929, § 33-219; 1941 Comp., § 15-205; 1953 Comp., § 15-2-5.

Cross-references. - As to bonds for courthouses, jails, bridges, hospitals and libraries, see 4-49-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to state, county and municipal indebtedness, see N.M. Const., art. IX, § 1 et seq. As to bonds for highways and bridges, see 67-6-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Compiler's notes. - This section may be inoperative. See compiler's note under 4-2-3 NMSA 1978.

## **Article 3**

## Chaves County

### § 4-3-1. [Original county boundaries.]

That the counties of Chaves and Eddy are hereby created out of all that portion of Lincoln county, lying eastward of a line drawn through said county as follows, to wit: commencing at the northern boundary line of the county of Lincoln on the line between ranges nineteen and twenty east; thence south on said line to the base line; thence south along the range line between ranges nineteen and twenty east to the first standard parallel south; thence east to the point where the range line between ranges twenty and twenty-one east, south of said first standard parallel intersects said parallel; thence south on the line between said ranges twenty and twenty-one to the second standard parallel south; thence south to the southeast corner of township eleven, south of range twenty east; thence west to the line between ranges twenty and twenty-one south of the second standard parallel, south; thence south to the third standard parallel south along the range line between ranges twenty and twenty-one to intersect the third standard parallel, south; thence east along said parallel to where the line from the south side of same between ranges twenty-one and twenty-two intersect said parallel; thence along said range line between ranges twenty-one and twenty-two to the fourth standard parallel south; thence west along said parallel to the point where the line between ranges twenty-one and twenty-two south of said parallel intersects said parallel, and thence south on said line to the north boundary of the state of Texas.

History: Laws 1889, ch. 87, § 1; C.L. 1897, § 579; Code 1915, § 1064; C.S. 1929, § 33-301; 1941 Comp., § 15-301; 1953 Comp., § 15-3-1.

Cross-references. - As to addition to Chaves county of eastern portions of Lincoln county, see 4-3-3 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Lincoln county, see 4-14-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - This section is also compiled as 4-8-1 NMSA 1978 as it relates to Eddy county.

The boundary lines of Chaves and Eddy counties have been changed since the counties were created. De Baca and Roosevelt counties were created out of northern and eastern portions of Chaves county, and Lea county was created out of the eastern portions of both Chaves and Eddy counties. The western boundaries of these counties were changed by 4-3-3 and 4-8-3 NMSA 1978. The boundary line between Chaves and Eddy counties remains the third standard parallel south as provided in 4-3-2 NMSA 1978.

The present boundary of Chaves county would seem to be as follows: commencing with the northwest corner of township 3 south of range 20 east; thence east [description from 4-6-1 NMSA 1978] on the township line to the northeast corner of township 3 south of range 20 east; thence south on the range line to the southeast corner of township 3

south of range 20 east; thence east on the township line to the southwest corner of township 3 south of range 27 east; thence north on the range line between ranges 26 and 27 east to the northwest corner of township 3 south of range 27 east; thence east on the township line to the northeast corner of township 3 south of range 29 east [description from 4-22-1 NMSA 1978]; thence south on the range line between ranges 29 and 30 east to the southeast corner of township 5 south of range 29 east [description from 4-22-2 NMSA 1978]; thence east on the said township line which is also the first standard parallel south, to the northeast corner of township 6 south of range 31 east; thence south on the range line to the southeast corner of township 7 south of range 31 east; thence east on the township line to the northeast corner of township 8 south of range 33 east; thence south on the range line between ranges 33 and 34 east to the southeast corner of township 8 south of range 33 east; thence west [description from 4-13-1 NMSA 1978] on the township line between townships 8 and 9 south to the northeast corner of township 9 south of range 31 east; thence south between ranges 31 and 32 east to the second standard parallel south; thence west on said standard parallel to the northeast corner of township 11 south of range 31 east; thence south between ranges 31 and 32 east to the third standard parallel south; thence west on the third standard parallel south [description from 4-3-2 NMSA 1978] to the range line between ranges 20 and 21 east, south of the third standard parallel south; thence south [description from 4-8-3 NMSA 1978] on said range line to the fourth standard parallel south; thence west [description from 4-3-3 NMSA 1978] on said standard parallel to the range line between ranges 15 and 16 east; thence north on said range line to the third standard parallel south; thence east on said standard parallel to the range line between ranges 16 and 17 east, north of the third standard parallel south; thence north on said range line to the township line between townships 13 and 14 south; thence east on said township line to the range line between ranges 20 and 21 east; thence north [description from 4-3-1 NMSA 1978] on said range line to the northwest corner of township 12 south of range 21 east; thence east on the township line between townships 11 and 12 south to the southwest corner of township 11 south of range 21 east; thence north on the range line between ranges 20 and 21 east to the second standard parallel south; thence north on the range line between ranges 20 and 21 east to the first standard parallel south; thence west on said standard parallel to the range line between ranges 19 and 20 east, north of the first standard parallel south; thence north on said range line to the point of beginning.

The sections in this article comprised art. 2 of ch. 24 of the 1915 Code. They were not reenacted by the inclusion therein, but were compiled for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

Section 2 of Laws 1889, ch. 87, read: "All that part of Lincoln county on the west side of the line described in the preceding section [compiled as 4-3-1 and 4-8-1 NMSA 1978] shall be and remain in the county of Lincoln."

#### **§ 4-3-2. [Dividing line between Chaves and Eddy.]**

All that part of the territory of Lincoln county east of said line and north of the third standard parallel south shall be and constitute the county of Chaves, and the remaining territory east of said line and south of said third standard parallel south, shall be and constitute the county of Eddy.

History: Laws 1889, ch. 87, § 3; C.L. 1897, § 581; Code 1915, § 1065; C.S. 1929, § 33-302; 1941 Comp., § 15-302; 1953 Comp., § 15-3-2.

Compiler's notes. - This section is also compiled as 4-8-2 NMSA 1978 as it relates to Eddy county.

### **§ 4-3-3. [Addition to Chaves county.]**

The western boundary of the county of Chaves is hereby changed so as to include within said county of Chaves all that portion of Lincoln county, lying south of the line between townships thirteen and fourteen south, of the second standard parallel south on the north, and the fourth standard parallel south on the south, and the range line between ranges fifteen and sixteen east, south of the third standard parallel south and sixteen and seventeen east south of the second standard parallel south on the west and the western boundary line of the county of Eddy on the east.

History: Laws 1899, ch. 3, § 8; Code 1915, § 1066; C.S. 1929, § 33-303; 1941 Comp., § 15-303; 1953 Comp., § 15-3-3.

Cross-references. - As to original boundaries of Lincoln county, see 4-14-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Laws 1899, ch. 3, § 8, as enacted, contained additional provisions relating to the settlement of indebtedness between Chaves and Lincoln counties.

Laws 1899, ch. 3, §§ 1 and 2, related to the creation of Otero county and are compiled as 4-19-1 and 4-19-2 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-3-4. [County seats.]**

The county seat of the county of Chaves shall be in the town of Roswell in said county and the county seat of Eddy shall be in the town of Carlsbad in said county.

History: Laws 1889, ch. 87, § 4; C.L. 1897, § 582; Code 1915, § 1068; C.S. 1929, § 33-305; 1941 Comp., § 15-305; 1953 Comp., § 15-3-4.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.



Compiler's notes. - This section is also compiled as 4-8-4 NMSA 1978 as it relates to Eddy county.

## **Article 3A**

### **Cibola County**

#### **§ 4-3A-1. Cibola county created.**

The county of Cibola is hereby created out of that part of Valencia county lying westerly of the following described line:

begin on the southerly boundary line of Valencia county at its intersection with the line common to ranges 3 and 4 west, N.M.P.M.; then northerly along the line between ranges 3 and 4 west to the intersection with the line common to townships 8 and 9 north; then easterly along the line between townships 8 and 9 north and along the easterly prolongation of this line to its intersection with the westerly boundary line of Bernalillo county, the point of termination.

History: Laws 1981, ch. 24, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to original county boundaries of Valencia County, see 4-32-1 NMSA 1978. For general provisions on creation or change of counties, see 4-33-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 24, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

County entitled to federal "payments in lieu of taxes". - Cibola county, created in 1981 from the western portion of Valencia county, was entitled to a portion of the "payment in lieu of taxes" paid by the federal government to Valencia county to compensate the local governmental unit for loss of tax revenues from certain tax-exempt federal lands ("entitlement lands") located within local governmental boundaries. Board of County Comm'rs v. Board of County Comm'rs, 105 N.M. 44, 728 P.2d 454 (1986).

#### **§ 4-3A-2. County seat.**

The county seat of Cibola county shall be established at the municipality of Grants. The board of county commissioners of Cibola county after their appointment as provided in this act [4-3A-1 to 4-3A-14 NMSA 1978], shall select, designate and acquire a tract of land within that city as a place upon which shall be built the courthouse and public buildings of the county of Cibola.

History: Laws 1981, ch. 24, § 2.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 24, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

### **§ 4-3A-3. Temporary officers.**

The governor shall within ten days after the effective date of this act appoint for the county of Cibola the county officers now provided by law for counties of this state. The officers so appointed shall serve until the election and qualification of their successors who shall be elected at the next succeeding general election.

History: Laws 1981, ch. 24, § 3.

Cross-references. - For general provisions on county officers, see 4-44-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 24, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Compiler's notes. - The phrase "effective date of this act", referred to in this section, means June 19, 1981, the effective date of Laws 1981, ch. 24.

### **§ 4-3A-4. Precincts.**

The precincts now existing in the territory included within the county of Cibola shall remain the same as they are now until changed according to law.

History: Laws 1981, ch. 24, § 4.

Cross-references. - For general provisions on the creation and change in county precincts, see 4-38-21 to 4-38-23 NMSA 1978.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 24, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

### **§ 4-3A-5. Tax records.**

The county assessor of Valencia county, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this act and officers for the new county have been appointed, shall turn over to the

proper officials of Cibola county all tax records, schedules and assessments upon all classes of property that shall have been assessed in and that pertain to the area constituting Cibola county.

History: Laws 1981, ch. 24, § 5.

Cross-references. - For general provisions on county assessor, see 4-39-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 24, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Compiler's notes. - The phrase "effective date of this act", referred to in this section, means June 19, 1981, the effective date of Laws 1981, ch. 24.

### **§ 4-3A-6. Unpaid taxes.**

The county of Cibola is entitled to all unpaid taxes, which remain unpaid at the effective date of this act upon property within the area embraced by the county of Cibola and any funds in the hands of the treasurer of Valencia county at the time this act [4-3A-1 to 4-3A-14 NMSA 1978] becomes effective, or which thereafter come into the treasurer's hands which are properly transferable by the treasurer of Valencia county to the treasurer of Cibola county, shall be transferred in the regular course in the administration of the office upon the demand from such authority to receive same.

History: Laws 1981, ch. 24, § 6.

Cross-references. - As to collection duties of county treasurer, see 4-43-3 NMSA 1978.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 24, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Compiler's notes. - The phrase "effective date of this act", referred to in this section, means June 19, 1981, the effective date of Laws 1981, ch. 24.

### **§ 4-3A-7. Unpaid indebtedness.**

The county of Cibola shall not be required to pay the county of Valencia any portion of any indebtedness incurred by the county of Valencia for public improvements which are made or contracted for after the effective date of this act [4-3A-1 to 4-3A-14 NMSA 1978].

History: Laws 1981, ch. 24, § 7.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 24, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Compiler's notes. - The phrase "effective date of this act", referred to in this section, means June 19, 1981, the effective date of Laws 1981, ch. 24.

### **§ 4-3A-8. Transitional functions.**

The officers of the county of Valencia from which the county of Cibola has been created, shall exercise the functions of their several offices over Cibola county until the officers of the county of Cibola shall take office.

History: Laws 1981, ch. 24, § 8.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 24, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

### **§ 4-3A-9. Judicial matters.**

The county of Cibola shall for judicial purposes be attached to the thirteenth judicial district. Until otherwise provided by law, magistrates for the existing county of Valencia shall be the magistrates for the county of Cibola.

History: Laws 1981, ch. 24, § 9.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 24, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

### **§ 4-3A-10. Classification.**

The county of Cibola, for the purpose of classification and fixing the amounts of salaries of county officers taking office at the organization of the county, shall be classed as a county of the first class having a valuation over \$27,000,000 but less than \$45,000,000; thereafter the county shall be classed as other counties are classed.

History: Laws 1981, ch. 24, § 10.

Cross-references. - For general provisions on classification of counties, see 4-44-1 and 4-44-2 NMSA 1978. For constitutional provision on classification of counties, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 1.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 24, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

### **§ 4-3A-11. Unexpended funds and securities.**

Upon the effective date of this act, the treasurer of Valencia county shall ascertain the amount of unexpended funds and securities in the treasury of Valencia county and shall also ascertain the amount of unpaid obligations and expenses of Valencia county government which will be required to be paid between the effective date of this act and the end of the sixty-ninth fiscal year. The excess of such unexpended funds and securities over such obligations and Valencia county government expenses shall be divided and paid by the treasurer of Valencia county to Cibola and Valencia counties in the proportion that the assessed valuation of all property in each county, as of January 1, 1981 bears to the total assessed valuation of all property in both counties as of January 1, 1981.

History: Laws 1981, ch. 24, § 11.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 24, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Compiler's notes. - The phrase "effective date of this act", referred to in this section, means June 19, 1981, the effective date of Laws 1981, ch. 24.

### **§ 4-3A-12. Voting machines.**

Valencia county, acting by and through its proper officer or officers upon the effective date of this act shall transfer to Cibola county the number of voting machines used in the area segregated into Cibola county in the 1980 general election.

History: Laws 1981, ch. 24, § 12.

Cross-references. - As to care and custody of voting machines by counties, see 1-9-12 NMSA 1978.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 24, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Compiler's notes. - The phrase "effective date of this act", referred to in this section, means June 19, 1981, the effective date of Laws 1981, ch. 24.

### **§ 4-3A-13. Transfer of property.**

Upon the effective date of this act the county of Cibola becomes the owner of all road-working and road-maintaining equipment of every kind and nature, including trucks, pickups and trailers, heretofore assigned to the county commissioner districts lying within the area segregated into Cibola county. In addition, the county of Cibola at such time shall become the owner of all real estate and improvements thereon or appurtenant thereto located within the boundaries of Cibola county, title to which is vested in the county of Valencia. The board of county commissioners of Valencia county shall execute and deliver to the proper officer or officers of Cibola county whatever instruments of transfer are necessary to vest title to all such property in the county of Cibola.

History: Laws 1981, ch. 24, § 13.

Cross-references. - As to property deemed county property, see 4-36-4 NMSA 1978.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 24, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Compiler's notes. - The phrase "effective date of this act", referred to in this section, means June 19, 1981, the effective date of Laws 1981, ch. 24.

### **§ 4-3A-14. Certificates of indebtedness.**

For the purpose of meeting expenses payable out of the general county fund of the county of Cibola, contracted and payable for the seventieth fiscal year, and not otherwise, the county of Cibola may issue certificates of indebtedness of the county of Cibola not to exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000), and tax levies shall be duly made therefor. The certificates of indebtedness shall be issued in a form to be approved by the state board of finance and shall be payable not more than ten years after date of issue. The certificates of indebtedness shall bear interest at a rate not to exceed that permitted by the Public Securities Act [6-14-1 to 6-14-3 NMSA 1978]. The proceeds of the tax levy shall be pledged to the payment of the principal and interest of the certificates when they fall due.

History: Laws 1981, ch. 24, § 14.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Cibola county, see 4-3A-1 NMSA 1978.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 24, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

## **Article 4**

### **Colfax County**

#### **§ 4-4-1. [Original county boundaries.]**

All that part of the territory comprised within the following limits, to wit: to the north and east by the boundaries of the territory of New Mexico; to the south the boundaries of the grant made to Carlos Beaubien and Guadalupe Miranda, and known as the Rayado grant, and on the west the boundaries of the county of Taos, shall form and constitute a new county to be known as, and called, Colfax county.

History: Laws 1868-1869, ch. 24, § 1; C.L. 1884, § 312; C.L. 1897, § 555; Code 1915, § 1069; C.S. 1929, § 33-401; 1941 Comp., § 15-401; 1953 Comp., § 15-4-1.

Cross-references. - As to original boundaries of Taos county, see 4-29-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Colfax county was formed from the northern part of Mora county.

The boundary with Taos county is described in 4-18-2 NMSA 1978 and the compiler's notes under 4-29-1 NMSA 1978.

The north boundary is the state line.

The southern and eastern boundaries may be described as follows: commencing on the eastern boundary of Taos county at the point of its intersection with the township line between townships 23 and 24 north of the base line; thence east [description from 4-4-3 NMSA 1978] on said township line to the northwest corner of township 23 north of range 20 east; thence south on the range line between ranges 19 and 20 east to the center of township 23 north; thence east [description from 4-4-2 NMSA 1978] through the center of township 23 north to the range line between ranges 27 and 28 east; thence north [description from 4-31-1 NMSA 1978] on said range line to the state line.

The sections in this article comprised art. 3 of ch. 24 of the 1915 Code. They were not reenacted by the inclusion therein, but were compiled for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

#### **§ 4-4-2. [Southern boundary.]**

That the boundary line between Mora and Colfax counties be and is hereby established, to wit: starting at a point on the eastern boundary of New Mexico and about fifty-three miles south of the northeast corner of New Mexico, and running west through the center of township twenty-three north from the base line as established by government survey to the western boundary of the counties of Mora and Colfax.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 61, § 1; C.L. 1884, § 282; C.L. 1897, § 537; Code 1915, § 1070; C.S. 1929, § 33-402; 1941 Comp., § 15-402; 1953 Comp., § 15-4-2.

Cross-references. - As to original boundaries of Mora county, see 4-18-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - This boundary west of the range line between ranges 19 and 20 east has been changed by 4-4-3 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-4-3. [Change in part of southern boundary.]**

The north line of township twenty-three north, along ranges fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen and nineteen east, as shown by approved United States surveys, shall be the dividing line between Colfax county on the south, Mora county on the north and the range line between ranges nineteen and twenty east, to a point where said range line at present intersects the boundary line between said counties, from which point said boundary line, as now established by said act, January 13, 1876 [4-4-2 NMSA 1978], shall continue east to the west line of the state of Texas.

History: Laws 1882, ch. 72, § 1; C.L. 1884, § 289; C.L. 1897, § 544; Code 1915, § 1071; C.S. 1929, § 33-403; 1941 Comp., § 15-403; 1953 Comp., § 15-4-3.

Cross-references. - As to original boundaries of Mora county, see 4-18-1 NMSA 1978.

## **Article 5**

### **Curry County**

#### **§ 4-5-1. [County boundaries.]**

That there be and is hereby created a county, to be known [as] and called Curry county, out of that portion of the territory of New Mexico, included in the following boundaries as indicated by the United States survey, to wit: commencing on the Texas-New Mexico boundary line at the point of its intersection with the east and west center line of township one north, projected thence west along said east and west center line of township one north, to the point of its intersection with the range line between ranges thirty and thirty-one east, thence north along the range line between thirty and thirty-one



east to the northwest corner of township five north of range thirty-one east, thence east along the north line of township five north to the point of its intersection with the range line between thirty-two and thirty-three east, thence north along the range line between [between] thirty-two and thirty-three east, to the northwest corner of township six north of range thirty-three east, thence east along the north line of township six north to the point of its intersection with the range line between thirty-three and thirty-four east, thence north along the range line between thirty-three and thirty-four to the northwest corner of township seven north of range thirty-four east, thence [east] along the north line of township seven north to the point of its intersection with the range line of thirty-four and thirty-five east, thence north along the range line between thirty-four and thirty-five east to the northwest corner of township eight north of range thirty-five east, thence east along the north line of township eight north projected to its point of intersection with the Texas-New Mexico boundary line, thence south along the Texas-New Mexico boundary line to the point of beginning.

History: Laws 1909, ch. 6, § 1; Code 1915, § 1072; C.S. 1929, § 33-501; 1941 Comp., § 15-501; 1953 Comp., § 15-5-1.

Compiler's notes. - Curry county was formed from portions of Roosevelt and Quay counties. The boundary description does not take into account a correction in range line between ranges 30 and 31 east on the first standard parallel north. North of this parallel the range line, and therefore the county line, is displaced a distance of about 2 miles to the east.

The bracketed words "as" and "east" were inserted by the compiler as necessary to a clear reading of the section.

This section was compiled in art. 4 of ch. 24 of the 1915 Code. It was not reenacted by its inclusion therein, but was compiled for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

Laws 1909, ch. 6, § 2, provided for a temporary county seat and the selection of a permanent one.

Issuance of bonds without election. - Under Laws 1909, ch. 6, creating Curry county, the issuance of bonds to pay proportion of debts of counties from which created was mandatory, and the bonds authorized for courthouse, for jail and for current expenses, could be issued without submitting issue to voters. 1909-12 Op. Att'y Gen. 133.

## **Article 6**

### **De Baca County**

#### **§ 4-6-1. County boundaries.**

That the county of De Baca is hereby created out of that portion of the state of New

Mexico, lying and being situate within the following metes and bounds, as indicated by the United States survey, viz.: commencing at the northeast corner of township 4 north, range 28 east; thence south on range line between ranges 28 and 29 east to the southeast corner of township 1 north, range 28 east; thence east on base line to the northeast corner of township 1 south, range 28 east; thence south on range line between ranges 28 and 29 east to the southeast corner of township 2 south, range 28 east; thence west on township line to the southwest corner of township 2 south, range 27 east; thence south on range line between ranges 26 and 27 east to the southeast corner of township 3 south, range 26 east; thence west on township line to the southwest corner of township 3 south of range 21 east; thence north on range line to the southwest corner of township 2 south of range 21 east; thence west on township line to the southwest corner of township 2 south of range 20 east to the Lincoln county line; thence north on range line between ranges 19 and 20 east to the northwest corner of township 1 south of range 20 east; thence west [east] on township line to the southwest corner of township 1 north of range 20 east; thence north on range line between ranges 19 and 20 east to the northwest corner of township 4 north of range 20 east; thence east on township line to the southeast corner of township 5 north of range 23 east; thence north on range line to the northwest corner of township 5 north of range 24 east; thence east on township line to the northeast corner of township 5 north, range 24 east; thence north on range line to the northwest corner of township 6 north of range 25 east; thence east on township line to the northeast corner of township 6 north of range 26 east; thence south on range line between ranges 26 and 27 east to the southeast corner of township 5 north of range 26 east; thence east on township line to the place of beginning.

History: Laws 1917, ch. 11, § 1; C.S. 1929, § 33-601; 1941 Comp., § 15-601; 1953 Comp., § 15-6-1.

Compiler's notes. - De Baca county was created from parts of Chaves, Guadalupe, and Roosevelt counties.

The bracketed word "east" was inserted by the compiler to replace the word "west" as necessary to a correct reading of the section.

Liability for indebtedness of counties from which created. - Under Laws 1917, ch. 11, §§ 9 to 11, De Baca county was liable for its prorata share of the total indebtedness of the counties from which it was carved. The apportionment of debts belongs exclusively to the legislature. State ex rel. Perea v. Board of Comm'rs, 25 N.M. 338, 182 P. 865 (1919).

## **Article 7**

### **Dona Ana County**

#### **§ 4-7-1. [Original county boundaries.]**

The boundaries of the county of Dona Ana are as follows: the southern boundary, on the left bank of the Rio del Norte, is the boundary of the state of Texas, and on the right, the dividing line between the Republic of Mexico; on the north, the boundary of the county of Socorro, and on the east and west the boundaries of the territory.

History: Laws 1851-1852, p. 292, § 10; C.L. 1865, ch. 42, § 12; C.L. 1884, § 253; C.L. 1897, § 519; Code 1915, § 1074; C.S. 1929, § 33-701; 1941 Comp., § 15-701; 1953 Comp., § 15-7-1.

Cross-references. - As to addition of territory to county, see 4-7-3 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Socorro county, see 4-28-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Dona Ana county, as created by the above section, constituted the southern portion of the state from east to west. The county has been greatly reduced in size by the creation of new counties.

The present boundaries of Dona Ana county may be as follows: commencing on the south boundary line of the state of New Mexico at the point of its intersection with the range line between ranges 4 and 5 west; thence north [description from 4-16-1 NMSA 1978] on said range line to the fifth standard parallel south; thence west on said standard parallel to the southwest corner of township 25 south of range 4 west; thence north on the range line between ranges 4 and 5 west to the fourth standard parallel south; thence west on said standard parallel to the southwest corner of township 20 south of range 4 west; thence north on the range line between ranges 4 and 5 west to the northwest corner of township 18 south of range 4 west [description from 4-7-3 NMSA 1978 and 4-27-1 NMSA 1978]; thence east on the township line between townships 17 and 18 south to the principal meridian of New Mexico; thence north on the principal meridian to its intersection with a line described [4-7-2 NMSA 1978] as running from a point on the Rio Grande 1 mile south of the dwellinghouse of Tomas Gonzales in a straight line to the corner of the county of Lincoln a few miles north and west of the town of Tularosa (this corner described [4-15-1 NMSA 1978] as being the intersection of a line drawn from north to south from Malpais and a line passing east and west through the head of El Ojo de Tularosa); thence northeasterly on said line to its intersection with the range line between ranges 6 and 7 east; thence south [description from 4-19-1 NMSA 1978] on said range line to the third standard parallel south; thence west on said standard parallel to the northeast corner of township 16 south of range 5 east; thence south on the range line between ranges 5 and 6 east to the New Mexico-Texas state line. The southern boundary of the county is the southern boundary of the state, being, from east to west, the state of Texas, the center line of the Rio Grande as of September 9, 1850, and the Republic of Mexico.

Section 1075, 1915 Code, derived from Laws 1854-1855, p. 20 (C.L. 1865, ch. 20; C.L. 1897, § 533), read: "All that part of the territory of New Mexico that was recently acquired by the Gadsden Treaty, and has been annexed to this territory by an act of Congress, entitled, 'An act designating the southern limits of New Mexico, approved

August 4th, 1854,' shall be and is hereby annexed to the county of Dona Ana, and the district court of said county shall have jurisdiction over the same, until other provisions be provided by law."

The sections in this article were incorporated in article 5, chapter 24 of the 1915 Code. Their inclusion therein did not constitute a reenactment, but they were compiled merely for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

### **§ 4-7-2. [Dividing line between Socorro and Dona Ana counties.]**

The dividing line between the counties of Dona Ana and Socorro, in this territory, is hereby established as follows, to wit: commencing at a point on the Rio Grande one mile south of the dwelling house of Tomas Gonzales, and thence a little southwest to a point one-quarter of a mile to the south of the Ojito del Cuervo, a ranch of the said Tomas Gonzales; thence in a westerly direction to a point one mile west of the Ojo de Berrendo, and running in a northwesterly direction to the ranches respectively known by the name of the Ojo del Berrendo, the Cienega de los Pase/\$71os, Jaraloso, Eucisio, Cienega de los Apaches, Las Perchas and Ojo Caliente, to an equal line with that of the northern line of the county of Grant, so that all the ranches and ojos and ojitos above-mentioned be included in the county of Socorro, and the town and settlement of Hillsboro and Santa Barbara shall be included in the county of Dona Ana; and returning to the Rio Grande at the point of commencement, running thence in a straight line to the corner of the county of Lincoln, a few miles north and west of the town of Tularosa, in the county of Dona Ana.

History: Laws 1880, ch. 42, § 1; C.L. 1884, § 287; C.L. 1897, § 542; Code 1915, § 1078; C.S. 1929, § 33-705; 1941 Comp., § 15-702; 1953 Comp., § 15-7-2.

Cross-references. - As to original boundaries of Lincoln county, see 4-14-1 NMSA 1978. As to change of boundary line between Lincoln and Socorro counties, see 4-14-2 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Socorro county, see 4-28-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The western portion of this boundary line has been changed by 4-27-1 NMSA 1978.

The name "Hillsboro" was so spelled in the original act and in Comp. Laws 1884; but the 1897 Compilation, 1915 Code and 1929 Compilation had it spelled "Hillsborough." See also 4-27-3 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-7-3. [Territory added to Dona Ana county.]**

That all that portion of the territory included within township eighteen south of ranges three and four west, according to the United States survey, shall hereafter be attached to, and constitute a part of the county of Dona Ana in said territory, and, until further

provisions be made as to township lines, shall be a part of that precinct in said county, in which the town of Colorado is situated.

History: Laws 1887, ch. 14, § 1; C.L. 1897, § 573; Code 1915, § 1076; C.S. 1929, § 33-703; 1941 Comp., § 15-703; 1953 Comp., § 15-7-3.

## **Article 8**

### **Eddy County**

#### **§ 4-8-1. [Original county boundaries.]**

That the counties of Chaves and Eddy are hereby created out of all that portion of Lincoln county, lying eastward of a line drawn through said county as follows, to wit: commencing at the northern boundary line of the county of Lincoln on the line between ranges nineteen and twenty east; thence south on said line to the base line; thence south along the range line between ranges nineteen and twenty east to the first standard parallel south; thence east to the point where the range line between ranges twenty and twenty-one east, south of said first standard parallel intersects said parallel; thence south on the line between said ranges twenty and twenty-one to the second standard parallel south; thence south to the southeast corner of township eleven south of range twenty east; thence west to the line between ranges twenty and twenty-one south of the second standard parallel south; thence south to the third standard parallel south along the range line between ranges twenty and twenty-one to intersect the third standard parallel south; thence east along said parallel to where the line from the south side of same between ranges twenty-one and twenty-two intersects said parallel; thence along said range line between ranges twenty-one and twenty-two to the fourth standard parallel south; thence west along said parallel to the point where the line between ranges twenty-one and twenty-two south of said parallel intersects said parallel, and thence south on said line to the north boundary of the state of Texas.

History: Laws 1889, ch. 87, § 1; C.L. 1897, § 579; Code 1915, § 1064; C.S. 1929, § 33-301; 1941 Comp., § 15-301; 1953 Comp., § 15-8-1.

Cross-references. - As to western boundaries of county, see 4-8-3 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Lincoln county, see 4-14-1 NMSA 1978. As to changes in western boundary of Lincoln county, see 4-14-2 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - This section is also compiled as 4-3-1 NMSA 1978 as it relates to Chaves county.

The present western boundary of Eddy county is as described in 4-8-3 NMSA 1978.

The southern boundary is the state of Texas.

The northern and eastern boundaries may be described as follows: commencing at the closing corner of township 16 south, between ranges 20 and 21 east, [description from 4-8-3 NMSA 1978]; on the third standard parallel south, thence east [description from 4-8-2 NMSA 1978] to the northeast corner of township 16 south of range 31 east; thence south [description from 4-13-1 NMSA 1978] between ranges 31 and 32 east to the correction line between townships 20 and 21 south; thence east on said correction line to the northeast corner of township 21 south of range 31 east; thence south between ranges 31 and 32 east to the south boundary of the state of New Mexico.

The sections in this article comprised article 5, chapter 24 of the 1915 Code. They were not reenacted by the inclusion therein, but were compiled for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

Laws 1889, ch. 87, § 2 read: "All that part of Lincoln county on the west side of the line described in the preceding section [compiled as 4-3-1 and 4-8-1 NMSA 1978] shall be and remain in the county of Lincoln."

### **§ 4-8-2. [Dividing line between Chaves and Eddy.]**

All that part of the territory of Lincoln county east of said line and north of the third standard parallel south shall be and constitute the county of Chaves, and the remaining territory east of said line and south of said third standard parallel south, shall be and constitute the county of Eddy.

History: Laws 1889, ch. 87, § 3; C.L. 1897, § 581; Code 1915, § 1065; C.S. 1929, § 33-302; 1941 Comp., § 15-302; 1953 Comp., § 15-8-2.

Cross-references. - As to original boundaries of Lincoln county, see 4-14-1 NMSA 1978. As to changes in western boundary of Lincoln county, see 4-14-2 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - This section is also compiled as 4-3-2 NMSA 1978 as it relates to Chaves county.

For present boundaries of Eddy county, see compiler's notes under 4-8-1 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-8-3. [Western boundary of Eddy county.]**

That the western boundary line of the county of Eddy, in the territory of New Mexico, shall be and the same is hereby established as follows, to wit: commencing at the closing corner to township sixteen south, between ranges twenty and twenty-one east, on the third standard parallel south of the New Mexico principal meridian; thence south between said ranges twenty and twenty-one east, to the fourth standard parallel south; thence west along said parallel to the point where the line between ranges twenty and twenty-one east, south of said parallel, intersects said parallel, and thence south, on the

range line between ranges twenty and twenty-one east, to the south boundary line of the territory of New Mexico.

History: Laws 1895, ch. 11, § 1; C.L. 1897, § 629; Code 1915, § 1067; C.S. 1929, § 33-304; 1941 Comp., § 15-304; 1953 Comp., § 15-8-3.

Compiler's notes. - For present boundaries of Eddy county, see compiler's notes under 4-8-1 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-8-4. [County seats.]**

The county seat of the county of Chaves shall be in the town of Roswell in said county and the county seat of Eddy shall be in the town of Carlsbad in said county.

History: Laws 1889, ch. 87, § 4; C.L. 1897, § 582; Code 1915, § 1068; C.S. 1929, § 33-305; 1941 Comp., § 15-305; 1953 Comp., § 15-8-4.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Compiler's notes. - Laws 1889, ch. 87, § 4, as enacted, provided, in relation to Eddy county, that the county seat of Eddy county "shall be in the town of Eddy in said county" and provided for an election in 1890 at which some other place could be named as the county seat. The change to "the town of Carlsbad" first appeared in the 1915 Code.

This section is also compiled as 4-3-4 NMSA 1978 as it relates to Chaves county.

## **Article 9**

### **Grant County**

#### **§ 4-9-1. [Original county boundaries.]**

All that portion of the territory of New Mexico embraced within the following boundaries, to wit: commencing at the corners of townships twenty and twenty-one south, range seven and eight west, which said corners are about four miles northeasterly from Fort Cummings, in Dona Ana county; thence running northerly in a direct line across the summit of the Sierra Mimbres to a point due west of Ojo del Muerto; thence west to the western boundary of the territory; thence south along said boundary to the southwest corner of the territory; thence following the southern boundary of the territory eastwardly to a point on said southern boundary due south of the place of beginning; thence north to the place of beginning, shall form and constitute a new county to be called Grant county.

History: Laws 1867-1868, ch. 20, § 1; C.L. 1884, § 291; C.L. 1897, § 546; Code 1915, § 1079; C.S. 1929, § 33-801; 1941 Comp., § 15-801; 1953 Comp., § 15-9-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Dona Ana county, see 4-7-1 to 4-7-3 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Grant county, as created by the above section, was formed out of the western part of Dona Ana county. The counties of Luna and Hidalgo were later created out of parts of Grant county.

The present boundaries of Grant county may be described as follows: commencing at the southwest corner of township 19 south of range 7 west [described in 4-27-2 NMSA 1978]; thence west [description from 4-16-1 NMSA 1978] on the township line between townships 19 and 20 south to the northeast corner of township 20 south of range 11 west; thence south on the range line between ranges 10 and 11 west to the fourth standard parallel south; thence west on said standard parallel to the northeast corner of township 21 south of range 14 west; thence south on the range line between ranges 13 and 14 west to the fifth standard parallel south; thence east on said standard parallel to the northeast corner of township 26 south of range 14 west; thence south on the range line between ranges 13 and 14 west to the southeast corner of section 13 in township 28 south of range 14 west; thence following the description given in 4-12-1 NMSA 1978 to the New Mexico-Arizona boundary line. The western boundary is the state line. The north boundary is that described in 4-9-2 NMSA 1978. The northeast boundary is that described in 4-27-2 NMSA 1978.

This section was incorporated in article 6, chapter 24 of the 1915 Code. Its inclusion therein did not constitute a reenactment, for it was only compiled for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

Laws 1927, ch. 185, which attempted to abolish Catron county, and to divide its territory between Grant county and a new county to be called Rio Grande county, the latter including all of Socorro county, was held to violate N.M. Const., art. IV, § 24, since its purpose was to change county lines in a special or local act, and not to create new counties, by *State ex rel. Dow v. Graham*, 33 N.M. 504, 270 P. 897 (1928).

Section 1080, 1915 Code, derived from Laws 1880, ch. 43 (C.L. 1897, § 549), contained an amendment to the above section which read: "The above section 1079 [4-9-1 NMSA 1978] is hereby amended so as to read: commencing at the corners of townships 20 and 21 south, range 7 and 8 west, which said corners are about 4 miles northeasterly from Fort Cummings; thence running due north to a point on the south line of Socorro county, and due south to Mexico: provided, that the town of Hillsborough and the country within a radius of 5 miles of said town shall be in and form a part of Dona Ana county."

#### **§ 4-9-2. [Boundary between Grant and Catron counties.]**



That the boundary line between the counties of Socorro [Catron] and Grant be, and the same is, hereby located, fixed and established as follows: beginning at a point upon the western boundary line of the state of New Mexico where said line is intersected by the line between townships 12 and 13 south of the New Mexico principal base line and running thence eastwardly along the line between said townships 12 and 13 south, to the point where the said line intersects the one hundred and eighth (108th) meridian west of Greenwich.

History: Laws 1917, ch. 57, § 1; C.S. 1929, § 33-803; 1941 Comp., § 15-802; 1953 Comp., § 15-9-2.

Cross-references. - As to boundary between Sierra and Grant counties, see 4-27-2 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Socorro county, see 4-28-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Catron county was formed out of that portion of Socorro county which bounded on Grant county, so the bracketed word "Catron" was inserted by the compiler.

Laws 1917, ch. 57, contained a preamble which declared the most feasible method of establishing the boundary line to be establishment thereof in accordance with the public land survey of the United States.

## **Article 10**

### **Guadalupe County**

#### **§ 4-10-1. [County boundaries.]**

That out of that portion of the territory of New Mexico, which was formerly embraced within the exterior limits of Guadalupe county, except those portions of said Guadalupe county, out of which the counties of Quay and Roosevelt were established and created, and out of a portion of the county of Valencia which lies immediately west of said Guadalupe county, there is hereby created and established the county of Guadalupe, which said county of Guadalupe is described as follows, as indicated by the United States survey, to wit: commencing at the southeast corner of township two north of range twenty-six east; thence north along the range line between ranges twenty-six and twenty-seven east, to the northeast corner of township eleven north of range twenty-six east; thence west along the north line of township eleven north of range twenty-six east, projected, to the northwest corner of township eleven north of range sixteen east; thence south along the range line between ranges fifteen and sixteen east to the southwest corner of township two north of range sixteen east; thence east along the south line of township two north of range sixteen east, projected, to the southeast corner of township two, north of range twenty-six east, to the point or place of beginning.

History: Laws 1903, ch. 69, § 2; 1905, ch. 20, § 1; Code 1915, § 1081; C.S. 1929, § 33-901; 1941 Comp., § 15-901; 1953 Comp., § 15-10-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Quay county, see 4-20-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Roosevelt county, see 4-22-1 and 4-22-2 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Valencia county, see 4-32-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The southeast boundary of Guadalupe county was changed in the creation of De Baca county. The present southeast boundary begins where the south line of township 2 north is intersected by the range line between ranges 19 and 20 east; thence north [description from 4-16-1 NMSA 1978] on said range line to the northeast corner of township 4 north of range 19 east; thence east on the township line between townships 4 and 5 east to the southeast corner of township 5 north of range 23 east; thence north on the range line between ranges 23 and 24 east to the northeast corner of township 5 north of range 23 east; thence east on the township line between townships 5 and 6 north to the southeast corner of township 6 north of range 24 east; thence north on the range line between ranges 24 and 25 east to the northeast corner of township 6 north of range 24 east; thence east on the township line between townships 6 and 7 east to the southeast corner of township 7 north of range 26 east; and thence north on the range line between ranges 26 and 27 east as provided in this section.

Guadalupe county was originally created out of a portion of San Miguel county by Laws 1891, ch. 88, § 1 which read: "All that portion of land of the county of San Miguel, and territory of New Mexico, included within the boundaries hereinafter described shall form and constitute a new county, which county shall be known as the county of Guadalupe, in the territory of New Mexico, to wit: commencing at the southeast corner of township number 2 north, of range number 37 east, on the line between the territory of New Mexico and the state of Texas, and running north on the line between New Mexico and Texas, to the northeast corner of township number 11 north, of range 37 east, thence westerly between townships 11 and 12 north, to the northwest corner of township number 11 north of range 16 east; thence south between ranges 15 and 16 east, to the southeast corner of township 9 north, of range 15 east; thence east between townships 8 and 9 north, to the northeast corner of township number 8 north, of range 18 east; thence south on line between ranges 18 and 19 east, to the southeast corner of township number 5 north, of range 18 east; thence west to the northeast corner of township number 4 north, of range 18 east; thence south between ranges 18 and 19 east, to the northeast corner of township number 1 north, of range 18 east; thence easterly between ranges 1 and 2 north to the southeast corner of township number 2 north, of range 37 east and place of beginning.

"For more particular description to the boundaries of said county of Guadalupe, reference is made to the map herewith annexed, which shall constitute part of this act."

The sections in this article were incorporated in article 7, chapter 24 of the 1915 Code.

Their inclusion therein did not constitute a reenactment, for they were compiled merely for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

## **§ 4-10-2. [County seat.]**

That the county seat of the county of Guadalupe shall be and hereby is established at the town of Santa Rosa in said county.

History: Laws 1903, ch. 69, § 3; 1905, ch. 20, § 1; Code 1915, § 1082; C.S. 1929, § 33-902; 1941 Comp., § 15-902; 1953 Comp., § 15-10-2.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

# **Article 11**

## **Harding County**

### **§ 4-11-1. [County boundaries.]**

That the county of Harding is hereby created out of that portion of the state of New Mexico lying and being situate within the following metes and bounds, to wit:

beginning at a point on the present west boundary of the county of Union, the same being the township corner of townships 22 and 23 north, ranges 27 and 28 east, thence north 2 [3] miles along the range line between ranges 27 and 28 east to the section corner, and point where the present north boundary of Mora county intersects the present west boundary of Union county; thence west along the present north boundary of Mora county to a point where said north boundary intersects the center of the main channel of Red river; thence southerly meandering the center of the main channel of said Red river to a point where the said center of the main channel of Red river intersects the present south boundary of the county of Mora; thence east along the present south boundary of the county of Mora to a point where said line intersects the present west boundary of the county of Union; thence southerly and southeasterly along the present west boundary of Union county and along the northeast boundary of the Pablo Montoya grant to a point where said eastern boundary intersects the north line of the Baca location no. 2; thence east along the north line of the Baca location no. 2 to the northeast corner of said Baca location no. 2; thence south along the east line of the Baca location no. 2 to a point where said line intersects the township line between townships 13 and 14 north being the third standard parallel north [sic]; thence east along said third standard parallel north [township line] to a point where the same intersects the northwesterly boundary line of the right-of-way of the Rock Island railroad; thence northeasterly along the said north line of said right-of-way to a point where said

line intersects the range line between ranges 33 and 34 east; thence north along the range line between ranges 33 and 34 east to a point where said range line intersects the township line between townships 21 and 22 north; thence west along the township line between [townships] 21 and 22 north to its intersection with range line between ranges 29 and 30 east; thence north along the range line between 29 and 30 east to the intersection of said range line with the township line between townships 22 and 23 north; thence west to the intersection of the same with the range line between ranges 27 and 28 east and the point of beginning.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 48, § 1; C.S. 1929, § 33-1001; 1941 Comp., § 15-1001; 1953 Comp., § 15-11-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Mora county, see 4-18-1 to 4-18-3 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Quay county, see 4-20-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of San Miguel county, see 4-25-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Union county, see 4-31-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Since 1941 changes have been made between Harding and Quay counties and Harding and San Miguel counties. Legal descriptions of the changes are available in district court files of the respective counties.

Harding county was created out of Mora and Union counties. The northeast boundary of Mora county [southeast boundary of Colfax county] follows the center of township 23 north [4-4-2 NMSA 1978]. The line from the corner common to townships 22 and 23 north and ranges 27 and 28 east must, therefore, extend north 3 rather than 2 miles to intersect this line. This correction was indicated by the compiler of the 1941 Code by inserting in brackets the correct number. There are 2 east-west adjustments in the range line between ranges 33 and 34 east along the east side of the county which are not described in this section. These occur on the fourth and fifth standard parallels north, the amounts of displacement in each case being small. The township line between townships 13 and 14 north is not the third standard parallel north. This correction was also indicated by the compiler of the 1941 Code by placing the incorrect portion in parentheses and by inserting in brackets the words "township line" necessary for a correct reading of the section.

Legislative intention. - It was the intention of the legislature that Harding county was to function from June 20, 1921, that it was authorized to make special tax levies, and to anticipate their collection by issuing certificates of indebtedness not to exceed \$30,000, payable in five years and that the proceeds of the levies were to be used exclusively to pay such indebtedness. *State v. Southern Pac. Co.*, 34 N.M. 306, 281 P. 29 (1929).

## **§ 4-11-2. [County seat; buildings.]**

The county seat of the county of Harding is hereby established at the town of Mosquero and the board of county commissioners of said county after their appointment as

provided in this act shall select and designate a plat of the ground within said town as the place upon which shall be built the courthouse and public buildings of said county of Harding.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 48, § 2; C.S. 1929, § 33-1002; 1941 Comp., § 15-1002; 1953 Comp., § 15-11-2.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Compiler's notes. - Laws 1921, ch. 48, §§ 3 to 13 contained temporary provisions relating to the officers, indebtedness and finances of the new county.

### **§ 4-11-3. [Bonds for courthouse and jail.]**

The county of Harding may issue bonds for courthouse and jail purposes to an amount not exceeding twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) dollars, which bonds shall be issued in the manner as provided by the constitution and the laws of the state of New Mexico, payable absolutely thirty years from their date, and, at the option of the county, twenty years from their date.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 48, § 18; C.S. 1929, § 33-1018; 1941 Comp., § 15-1004; 1953 Comp., § 15-11-4.

Cross-references. - As to bonds for courthouses, jails, bridges, hospitals and libraries, see 4-49-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to state, county and municipal indebtedness, see N.M. Const., art. IX, § 1 et seq.

Compiler's notes. - Laws 1921, ch. 48, §§ 19 and 20 provided for the creation of a county high school. Such provision was held unconstitutional in *State ex rel. Board of Educ. v. Saint*, 28 N.M. 165, 210 P. 573 (1922).

Constitutionality. - This section of the act is not a violation of N.M. Const., art. IV, § 24, prohibiting special legislation. *Martinez v. Gallegos*, 28 N.M. 170, 210 P. 575 (1922).

Issuance of bonds without election. - This section authorizes the county created to issue bonds for courthouse and jail purposes without submission to a vote of the people as required by N.M. Const., art. IX, § 10. *Martinez v. Gallegos*, 28 N.M. 170, 210 P. 575 (1922).

Parties bound by judgment in suit relating to bonds. - Where suit was brought to determine rights under this section by a qualified citizen in behalf of himself and others similarly situated, all such other citizens were parties by representation and were bound by the judgment as to matters litigated or which might have been litigated, the same as

actual parties to the record, regardless of whether they had actual notice of the pendency of the suit. *Floersheim v. Board of Comm'rs*, 28 N.M. 330, 212 P. 451 (1922).

Action to enjoin issuance of bonds barred by former adjudication. - Where the allegations of a complaint to enjoin the issue of certain bonds did not state a new or different cause of action from those pleaded in a former adjudication of the same matter, in which all interested parties were joined by representation, the suit was barred by former adjudication. *Floersheim v. Board of Comm'rs*, 28 N.M. 330, 212 P. 451 (1922).

## **Article 12**

### **Hidalgo County**

#### **§ 4-12-1. [County boundaries.]**

That the county of Hidalgo is hereby created out of that portion of the state of New Mexico, lying and situate within the following boundaries:

beginning at the northeast (NE) corner of section 24 in township 28 south of range 14 west of the New Mexico principal meridian, and running thence westwardly along the northerly boundary lines of sections 24, 23, 22, 21, 20 and 19 of said township 28 south of range 14 west, and along the northerly boundary lines of sections 24, 23, 22, 21, 20 and 19 of township 28 south of range 15 west, and along the northerly boundary lines of sections 24, 23, 22, 21, 20 and 19 of township 28 south of range 16 west to the southwest (SW) corner of section 18 of township 28 south of range 16 west; thence northwardly upon the line between ranges 16 west and 17 west to the fifth standard parallel south and thence along the said fifth standard parallel south to the point where the line between ranges 16 and 17 west, north of said fifth standard parallel south intersects the same and thence northwardly along said line between ranges 16 west and 17 west to the northeast (NE) corner of township 21 south of range 17 west; thence westwardly along the line between townships 20 south and 21 south to the southwest (SW) corner of township 20 south of range 17 west, thence northwardly along the line between ranges 17 west and 18 west to the northeast (NE) corner of township 20 south of range 18 west; thence westwardly along the line between townships 19 south and 20 south to the southwest (SW) corner of township 19 south of range 19 west; thence northwardly along the line between ranges 19 west and 20 west to the northeast (NE) corner of township 18 south of range 20 west; thence westwardly along the line between townships 17 south and 18 south to the point where the same intersects the boundary line between the states of New Mexico and Arizona; thence southwardly along said boundary line between the states of New Mexico and Arizona to the point where the same intersects the boundary line between the United States of America and the Republic of Mexico; thence eastwardly along said boundary line between the United States of America and the Republic of Mexico to the point where the same turns northwardly in township 34 south of range 14 west of the New Mexico principal

meridian; thence northwardly along said boundary line between the United States of America and the Republic of Mexico to the point where the same turns eastwardly in township 29 south of range 14 [13] west of the New Mexico principal meridian; thence [west] upon a straight line to the southwest (SW) corner of the county of Luna, and thence northwardly along the westerly boundary line of said county of Luna to the point of beginning.

History: Laws 1919, ch. 11, § 1; C.S. 1929, § 33-1101; 1941 Comp., § 15-1101; 1953 Comp., § 15-12-1.

Cross-references. - As to original boundaries of Grant county, see 4-9-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Luna county, see 4-16-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Hidalgo county was created out of the southern portion of Grant county.

The bracketed "13" and "west" were inserted by the compiler as necessary for a correct description of the boundary.

#### **§ 4-12-2. [County seat; buildings.]**

The county seat of the said county of Hidalgo shall be established at the village of Lordsburg in said county and the board of county commissioners of said county shall select and designate suitable and convenient places in said village for the sites for the erection of the courthouse, jail and other public buildings of said county.

History: Laws 1919, ch. 11, § 2; C.S. 1929, § 33-1102; 1941 Comp., § 15-1102; 1953 Comp., § 15-12-2.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Compiler's notes. - Laws 1919, ch. 11, §§ 3 to 14 contained temporary provisions relating to officers, indebtedness and finances of the new county.

## **Article 13**

### **Lea County**

#### **§ 4-13-1. [County boundaries.]**

That the county of Lea is hereby created out of that portion of the state of New Mexico lying and being situate within the following metes and bounds, as indicated by the

United States survey, viz.: at the southeast corner of the state of New Mexico, thence north on the line between the state of New Mexico and the state of Texas, in [to] the northeast corner of township nine (9) south of range thirty-eight (38) east; thence west on the line between townships eight (8) and nine (9) south to the northwest corner of township nine (9) south of range thirty-two (32) east; thence south between ranges thirty-one (31) and thirty-two (32) east of [to] the correction line between townships ten (10) and eleven (11) south; thence west on said correction line to the northwest corner of township eleven (11) south of range thirty-two (32) east; thence south, between ranges thirty-one [31] and thirty-two (32) east, to the correction line between townships fifteen (15) and sixteen (16) south; thence west, on said correction line to the northwest corner of township sixteen (16) south of range thirty-two [32] east; thence south, between ranges thirty-one (31) and thirty-two (32) east to the correction line between townships twenty (20) and twenty-one (21) south; thence east on said correction line to the northwest corner of township twenty-one (21) south of range thirty-two (32) east; thence south between ranges thirty-one [31] and thirty-two (32) east to the south boundary of the state of New Mexico; thence east, on said south boundary to the point of beginning.

History: Laws 1917, ch. 23, § 1; C.S. 1929, § 33-1201; 1941 Comp., § 15-1201; 1953 Comp., § 15-13-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Chaves county, see 4-3-1 to 4-3-3 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Eddy county, see 4-8-1 to 4-8-3 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Lea county was created from the eastern portions of Chaves and Eddy counties.

The bracketed word "to" was inserted in two instances by the compiler.

Title to lands falling in newly created county. - Where an existing county out of which a new county was carved held tax sale certificates constituting complete legal title to lands falling in new county, title did not pass to the new county. *Anderson v. Clardy*, 35 N.M. 440, 1 P.2d 120 (1931).

## **§ 4-13-2. [County seat; buildings.]**

The county seat of the said county of Lea shall be established at the town of Lovington, in said county; and the board of county commissioners of said county, to be appointed as hereinafter provided, shall select and designate the plat of ground known as the public square in said town, being described on the recorded plat of said town of Lovington as block ten (10) thereof, as the place in said town upon which shall be built the courthouse and public buildings of the said county of Lea.

History: Laws 1917, ch. 23, § 2; C.S. 1929, § 33-1202; 1941 Comp., § 15-1202; 1953 Comp., § 15-13-2.



Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Compiler's notes. - Laws 1917, ch. 23, §§ 3 to 13 contained temporary provisions relating to the officers, indebtedness and finances of the new county.

### **§ 4-13-3. [Courthouse and jail bonds.]**

The county of Lea may issue bonds for courthouse and jail purposes to an amount not exceeding thirty thousand dollars [(\$30,000)], which bonds shall be issued in the manner as provided by the constitution of New Mexico, payable absolutely thirty years from their date and at the option of said county, twenty years from their date.

History: Laws 1917, ch. 23, § 17; C.S. 1929, § 33-1217; 1941 Comp., § 15-1204; 1953 Comp., § 15-13-4.

Cross-references. - As to bonds for courthouses, jails, bridges, hospitals and libraries, see 4-49-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to state, county and municipal indebtedness, see N.M. Const., art. IX, § 1 et seq.

Compiler's notes. - This section may be inoperative. See *State ex rel. Perea v. Board of Comm'rs*, 25 N.M. 338, 182 P. 865 (1919), which held that a similar provision applying to De Baca county was inoperative because it provided that the bonds might be issued in accordance with the constitution, but did not state that they could be issued in accordance with the laws of the state.

## **Article 14**

### **Lincoln County**

#### **§ 4-14-1. [Original county boundaries.]**

All that part of the county of Socorro situated to the eastward of a direct line drawn from north to south, from Malpais, and to be the western line of the new county, is hereby constituted and established, a new county which shall have the name of, and be called the county of Lincoln; the line of the north of said county shall be the dividing line of the county of Valencia; from thence drawing a line eastward without interfering with the boundaries of the county of San Miguel; and on the south a line passing east and west through the head of El Ojo de Tularosa; and this shall be the fixed boundary between the counties of Dona Ana and Lincoln.

History: Laws 1868-1869, ch. 8, § 1; C.L. 1884, § 303; C.L. 1897, § 550; Code 1915, § 1083; C.S. 1929, § 33-1301; 1941 Comp., § 15-1301; 1953 Comp., § 15-14-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Dona Ana county, see 4-7-1 to 4-7-3 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of San Miguel county, see 4-25-1 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Socorro county, see 4-28-1 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Valencia county, see 4-32-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Lincoln county was originally created out of the eastern portion of Socorro county. An addition was made to it by taking the eastern part of Dona Ana county by Laws 1878, ch. 34 (C.L. 1897, § 538; Code 1915, § 1077), which read: "The dividing line between the counties of Dona Ana and Lincoln shall be as follows, to wit: following the line which separates said counties from east to west, as now established by law, up to the intersection of parallel 28 degrees 30 minutes west of Washington; thence following said parallel of 28 degrees 30 minutes southwardly to the intersection of the line which separates said county of Dona Ana and the state of Texas, and all that part of the territory to the east of said parallel 28 degrees 30 minutes heretofore pertaining to said county of Dona Ana, be and the same hereby is annexed to and shall form a part of the county of Lincoln."

The area of Lincoln county has since been greatly reduced by the creation of new counties.

The present boundaries may be described as follows: commencing at the northeast corner of township 1 north of range 19 east; thence south [description from 4-3-1 NMSA 1978] on the range line between ranges 19 and 20 east to the base line; thence south on the range line between ranges 19 and 20 east to the first standard parallel south; thence east on said standard parallel to the northeast corner of township 6 south of range 20 east; thence south on the range line between ranges 20 and 21 east to the second standard parallel south; thence south on said range line to the southeast corner of township 11 south of range 20 east; thence west on the township line between townships 11 and 12 south to the northeast corner of township 12 south of range 20 east; thence south on the range line between ranges 20 and 21 east to the southeast corner of township 13 south of range 20 east; thence west [description from 4-3-3 NMSA 1978] on the township line between townships 13 and 14 south to the southwest corner of township 13 south of range 17 east; thence north [description from 4-19-1 NMSA 1978] on the range line between ranges 16 and 17 east to the township line between townships 11 and 12 south; thence west on said township line to the southwest corner of township 11 south of range 13 east; thence north on the range line between ranges 12 and 13 east to the second standard parallel south; thence west on said standard parallel to the southwest corner of township 10 south of range 6 east; thence north [description from 4-14-2 NMSA 1978] on the range line between ranges 5 and 6 east to the northwest corner of township 8 south of range 6 east; thence east on the township line between townships 7 and 8 south to the northeast corner of township 8 south of range 8 east; thence north [description from 4-14-1 NMSA 1978, redefined indirectly in 4-14-2 NMSA 1978] on the range line between ranges 8 and 9 east to the first standard parallel south; thence east [description from 4-14-2 NMSA 1978] on said standard parallel to the southwest corner of section 32 in township 5 south of range 10 east; thence north on the section line to the northwest corner of section 5 in township 1

south of range 10 east, on the New Mexico base line; thence east [description from 4-30-1 NMSA 1978] on the base line to the range line between ranges 15 and 16 east; thence north on said range line to the northwest corner of township 1 north of range 16 east; thence east [description from 4-10-1 NMSA 1978] on the township line between townships 1 and 2 north to the point of beginning.

The sections of this article were incorporated in article 8, chapter 24 of the 1915 Code. They were not reenacted by their inclusion therein, but were compiled merely for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

## **§ 4-14-2. [Changes in western boundary.]**

That townships eight (8), nine (9) and ten (10) south of the base line in ranges six (6), seven (7) and eight (8) east of the New Mexico principal meridian be and the same are hereby attached to and shall hereafter constitute a part of Lincoln county: provided, that the line between Socorro and Lincoln counties shall be changed so as to run as follows:

beginning at a point where the present westerly county line between Socorro and Lincoln counties intersects the first standard parallel south, thence running east along said first standard parallel to the southeast corner of section thirty-one (31) in township five (5) south of range ten (10) east; thence north along the section line to the base line, and the same shall constitute the line between said Socorro and Lincoln counties north of said first standard parallel.

History: Laws 1909, ch. 112, § 1; Code 1915, § 1084; C.S. 1929, § 33-1302; 1941 Comp., § 15-1302; 1953 Comp., § 15-14-2.

Cross-references. - As to original boundaries of Lincoln county, see 4-14-1 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Socorro county, see 4-28-1 NMSA 1978.

Disposition of money received by county from bonds of another county. - Money received by a county from bonds of another county must go into the county general fund, under the control of the board of county commissioners. The former act (Laws 1909, ch. 78), requiring that such funds should be used to pay outstanding bonds of the county, has been annulled by congress. 1912-13 Op. Att'y Gen. 27.

## **Article 15**

### **Los Alamos County**

#### **§ 4-15-1. [Los Alamos county; boundaries.]**

That the county of Los Alamos is hereby created out of those portions of Sandoval and

Santa Fe counties lying and situate within the following boundaries, to wit:

beginning at NE corner of the SE

1/4 of section 13, township 20 north, range 6 east of the New Mexico principal meridian, which point is on the county line between Sandoval county and Santa Fe county, state of New Mexico; thence in a westerly direction along the northern boundary of the S

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-1351, enacted by Laws 1949, ch. 134, § 1; 1953 Comp., § 15-15-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Sandoval county, see 4-23-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Santa Fe county, see 4-26-1 and 4-26-2 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-15-2. [Designation of county seat.]**

That the county seat of said Los Alamos county shall be established at the community of Los Alamos therein.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-1352, enacted by Laws 1949, ch. 134, § 2; 1953 Comp., § 15-15-2.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

## **Article 16**

### **Luna County**

#### **§ 4-16-1. [County boundaries.]**

That a county, which shall be known as Luna county, is hereby created out of that portion of the territory of New Mexico included within the following boundaries, as indicated by United States survey, to wit: commencing at the northwest corner of township twenty-one south, range thirteen west of the New Mexico principal base and meridian; thence east along the north boundary line of township twenty-one south, to the southwest corner of township twenty south, range ten west; thence north along the west boundary line of range ten west to the northwest corner of township twenty south, range ten west; thence east along the north boundary line of township twenty south, to the northeast corner of township twenty south, range five west; thence south along the east boundary line of range five west to the international boundary line of the United States and the Republic of Mexico; thence west along said international boundary line, to the range line between ranges thirteen and fourteen west; thence north on said range

line between ranges thirteen and fourteen west, to the northwest corner of township twenty-one south, range thirteen west, the place of beginning.

History: Laws 1901, ch. 38, § 1; Code 1915, § 1085; C.S. 1929, § 33-1401; 1941 Comp., § 15-1401; 1953 Comp., § 15-16-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Dona Ana county, see 4-7-1 to 4-7-3 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Grant county, see 4-9-1 and 4-9-2 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Luna county was formed from parts of Grant and Dona Ana counties. There are two appreciable east-west adjustments on the west boundary of Luna county which are not detailed in this description. These occur on the 5th and 6th standard correction lines south.

The sections of this article were incorporated in article 9, chapter 24 of the 1915 Code. They were not reenacted by their inclusion therein, but were compiled merely for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

### **§ 4-16-2. [County seat.]**

That the county seat of said county of Luna shall be established at the town of Deming in said county.

History: Laws 1901, ch. 38, § 2; Code 1915, § 1086; C.S. 1929, § 33-1402; 1941 Comp., § 15-1402; 1953 Comp., § 15-16-2.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

## **Article 17**

### **McKinley County**

#### **§ 4-17-1. [County boundaries.]**

The present boundaries of McKinley county, as established by Chapter 19 of the Session Laws of 1899, are hereby enlarged and extended by adding thereto the following territory from the counties of Bernalillo and Valencia, viz.: beginning at the point where the second standard parallel north intersects the boundary line between the territories of Arizona and New Mexico; thence north on said line to the point where the fifth standard parallel north, if projected westward across the Navajo Indian reservation, would intersect the boundary line between New Mexico and Arizona; thence east along the line of said fifth standard parallel north, to the northeast corner of township number

twenty north, range number five west of the New Mexico principal meridian; thence south along the line between ranges numbers four and five west of the New Mexico principal meridian, to the point where it intersects the third standard parallel north; thence west along said third standard parallel north, to the southeast corner of township number thirteen north, range number eight west of the New Mexico principal meridian; thence north along the line between ranges numbers seven and eight west of the New Mexico principal meridian, to the corner of sections thirteen, eighteen, nineteen and twenty-four, township number thirteen north, ranges numbers seven and eight west of the New Mexico principal meridian; thence west along the line between sections thirteen and twenty-four, fourteen and twenty-three, fifteen and twenty-two, sixteen and twenty-one, seventeen and twenty and eighteen and nineteen, township number thirteen north, range number eight west, to the point where it intersects the first guide meridian west; thence south along the line of said first guide meridian west, to the point where it intersects the third standard parallel north; thence west on said third standard parallel north, to the northeast corner of township twelve north, range sixteen west of the New Mexico principal meridian; thence south along the line between ranges fifteen and sixteen west, to the point where it intersects the second standard parallel north; thence west along said second standard parallel north, to the point of beginning.

History: Laws 1901, ch. 39, § 1; Code 1915, § 1089; C.S. 1929, § 33-1503; 1941 Comp., § 15-1501; 1953 Comp., § 15-17-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Bernalillo county, see 4-1-1 and 4-1-2 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Valencia county, see 4-32-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - McKinley county was originally created out of the western portion of Bernalillo county. The original boundaries, as created by Laws 1899, ch. 19, § 1, were as follows: "There is created out of a part of the county of Bernalillo in the territory of New Mexico, a new county to be known and called McKinley county which shall embrace all that portion of the county of Bernalillo lying within the following boundaries, viz: on the north the south boundary line of the county of San Juan; on the east commencing at a point where the said south boundary line of the county of San Juan intersects the range line between ranges 8 and 9 west of the New Mexico principal meridian.

"Thence south between ranges 8 and 9 west of the southeast corner of township 14 north of range 9 west.

"Thence west along the line between townships 13 and 14 north of ranges 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21, W. to the intersection of said line with the west boundary line of the territory of New Mexico.

"Thence north along the said boundary line between the territories of New Mexico and Arizona to the point of beginning.

"All the territory contained south of the south township line of township 14 north, ranges

9 W., etc., to the west boundary line of the territory of New Mexico is hereby declared to be within and be a portion of the county of Valencia."

The sections of this article were incorporated in article 10, chapter 24 of the 1915 Code. They were not reenacted by their inclusion therein, but were compiled merely for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

Liability for payment of salary of offices where county formed from portion of another. - An account for unpaid salary of a district attorney, which was void under the Bateman Act, was revived by Laws 1901, ch. 39, § 2, which made the county liable for the payment of such accounts, and in case of one county being formed out of a portion of another, the court or county commissioners of the original county should ascertain such indebtedness which should be paid by each county proportionally as ascertained by a special commission consisting of the treasurer, auditor and solicitor general. *Johnston v. Board of County Comm'rs*, 12 N.M. 237, 78 P. 43 (1904).

### **§ 4-17-2. [County seat.]**

The county seat of the county of McKinley shall be and the same is hereby located in the town of Gallup in said county.

History: Laws 1899, ch. 19, § 2; Code 1915, § 1088; C.S. 1929, § 33-1502; 1941 Comp., § 15-1502; 1953 Comp., § 15-17-2.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

## **Article 18**

### **Mora County**

#### **§ 4-18-1. [Original county boundaries.]**

All that portion of the territory embraced within the following boundaries, to wit: on the north and east by the limits of the territory of New Mexico; on the south by the northern limits of the county of San Miguel; and on the west by the tops of the ridge of mountains which divide the valley of Taos from Mora and Rayado, shall form and constitute a new county, to be known [as] and called the county of Mora.

History: Laws 1859-1860, p. 76, § 9; C.L. 1865, ch. 42, § 18; C.L. 1884, § 258; C.L. 1897, § 524; Code 1915, § 1090; C.S. 1929, § 33-1601; 1941 Comp., § 15-1601; 1953 Comp., § 15-18-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of San Miguel county, see 4-25-1 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Taos county, see 4-29-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Mora county was originally created out of the eastern portion of Taos county and comprised the northeastern part of the state. Colfax, Harding and Union counties were later created from this territory.

The present boundaries of Mora county may be described as follows: commencing at a point on the range line between ranges 11 and 12 east where it intersects the top of the mountain of Nambe; thence easterly and northerly [description from 4-21-1 NMSA 1978] along the summit of the mountains to the southern boundary of Taos county; thence continuing along the summit [description from 4-18-1 and 4-18-2 NMSA 1978], which divides the valley of Taos from the valley of Mora, to its intersection with the township line between townships 23 and 24 north; thence east [description from 4-4-3 NMSA 1978] on said township line to the northeast corner of township 23 north of range 19 east; thence south on range line between ranges 19 and 20 east to the center of township 23 north; thence east [description from 4-4-2 NMSA 1978] through the center of township 23 north to the point where it intersects the center of the main channel of Red [Canadian] river; thence southerly [description from 4-11-1 NMSA 1978] meandering the center of the main channel of Red river to a point where it intersects the north boundary of San Miguel county; thence due west [description from 4-18-3 NMSA 1978] to the Pinos Altos (on the center line of township 18 north); thence on a direct line west or westerly to the old government bridge or crossing over the El Sapellocito [Sapello]; thence following up the Sapello river to its junction with the Arroyo de la Jara; thence following up the current of the Arroyo de la Jara to its fall and source; thence northwesterly to a point 500 yards north of the house of Leandro Sanchez at Pena Blanca [Penasco Blanco]; thence due west to the range line between ranges 11 and 12 east on the east boundary of Santa Fe county; thence north [description from 4-26-1 NMSA 1978] on said range to the point of beginning. [The description of the westerly boundary of the county does not follow exactly the description in 4-18-2 NMSA 1978 but is apparently the accepted boundary with Taos county.]

#### **§ 4-18-2. [Northwest boundary with Taos county.]**

The boundaries dividing the counties of Taos and Mora shall hereafter be as follows, that is to say: west of the valley of Mora, a line running north, commencing at the first hill west of the said valley of Mora, and east of the Jicarita, crossing the Vega del Estillero opposite Canada del Raton, passing through the said canada till it reaches the foot of the Osha hill on the western base thereof; thence continuing north along the eastern base of said range, along the eastern side of the head of the Rio Colorado which runs into the Rio Grande in the county of Taos, and thence in a northeast direction to the limits of the territory of New Mexico and the territory of Colorado.

History: Laws 1867-1868, ch. 24, § 1; C.L. 1884, § 268; C.L. 1897, § 529; Code 1915, § 1091; C.S. 1929, § 33-1602; 1941 Comp., § 15-1602; 1953 Comp., § 15-18-2.



Cross-references. - As to original boundaries of Taos county, see 4-29-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - This line is also the dividing line between Taos and Colfax counties.

### **§ 4-18-3. [Southern boundary.]**

The dividing line to be known as the dividing line of the counties of Mora and San Miguel, shall be as follows: taking as a fixed point five hundred yards north of the house of Leandro Sanchez, at Pena Blanca, in the county of San Miguel; thence running a line directly to the west to the eastern boundary line of the county of Santa Fe; thence running from said point five hundred yards north of the house of Leandro Sanchez on a line directly east to the fall and source of the Arroyo de la Jara; thence following the current of the Arroyo de la Jara to its junction with the Sapello river; thence following down the Sapello river to the old government bridge or crossing over the El Sapellocito; thence running on a direct line east, or as nearly as may be, to the Pinos Altos, leaving all settlements on both sides of the Mora river, and within the valley of said river, in the county of Mora; thence from Pinos Altos in a direct line to the east to the limits of the territory of New Mexico.

History: Laws 1882, ch. 86, § 1; C.L. 1884, § 290; Laws 1889, ch. 37, § 1; C.L. 1897, § 576; Code 1915, § 1092; C.S. 1929, § 33-1603; 1941 Comp., § 15-1603; 1953 Comp., § 15-18-3.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Harding county, see 4-11-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of San Miguel county, see 4-25-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Santa Fe county, see 4-26-1 and 4-26-2 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The eastern part of this line was changed by the creation of Harding county.

### **§ 4-18-4. [County seat; courts.]**

The county seat of said county shall be at the plaza of Santa Gertrudes de Mora, and the district and probate courts shall be held at the said county seat at such times and places as may be fixed by law.

History: Laws 1859-1860, p. 76; C.L. 1865, ch. 42, § 19; C.L. 1884, § 259; C.L. 1897, § 525; Code 1915, § 1093; C.S. 1929, § 33-1604; 1941 Comp., § 15-1604; 1953 Comp., § 15-18-4.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

# Article 19

## Otero County

### § 4-19-1. [County boundaries.]

That there be and hereby is created out of a part of the counties of Dona Ana, Socorro and Lincoln a new county to be known [as] and called Otero county, which shall embrace all that portion of said counties of Dona Ana, Socorro and Lincoln lying within the following boundaries, viz.: beginning at a point on the boundary line between the territory of New Mexico and the state of Texas where the range line between ranges five and six east of New Mexico principal meridian, projected south, would intersect said boundary line; thence running north on said range line to the third standard parallel south; thence east along the third standard parallel south to the range line between ranges six and seven east; thence north along said range line between ranges six and seven east to the second standard parallel south; thence east along said second standard parallel south to where the same intersects the range line between ranges twelve and thirteen east; thence south along said range line between ranges twelve and thirteen east to the township lying [line] between townships eleven and twelve south; thence east along said township line between said townships eleven and twelve to the intersection of the range line between ranges sixteen and seventeen east; thence south along said range line between ranges sixteen and seventeen east, to the intersection of the same with the third standard parallel south; thence west along said third standard parallel south to the intersection of the range line between ranges fifteen and sixteen east, south of the third standard parallel south; thence south along said range line between ranges fifteen and sixteen east to the fourth standard parallel south; thence east along the fourth standard parallel south to the western boundary of Eddy county; thence south along said western boundary of Eddy county to the boundary line between the territory of New Mexico and the state of Texas; thence west along said boundary line between said territory and state to the place of beginning.

History: Laws 1899, ch. 3, § 1; Code 1915, § 1094; C.S. 1929, § 33-1701; 1941 Comp., § 15-1701; 1953 Comp., § 15-19-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Dona Ana county, see 4-7-1 to 4-7-3 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Eddy county, see 4-8-1 to 4-8-3 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Lincoln county, see 4-14-1 and 4-14-2 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Socorro county, see 4-28-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The bracketed word "line" was inserted by the compiler.

### § 4-19-2. [County seat.]

That the county seat of said county so created is hereby fixed and established at the town of Alamogordo therein.

History: Laws 1899, ch. 3, § 2; Code 1915, § 1095; C.S. 1929, § 33-1702; 1941 Comp., § 15-1702; 1953 Comp., § 15-19-2.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

## **Article 20**

### **Quay County**

#### **§ 4-20-1. [County boundaries.]**

That the present county of Quay is hereby abolished and there is hereby created the county of Washington, which said county of Washington shall be described and its boundaries shall be as follows, to wit:

beginning at a point on the boundary line between the states of New Mexico and Texas, the same being the northeast corner of township seventeen (17) north, range thirty-seven (37) east, fractional, N. M. P. M., and running thence west on the township line between townships seventeen (17) and eighteen (18) north to the northwest corner of township seventeen (17) north, range thirty-four (34) east; thence south on the range line between ranges thirty-three (33) and thirty-four (34) east, to a point where the same intersects the northwesterly right-of-way boundary line of the Rock Island railroad; thence southwesterly along said northwesterly right-of-way boundary line of the Rock Island railroad to a point where said line intersects the township line between townships thirteen (13) and fourteen (14) north; thence west on the township line between townships thirteen (13) and fourteen (14) north, to a point where the same intersects the east boundary line of the Baca location no. 2; thence south on the east boundary of the said Baca location no. 2 to the southeast corner of said Baca location no. 2; thence west on the south boundary of the Baca location no. 2 to the southwest corner of the same; thence north on the west boundary of said Baca location no. 2 to a point where the same intersects the southeast boundary line of the Pablo Montoya grant; thence southwesterly along the southeast boundary line of the Pablo Montoya grant to a point where the same intersects the range line between ranges twenty-six (26) and twenty-seven (27) east; thence south on the range line between ranges twenty-six (26) and twenty-seven (27) east to the southwest corner of township five (5) north, range twenty-seven (27) east; thence east on the township line between townships four (4) and five (5) north, to the southeast corner of township five (5) north, range thirty (30) east; thence north on the range line between ranges thirty (30) and thirty-one (31) east to the northeast corner of township five (5) north, range thirty (30) east; thence east on the township line between townships five (5) and six (6) north, to the southeast corner of

township six (6) north, range thirty-two (32) east; thence north on the range line between ranges thirty-two (32) and thirty-three (33) east to the southeast corner of township seven (7) north, range thirty-two (32) east; thence east on the township line between townships six (6) and seven (7) north, to the southeast corner of township seven (7) north, range thirty-three (33) east; thence north on the range line between ranges thirty-three (33) and thirty-four (34) east, to the southeast corner of township eight (8) north, range thirty-three (33) east; thence east on the township line between townships seven (7) and eight (8) north, to the southeast corner of township eight (8) north, range thirty-four (34) east; thence north on the range line between ranges thirty-four (34) and thirty-five (35) east to the southeast [northeast] corner of township nine (9) [eight (8)] north, range thirty-four (34) east; thence east on the township line between townships eight (8) and nine (9) north to the boundary line between the states of New Mexico and Texas; thence north on the boundary line between the states of New Mexico and Texas to the intersection of the same with the township line between townships seventeen (17) and eighteen (18) north, N. M. P. M., and the place of beginning.

History: Laws 1923, ch. 141, § 1; C.S. 1929, § 33-1801; 1941 Comp., § 15-1801; 1953 Comp., § 15-20-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Curry county, see 4-5-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Guadalupe county, see 4-10-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Harding county, see 4-11-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of San Miguel county, see 4-25-1 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Union county, see 4-31-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The county of Quay was originally created in 1903 by Laws 1903, ch. 8 from the counties of Guadalupe and Union. Laws 1923, ch. 141 abolished Quay county and established Washington county. Laws 1923, ch. 150, § 1 (4-20-7 NMSA 1978) changed the name of Washington county back to Quay county. This section seems to have made no change in the boundary lines as they existed at that time. As to the validity of changes in boundaries, see *State ex rel. Dow v. Graham*, 33 N.M. 504, 270 P. 897 (1928).

Laws 1903, ch. 8, § 1, creating Quay county, read: "There is created a county, to be known and called Quay county, out of that portion of the territory of New Mexico included in the following boundaries as indicated by the United States survey, to wit: commencing at the southwest corner of township 5 north, range 27 east of the New Mexico principal meridian; thence north along the range line between townships 26 and 27 east to a point of intersection with the southwest corner of the Pablo Montoya grant; thence along the south boundary of said grant to the intersection with the township line between townships 11 and 12 north; thence along said township line between townships 11 and 12 north to its intersection with the southeast corner of San Miguel county; thence north along said east boundary of San Miguel county to its intersection with the third standard parallel north; thence east along said third standard parallel north to its intersection with the Texas-New Mexico boundary line; thence south along the Texas-New Mexico boundary line to the point of its intersection with the first standard

parallel north (projecting eastward); thence west along the first standard parallel north to southwest corner of township 5 north, range 27 east, to the point of beginning."

Laws 1907, ch. 62, § 1 added the following territory to Quay county: "All that portion of the territory of New Mexico now included in the county of Union beginning at a point on the westerly boundary line of the state of Texas between townships 17 and 18; thence west on the line between townships 17 and 18 to the intersection between ranges 33 and 34; thence south on the line between ranges 33 and 34 to the northwesterly boundary line of the right-of-way of the Chicago, Rock Island and El Paso railroad; thence southwesterly along the northwesterly boundary line of said right-of-way of said railroad to the dividing line between townships 13 and 14; thence west on the dividing line between townships 13 and 14 to the eastern boundary line of the Baca location No. 2, the same being the eastern boundary line of the county of San Miguel according to the United States official survey; also all that portion of the territory of New Mexico now included in the county of San Miguel, lying immediately north and adjoining the county of Quay and south of the Baca location No. 2 and the Pablo Montoya grant, is attached to and shall hereafter constitute a part of the county of Quay in this territory."

Since 1941 changes have been made in the boundary between Harding and Quay counties. Legal descriptions of the changes are available in district court files of the respective counties.

Due to an east-west correction on the second standard parallel north, the southeastern line of the county intersects said standard parallel at the northwest corner of township 8 north of range 34 east rather than at the southeast corner of township 9 north of range 34 east. This correction has been indicated by means of the bracketed words inserted by the compiler.

Curry county was created from the southeast portion of Quay county.

#### **§ 4-20-2. [Present organization to remain; county seat.]**

That the present organization of the county of Quay as to precincts, school districts, officials and otherwise shall be and become the organization of the new county of Washington; the county seat of the county of Washington shall be and remain at Tucumcari until changed according to law. All officials of Quay county who were duly elected at the last general election and who qualified as required by law and all appointive officials duly qualified shall be and remain the officials of Washington county, holding their respective offices for the time for which they were severally elected or appointed, and qualified, and they shall perform all of the duties relating to their respective offices in the county of Washington hereby created.

History: Laws 1923, ch. 141, § 2; C.S. 1929, § 33-1802; 1941 Comp., § 15-1802; 1953 Comp., § 15-20-2.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Compiler's notes. - The name of Washington county was changed to Quay county by Laws 1923, ch. 150.

### **§ 4-20-3. [Funds, credits and taxes.]**

All funds, monies, rights, credits, licenses and taxes which belong to or were to be paid to the county of Quay shall be and become the property of the county of Washington hereby created, and all such monies and taxes shall be paid to the proper official of Washington county; and any valid and existing indebtedness, liability or obligation of the county of Quay shall be and become an indebtedness, liability or obligation of the said county of Washington.

History: Laws 1923, ch. 141, § 3; C.S. 1929, § 33-1803; 1941 Comp., § 15-1803; 1953 Comp., § 15-20-3.

Compiler's notes. - The name of Washington county was changed to Quay county by Laws 1923, ch. 150.

### **§ 4-20-4. [Precincts and school districts remain.]**

The precincts and school districts heretofore existing in Quay county and the officials thereof shall be and remain the same as they were until changed according to law.

History: Laws 1923, ch. 141, § 4; C.S. 1929, § 33-1804; 1941 Comp., § 15-1804; 1953 Comp., § 15-20-4.

Compiler's notes. - The name of Washington county was changed to Quay county by Laws 1923, ch. 150.

### **§ 4-20-5. [Records and tax rolls.]**

All records, tax rolls, assessments and tax schedules heretofore belonging or pertaining to the county of Quay shall belong to and become the property of the county of Washington. All things and acts or duties which could have been legally required to be done or performed by any person, firm, corporation, board or official in the county of Quay may also be required from such person, firm, corporation, board or official in the county of Washington.

History: Laws 1923, ch. 141, § 5; C.S. 1929, § 33-1805; 1941 Comp., § 15-1805; 1953 Comp., § 15-20-5.

Compiler's notes. - The name of Washington county was changed to Quay county by Laws 1923, ch. 150.

#### **§ 4-20-6. [Salaries of officers.]**

The officials of Washington county shall receive the same salaries respectively as they would have received as officials in Quay county until otherwise provided by law.

History: Laws 1923, ch. 141, § 8; C.S. 1929, § 33-1808; 1941 Comp., § 15-1807; 1953 Comp., § 15-20-7.

Compiler's notes. - The name of Washington county was changed to Quay county by Laws 1923, ch. 150.

#### **§ 4-20-7. [Change of name.]**

The name of Washington county, heretofore created, is hereby changed to Quay county.

History: Laws 1923, ch. 150, § 1; C.S. 1929, § 33-1809; 1941 Comp., § 15-1808; 1953 Comp., § 15-20-8.

## **Article 21**

### **Rio Arriba County**

#### **§ 4-21-1. [Original county boundaries.]**

The boundaries of the county of Rio Arriba are as follows: on the south from the Puertecito of Pojuaque, drawing a direct line toward the west in the direction of the mesilla of San Yldefonso; from the mesilla crossing the Rio del Norte toward the west and continuing until it reaches the boundaries of the territory; drawing a direct line from said Puertecito de Pojuaque toward the east until it reaches the last house of the town of Cundiyo, toward the south, continuing the same line until it reaches the highest point of the mountain of Nambe; from thence, following the summit of the mountain toward the north, until it reaches the southern boundary of the county of Taos; this shall constitute the eastern boundary, and on the north the boundary of the county of Taos, and on the west the boundary line of the territory.

History: Laws 1851-1852, p. 291; C.L. 1865, ch. 42, § 5; C.L. 1884, § 246; C.L. 1897, § 512; Code 1915, § 1099; C.S. 1929, § 33-1901; 1941 Comp., § 15-1901; 1953 Comp., § 15-21-1.

Cross-references. - As to change of boundary between Rio Arriba county and Taos county, see 4-21-2 NMSA 1978. As to original borders of San Juan county, see 4-24-1 NMSA 1978. As to attachment to Rio Arriba county of Espanola precinct of Santa Fe county, see 4-26-2 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Taos county, see 4-29-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - After the creation of Rio Arriba county by the above section, the western part of Taos county was added thereto by Laws 1880, ch. 46, § 2 which read: "Hereafter all that portion of the county of Taos, on the west side of the public road leading from the Hot Springs in the county of Rio Arriba, to Conejos, in the state of Colorado, is hereby annexed to the county of Rio Arriba," thereby making the county of Rio Arriba constitute the northwest portion of the state. Other provisions concerning the boundary with Taos are found in 4-21-2 NMSA 1978.

San Juan county was created out of the western portion of Rio Arriba county in 1887, and other changes have been made in the boundaries.

The present boundaries of Rio Arriba county may be described as follows: commencing on the San Juan river at the point where it crosses the Colorado-New Mexico state line; thence [description from 4-24-1 NMSA 1978] following the San Juan river to its intersection with the range line between ranges 7 and 8 west; thence south on said range line to the seventh standard parallel north; thence west on said standard parallel to the northwest corner of township 28 north of range 7 west; thence south on the range line between ranges 7 and 8 west to the sixth standard parallel north; thence west on said standard parallel to the northwest corner of township 24 north of range 7 west; thence south on the range line between ranges 7 and 8 west to the southwest corner of section 18 township 24 north of range 7 west; thence east [description from 4-23-1 NMSA 1978] on the center of township 23 north to the New Mexico principal meridian; thence south on the principal meridian to the fifth standard parallel north; thence east on said standard parallel to the range line between ranges 6 and 7 east; thence south on the range line between ranges 6 and 7 east to the southwest corner of section 18 in township 20 north of range 7 east; thence east [description of Espanola precinct transferred to Rio Arriba county by 4-26-2 NMSA 1978] along the center of township 20 north to the range line between ranges 8 and 9 east; thence north-northwesterly across Arroyo Seco to the center line of U.S. highway 285; thence westerly along the center line of the highway approximately 1,300 feet to a point which bears south 14 degrees 19 minutes west 32.44 feet from the southeast corner of small holding claim No. 532; thence northeasterly to a point on the center line of the Santa Cruz river; thence west 3,060 feet to the center of highway 285 at the north end of the bridge over Santa Cruz river; thence northerly along the center line of U.S. highway 285 to a point opposite the southwest boundary of small holding claim No. 412; thence northwesterly on the southwestern boundary of said small holding claim to the east bank of the Rio Grande; thence northerly along the east bank of the Rio Grande to the fifth standard parallel north; thence east [description from 4-26-1 NMSA 1978] on the fifth standard parallel north to the range line between ranges 11 and 12 east; thence south on said range line to the point where it crosses the mountain of Nambé; thence easterly and northerly



[description from 4-21-1 NMSA 1978] along the summit of the mountains to the point where the line described as being a straight line from the last house of Las Trampas on the south side southeasterly to the junction of the Mora and Sapello rivers [4-29-1 NMSA 1978] intersects the top of the divide; thence northwesterly along said line to the front of the last house of Las Trampas on the south side; thence in a direct line northwesterly over the mountain of Bajillo at Rincones to the first house of the town of Embudo [Rinconada] on the north side where the canon of Picuris terminates; thence in a straight line northwesterly [description from 4-21-2 NMSA 1978] across the Rio Grande, past the north side of the house of Antonio Domingo Lucero, deceased (south of Ojo Caliente), across the Ojo Caliente river to the summit of the Hot Springs mountains (western boundary of Ojo Caliente Grant); thence north along the west boundary of Ojo Caliente Grant to the junction of the Canada de los Comanches with the Ojo Caliente river; thence following the (Canada de los Comanches and) the wagon road (1880) northerly to the point where it crosses Tres Piedras Arroyo west of the house of Juan Estevan Rodriguez, deceased, at the town of Tres Piedras; thence westerly along said Arroyo for a distance of 1 mile to the section line between sections 21 and 22 in township 28 north of range 9 east; thence north along said section line for a distance of 1 mile; thence east to the said road dividing the counties; thence northerly along said wagon road to the southern boundary of the state of Colorado; thence west on the state line to the point of beginning.

#### **§ 4-21-2. [Eastern boundary.]**

That the dividing line between the counties of Taos and Rio Arriba shall be changed so as to read as follows: the same shall be a straight line from the point where the present dividing line between said counties crosses the Rio Grande; thence to the north side of the house known as that of Antonio Domingo Lucero, deceased; thence west, crossing the Ojo Caliente river, to the summit of the Hot Springs mountains; and thence north to the junction of the Canada de los Comanches with the Ojo Caliente river, and thence following the wagon road to the crossing of the Tres Piedras arroyo west of the house of Juan Estevan Rodriguez, deceased, at the town of Tres Piedras; thence running west with said arroyo for a distance of one mile; thence north for a distance of one mile; thence east to the present dividing line of said counties; and thence to the southern boundary of the state of Colorado. Provided, that this will not affect any litigation now pending in said counties of Rio Arriba and Taos February 20th, 1905.

History: Laws 1880, ch. 46, § 3; C.L. 1884, § 286; C.S. 1897, § 541; Laws 1905, ch. 11, § 1; Code 1915, § 1101; C.S. 1929, § 33-1903; 1941 Comp., § 15-902; 1953 Comp., § 15-21-2.

Cross-references. - As to original boundaries of Taos county, see 4-29-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The wagon road to Conejos, Colorado, was made the boundary by Laws 1880, ch. 46, § 2. See compiler's notes to 4-21-1 NMSA 1978.

# Article 22

## Roosevelt County

### § 4-22-1. [Original county boundaries.]

That there be and hereby is created a county, to be known as and called Roosevelt county, out of that portion of the territory of New Mexico included in the following boundaries, as indicated by the United States survey, to wit: commencing at the southwest corner of township two south, range twenty-seven east of the New Mexico principal base and meridian; thence north along the range line between [ranges] twenty-six and twenty-seven east to the northwest corner of township four north of range twenty-seven east; thence east along the north line of township four north (projected) to its point of intersection with the Texas-New Mexico boundary line; thence south along the Texas-New Mexico boundary line to the point of its intersection with the first standard parallel south (projected eastward); thence west along the first standard parallel south to the southwest corner of township five south, range thirty-one east; thence north along the range line between ranges thirty and thirty-one east to the southwest corner of township four south, range thirty-one east; thence west along the south line of township four south, range thirty east, to the southwest corner of township four south, range thirty east; thence north along the range line between ranges twenty-nine and thirty east, to the southwest corner of township two south, range thirty east; thence west along the south boundary line of township two south to the point of beginning.

History: Laws 1903, ch. 7, § 1; Code 1915, § 1102; C.S. 1929, § 33-2001; 1941 Comp., § 15-2001; 1953 Comp., § 15-22-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Chaves county, see 4-3-1 to 4-3-3 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Curry county, see 4-5-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of De Baca county, see 4-6-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Guadalupe county, see 4-10-1 NMSA 1978. As to addition to Roosevelt county, see 4-22-2 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Roosevelt county was created by the above section from Chaves and Guadalupe counties. Since its creation, the county of Curry was formed from the northeastern part, De Baca county took a strip off the western side, and additional land was added on the south.

The present boundary may be described as follows: commencing at the northwest corner of township 4 north of range 29 east; thence south [description from 4-6-1 NMSA 1978] on the range line between ranges 28 and 29 east to the southwest corner of township 1 north of range 29 east, on the New Mexico base line; thence east on the base line to the northwest corner of township 1 south of range 29 east; thence south on range line between ranges 28 and 29 east to the southwest corner of township 2 south of range 29 east; thence east along the south boundary line of township 2 south to the

northwest corner of township 3 south of range 30 east; thence south [description from 4-22-1 and 4-22-2 NMSA 1978] along the range line between ranges 29 and 30 east to the southwest corner of township 5 south of range 30 east which is on the first standard parallel south; thence east on said standard parallel to the northwest corner of township 6 south of range 32 east; thence south on the range line between ranges 31 and 32 east to the southwest corner of township 7 south of range 32 east; thence east on the township line between townships 7 and 8 south to the northwest corner of township 8 south of range 34 east; thence south on the range line between ranges 33 and 34 east to the southwest corner of township 8 south of range 34 east; thence east on the township line between townships 8 and 9 south to the western boundary line of the state of Texas; thence in a northerly direction along the boundary line between Texas and New Mexico to its intersection with the east and west center line of township 1 north; thence west [description from 4-5-1 NMSA 1978] along the center line of township 1 north to the point of its intersection with the range line between ranges 30 and 31 east; thence north along the range line between ranges 30 and 31 east to the first standard parallel north; thence west on said standard parallel to the point of beginning.

This section was incorporated in article 15, chapter 24 of the 1915 Code. It was not reenacted by its inclusion therein, but was compiled merely for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

#### **§ 4-22-2. [Addition to Roosevelt county.]**

That all that portion of the territory described as follows: commencing at the southwest corner of township four south of range thirty east, thence south on range line to the southwest corner of township five south of range thirty east; thence east on said township line which is also the first standard parallel south, to the northwest corner of township six south of range thirty-two east; thence south on range line to the southwest corner of township seven south of range thirty-two east; thence east on township line to the northwest corner of township eight south of range thirty-four east; thence south on range line between ranges thirty-three and thirty-four east to the southwest corner of township eight south of range thirty-four east; thence east along the township line between townships eight and nine south to its intersection with the western boundary line of the state of Texas; thence in a northerly direction along the boundary line between Texas and New Mexico to the southeast corner of Roosevelt county; thence west along township line to the southwest [southeast] corner of township five south of range thirty east; thence north on range line to the northeast corner of township five south, range thirty east; thence west along township line to the place of beginning, be and it hereby is annexed to the county of Roosevelt as a part and portion thereof for every purpose.

History: Laws 1917, ch. 11, § 18; C.S. 1929, § 33-618; 1941 Comp., § 15-2002; 1953 Comp., § 15-22-2.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of De Baca county, see 4-6-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - This section was part of the act creating De Baca county. That act transferred a portion of the western part of Roosevelt county to De Baca county and added the above-described territory to Roosevelt county on the south.

### **§ 4-22-3. [County seat.]**

That the county seat of the said county of Roosevelt shall be established at the town of Portales in said county.

History: Laws 1903, ch. 7, § 1; Code 1915, § 1103; C.S. 1929, § 33-2002; 1941 Comp., § 15-2003; 1953 Comp., § 15-22-3.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Compiler's notes. - This section was incorporated in article 15, chapter 24 of the 1915 Code. It was not reenacted by its inclusion therein, but was compiled merely for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

## **Article 23**

### **Sandoval County**

#### **§ 4-23-1. [County boundaries.]**

That there be and is hereby created a county, to be known as and called the county of Sandoval, out of that portion of the territory of New Mexico included within the following boundaries, to wit:

beginning at a point three miles north of the southwest corner of township twenty-three north, of range seven west of the New Mexico principal meridian, according to the public land surveys of the United States, and running thence east along the line three miles north of the line between townships twenty-two and twenty-three north to the said principal meridian, which line shall form a part of the southern boundary of Rio Arriba county; thence south along said principal meridian to the fifth standard parallel north; thence east along said fifth standard parallel north to the range line between ranges six and seven east at the northwest corner of township twenty north in range seven east; thence south along said range line between ranges six and seven east; the same being the western boundary of Santa Fe county, to the southeast corner of township twelve north in range six east of said principal meridian; thence west along the township line between townships eleven and twelve north, said line being the northern boundary of Bernalillo county, to the boundary line of Valencia county at the northwestern corner of Bernalillo county; thence in a northwesterly direction along the boundary line of Valencia

county to the third standard parallel north; thence west along said third standard parallel north, to the southeastern corner of McKinley county; thence north and along the eastern boundary line of McKinley county to the fifth standard parallel north at the southwest [northwest] corner of township twenty-one [twenty] north in range four west; thence west along said fifth standard parallel north to the southeast corner of San Juan county at the southwest corner of township twenty-one north in range seven west, and thence north along the range line between ranges seven and eight west, said line being the easterly boundary of San Juan county, to the place of beginning.

History: Laws 1905, ch. 10, § 2; Code 1915, § 1104; C.S. 1929, § 33-2101; 1941 Comp., § 15-2101; 1953 Comp., § 15-23-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Bernalillo county, see 4-1-1 and 4-1-2 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Los Alamos county, see 4-15-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of McKinley county, see 4-17-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Rio Arriba county, see 4-21-1 and 4-21-2 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of San Juan county, see 4-24-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Santa Fe county, see 4-26-1 and 4-26-2 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Valencia county, see 4-32-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - A change was made in the boundaries of Sandoval county by the creation of Los Alamos county by Laws 1949, ch. 134, compiled as 4-15-1 and 4-15-2 NMSA 1978.

Due to an east-west correction on the fifth standard parallel north, the west line of the county intersects said standard parallel at the northwest corner of township 20 north of range 4 west rather than at the southwest corner of township 21 north of range 4 west. This correction has been indicated by the compiler by means of the bracketed words.

Sandoval county was originally created out of a portion of Bernalillo county. The boundaries of the original Sandoval county, as they appeared in Laws 1903, ch. 27, § 1, were as follows: "A county is created and established in the territory of New Mexico, to be known as the county of Sandoval, which shall include all that portion of the present county of Bernalillo lying north of a line beginning at the southeast corner of township 12 north, range 6 east of the New Mexico principal meridian, and running thence due west on the township line between townships 11 and 12 north, to the boundary line between the present county of Bernalillo and the county of Valencia." The original Sandoval county was abolished by Laws 1905, ch. 10, § 1.

The sections of this article were incorporated in article 16, chapter 24 of the 1915 Code. They were not reenacted by their inclusion therein, but were compiled merely for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

#### **§ 4-23-2. [County seat.]**

The county seat of the said county of Sandoval is hereby established at the town of Bernalillo in said county.

History: Laws 1905, ch. 10, § 3; Code 1915, § 1105; C.S. 1929, § 33-2102; 1941 Comp., § 15-2102; 1953 Comp., § 15-23-2.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

## **Article 24**

### **San Juan County**

#### **§ 4-24-1. [Original county boundaries.]**

That all of that portion of Rio Arriba county, New Mexico, comprised within the following boundaries, as hereinafter described, shall form and constitute a new county, to be hereafter known as the county of San Juan, to wit: commencing at the state line of Colorado, running along the San Juan river to where the San Juan crosses range line between ranges seven and eight [west; thence south on said range line], to the north line of Bernalillo [McKinley] county; thence west to the line of Arizona; thence running north on the Arizona line to the state of Colorado; thence east to the place of beginning; also to include all the settlements on the San Juan river below the mouth of the Los Pinos river.

History: Laws 1887, ch. 13, § 1; C.L. 1897, § 569; Code 1915, § 1106; C.S. 1929, § 33-2201; 1941 Comp., § 15-2201; 1953 Comp., § 15-24-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Bernalillo county, see 4-1-1 and 4-1-2 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of McKinley county, see 4-17-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Rio Arriba county, see 4-21-1 and 4-21-2 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - There is an ambiguity in the description of the east boundary of the county which may have been due to an omission of part of the wording of the original bill during the process of enrolling and engrossing. The compiler has inserted the bracketed words to complete the sense of the description.

The original south boundary of San Juan county was amended by Laws 1901, ch. 39 [4-17-1 NMSA 1978] and was fixed as being the fifth standard parallel north.

This section was incorporated as article 17, chapter 24 of the 1915 Code. It was not reenacted by its inclusion therein, but was compiled merely for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

# Article 25

## San Miguel County

### § 4-25-1. [County boundaries.]

That the present county of San Miguel is hereby abolished and there is hereby created the county of Jefferson out of the area formerly in San Miguel county and also out of a triangular area within the Pablo Montoya grant, lying between the counties of Guadalupe, Quay and San Miguel as it heretofore existed, which said county of Jefferson shall be described and its boundaries shall be as follows, to wit:

beginning at the southeast corner of the Baca location no. 2; thence west on the south boundary of the Baca location no. 2, to the southwest corner of the same; thence north on the west boundary of said Baca location no. 2, to a point where it intersects the southeast boundary line of the Pablo Montoya grant; thence southwesterly along the southeast boundary line of the Pablo Montoya grant to a point where the same intersects the east boundary line of Guadalupe county; thence north along the eastern boundary line of Guadalupe county to the northeast corner of said county; thence west along the north boundary line of Guadalupe county to the northwest corner of Guadalupe county; thence south along the west boundary line of Guadalupe county to the northeast corner of Tarrant county; thence west along the north boundary line of Tarrant county to the southeast corner of Santa Fe county; thence north along the east boundary line of Santa Fe county to a point where the same is intersected by the south boundary line of Mora county; thence in an easterly direction following the south boundary lines of Mora and Harding counties to a point where the same intersects [intersect] the northwest boundary line of the Pablo Montoya grant; thence northeasterly along the northwest line of the Pablo Montoya grant to the northeast corner of said grant; thence southeasterly along the easterly boundary line of the Pablo Montoya grant to its points of intersection with the north line of the Baca location no. 2; thence east along the north boundary line of the Baca location no. 2 to the northeast corner of said Baca location no. 2; thence south along the east boundary line of the Baca location no. 2 to the southeast corner of said Baca location no. 2, and place of beginning.

History: Laws 1923, ch. 142, § 1; C.S. 1929, § 33-2301; 1941 Comp., § 15-2301; 1953 Comp., § 15-25-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Guadalupe county, see 4-10-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Harding county, see 4-11-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Mora county, see 4-18-1 to 4-18-3 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Quay county, see 4-20-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Santa Fe county, see 4-26-1 and 4-26-2 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Tarrant county, see 4-30-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The county of San Miguel was originally established by act of January 9, 1852 (§ 1107 of the 1915 Code) which read: "The boundaries of the county

of San Miguel are as follows: on the east, the boundary line of the territory; on the west, the boundaries of Santa Fe; on the north, the boundaries of the counties of Taos and Rio Arriba, and on the south, drawing a line from Cibolo spring toward the north in the direction of the Berrendo spring, from thence drawing a perpendicular line toward the east, crossing the Pecos river, and continuing until it reaches the boundaries of the territory."

The eastern part of the original county of San Miguel became a part of Union county when that county was created, and later became parts of Harding and Quay counties.

Laws 1923, ch. 142 abolished San Miguel county and established Jefferson county.

Laws 1923, ch. 151, § 1 (4-25-8 NMSA 1978) changed the name back to San Miguel county.

As to the validity of changes in boundaries, see *State ex rel. Dow v. Graham*, 33 N.M. 504, 270 P. 897 (1928).

Since 1941 changes have been made in the boundary between Harding and San Miguel counties. Legal descriptions of the changes are available in district court files of the respective counties.

#### **§ 4-25-2. [Present organization retained; county seat.]**

That the present organization of the county of San Miguel as to precincts, school districts, officials and otherwise shall be and become the organization of the new county of Jefferson; that the county seat of the county of Jefferson shall be and remain at Las Vegas until changed according to law. All officials of San Miguel county who were duly elected at the last general election and who qualified as required by law and all appointive officials duly qualified shall be and remain the officials of Jefferson county, holding their respective offices for the time for which they were severally elected or appointed, and qualified, and they shall perform all of the duties relating to their respective offices in the county of Jefferson hereby created.

History: Laws 1923, ch. 142, § 2; C.S. 1929, § 33-2302; 1941 Comp., § 15-2302; 1953 Comp., § 15-25-2.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Compiler's notes. - The name of Jefferson county was changed to San Miguel county by Laws 1923, ch. 151.

#### **§ 4-25-3. [Funds, credits and taxes.]**



All funds, monies, rights, credits, licenses and taxes which belong to or were to be paid to the county of San Miguel shall be and become the property of the county of Jefferson hereby created, and all such monies and taxes shall be paid to the proper official of Jefferson county; and any valid and existing indebtedness, liability or obligation of the county of San Miguel shall be and become an indebtedness, liability or obligation of the said county of Jefferson.

History: Laws 1923, ch. 142, § 3; C.S. 1929, § 33-2303; 1941 Comp., § 15-2303; 1953 Comp., § 15-25-3.

Compiler's notes. - The name of Jefferson county was changed to San Miguel county by Laws 1923, ch. 151.

#### **§ 4-25-4. [Precincts and school districts remain the same.]**

The precincts and school districts heretofore existing in San Miguel county and the officials thereof shall be and remain the same as they were until changed according to law. The area included in the county of Jefferson which is not within any precinct or school district of said county may be organized into precincts or school districts in the manner provided by law.

History: Laws 1923, ch. 142, § 4; C.S. 1929, § 33-2304; 1941 Comp., § 15-2304; 1953 Comp., § 15-25-4.

Compiler's notes. - The name of Jefferson county was changed to San Miguel county by Laws 1923, ch. 151.

#### **§ 4-25-5. [Records and tax rolls.]**

All records, tax rolls, assessments and tax schedules heretofore belonging or pertaining to the county of San Miguel shall belong to and become the property of the county of Jefferson. All things and acts or duties which could have been legally required to be done or performed by any person, firm, corporation, board or official in the county of San Miguel may also be required from such person, firm, corporation, board or official in the county of Jefferson. Assessments of lands not assessed for the year 1923 shall be made for said year in the county of Jefferson by the state tax commission.

History: Laws 1923, ch. 142, § 5; C.S. 1929, § 33-2305; 1941 Comp., § 15-2305; 1953 Comp., § 15-25-5.

Compiler's notes. - The name of Jefferson county was changed to San Miguel county by Laws 1923, ch. 151.

## **§ 4-25-6. [Salaries remain the same.]**

The officials of Jefferson county shall receive the same salaries respectively as they would have received as officials in San Miguel county until otherwise provided by law.

History: Laws 1923, ch. 142, § 8; C.S. 1929, § 33-2308; 1941 Comp., § 15-2307; 1953 Comp., § 15-25-7.

Compiler's notes. - The name of Jefferson county was changed to San Miguel county by Laws 1923, ch. 151.

## **§ 4-25-7. [Change of name.]**

That the name of the county of Jefferson, heretofore created, is hereby changed to San Miguel county.

History: Laws 1923, ch. 151, § 1; C.S. 1929, § 33-2309; 1941 Comp., § 15-2308; 1953 Comp., § 15-25-8.

# **Article 26**

## **Santa Fe County**

### **§ 4-26-1. [County boundaries.]**

The boundaries of Santa Fe county shall be defined as follows: commencing at the southeast corner of township eight north, range eleven east; thence north between ranges eleven and twelve east, to the northeast corner of township twenty north, range eleven east; thence west between townships twenty and twenty-one north, to the northwest corner of township twenty north, range seven east; thence south between ranges six and seven east to the southwest corner of township eight north, range seven east; thence east between townships seven and eight north to the place of beginning.

History: Laws 1889, ch. 127, § 1; C.L. 1897, § 596; Code 1915, § 1108; C.S. 1929, § 33-2401; 1941 Comp., § 15-2401; 1953 Comp., § 15-26-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Los Alamos county, see 4-15-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Rio Arriba county, see 4-21-1 and 4-21-2 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Torrance county, see 4-30-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Since the enactment of this section, the following changes have been made in the boundaries of Santa Fe county: on the north, Espanola precinct

number 16 was detached and made a part of Rio Arriba county [see 4-26-2 NMSA 1978 and also description of present boundaries of Rio Arriba county in compiler's notes under 4-21-1 NMSA 1978]; on the south, the southern boundary was made the township line between townships 9 and 10 north by the creation of Torrance county [see 4-30-1 NMSA 1978]; on the west, the present boundary is as described in this section, [see also 4-23-1 NMSA 1978] although a change in the boundary was made by Laws 1891, ch. 55 [see compiler's notes under 4-1-1 NMSA 1978]. The eastern boundary remains as described in this section. A change also was made by the creation of Los Alamos county by Laws 1949, ch. 134, compiled as 4-15-1 and 4-15-2 NMSA 1978.

Santa Fe county was originally created by Laws 1852, p. 292, which read: "The boundaries of the county of Santa Fe are, on the east, from the point of Torreones, drawing a direct line across the summit of the mountain until it reaches the angle formed by the eastern and southern boundaries of the county of Rio Arriba; from the above-mentioned point of Torreones, drawing a direct line toward the south, touching the point called Salinas in the mountain of Galisteo, and continuing said line until it reaches the Cibolo spring; from this point to the westward and turning the point of San Ysidro toward the north in the direction of Juana Lopez, touching the mouth of Las Bocas canyon, and from thence drawing a direct line toward the north, until it reaches the boundaries of the county of Rio Arriba."

The sections of this article were incorporated in article 19 and article 14 respectively of chapter 24 of the 1915 Code. They were not reenacted by their inclusion therein, but were compiled merely for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

### **§ 4-26-2. [Española precinct attached to Rio Arriba county.]**

That all of precinct number sixteen of Santa Fe county, known as Espanola precinct, be and the same is hereby detached from Santa Fe county and made a part of Rio Arriba county and attached to precinct number seven of said Rio Arriba county.

History: Laws 1903, ch. 24, § 1; Code 1915, § 1100; C.S. 1929, § 33-1902; 1941 Comp., § 15-2402; 1953 Comp., § 15-26-2.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Rio Arriba county, see 4-21-1 and 4-21-2 NMSA 1978.

## **Article 27**

### **Sierra County**

#### **§ 4-27-1. [Original county boundaries.]**

All that part of the territory of New Mexico comprised within the following boundaries and limits, to wit: commencing at the Mule springs, in Mule pass, in Cook's canyon range, in the county of Grant, and running thence in a northwesterly direction along the summit of the Mimbres mountains to the north boundary line of Grant county; thence west on said north boundary line to the one hundred and eighth degree of longitude west of Greenwich; thence north on said degree of longitude to the point where the same intersects the north line of township line ten south, of New Mexico, being along the north line of [sic] township ten south, range eleven west of the [principal] meridian of New Mexico; thence east on said township line to the principal meridian of New Mexico; thence south on said principal meridian to the south line of township seventeen south, of the United States survey; thence west along said south line of said township number seventeen south, to the southwest corner of range four west, New Mexico principal meridian; thence south on the west line of said range line number four west of said principal meridian of New Mexico, to the southwest corner of township number nineteen south, of range four west, New Mexico; thence west along the south line of township number nineteen south, to the southwest corner of township nineteen south, range seven west, New Mexico principal meridian; thence west-northwest to the place of beginning on said south line to the boundary line of Grant county, shall form and constitute a new county, to be known as and called Sierra county: provided, that the property thus separated from the county of Socorro shall not be exempt from its share of taxation to pay the outstanding bonded indebtedness of Socorro county.

History: Laws 1884, ch. 109, § 1; C.L. 1884, § 321; C.L. 1897, § 559; Code 1915, § 1109; C.S. 1929, § 33-2501; 1941 Comp., § 15-2501; 1953 Comp., § 15-27-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Dona Ana county, see 4-7-1 to 4-7-3 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Grant county, see 4-9-1 and 4-9-2 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Socorro county, see 4-28-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The bracketed word "principal" in this section was inserted by the compiler as necessary to a correct reading of the description.

The words "township line ten south, of New Mexico, being along the north line of" preceding "[sic]" in this section are unnecessary for a correct reading of the description.

Sierra county was formed from parts of Grant, Dona Ana, and Socorro counties.

By special election held on March 7, 1950, certificate of which was filed with the county clerk of Sierra county on September 13, 1951, that portion of Socorro county lying south of the ninth township line south of the New Mexico base line and east of the New Mexico principal meridian was annexed to Sierra county.

The current boundaries of Sierra county may be described as follows: commencing at Mule springs in Mule pass in Cook's canyon range, and running thence in a northwesterly direction along the summit of the Sierra Mimbres, or black range, to the

line between townships 12 and 13 south of the New Mexico base line; thence west along said township line to the 108th meridian west of Greenwich; thence north on said meridian to the north line of township 10 south, range 11 west of the principal meridian of New Mexico; thence east on said township line to the range line between ranges 5 and 6 east of the New Mexico principal meridian; thence south on said range line to the second standard parallel south; thence east on said standard parallel to the range line between ranges 6 and 7 east; thence south on said range line to the northeast corner of Dona Ana county [see compiler's notes under 4-7-1 NMSA 1978]; thence southwesterly along the former boundary between Socorro and Dona Ana counties [see 4-7-2 NMSA 1978] to the intersection of the New Mexico principal meridian with the third latitudinal section line south in township 17 south; thence south along the New Mexico principal meridian to the south line of township 17 south; thence west along said township line to the west line of range 4 west; thence south along said range line to the south line of township 19 south; thence west along the south line of township 19 south to the west line of range 7 west; thence northwest to the place of beginning.

#### **§ 4-27-2. [Boundary between Sierra and Grant counties.]**

That the boundary line between the counties of Sierra and Grant be, and the same is hereby located, fixed and established as follows:

beginning at a point where the line between townships 12 and 13 south of the New Mexico principal base line intersects the one hundred and eighth (108th) meridian west of Greenwich, and running thence eastwardly along the said line between said townships 12 and 13 south, to the summit of the Sierra Mimbres, or Black range, and thence southwardly along the summit of said Sierra Mimbres, or Black range, to Mule springs in Mule pass in Cook's canyon range, and thence east-southeast to the southwest corner of township 19 south of range 7 west of the New Mexico principal base and meridian.

History: Laws 1917, ch. 57, § 2; C.S. 1929, § 33-2502; 1941 Comp., § 15-2502; 1953 Comp., § 15-27-2.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Grant county, see 4-9-1 and 4-9-2 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-27-3. [County seat.]**

The county seat of said county of Sierra is hereby permanently located and established at the town of Hillsborough in said county of Sierra.

History: Laws 1884, ch. 109, § 3; C.L. 1884, § 323; C.L. 1897, § 561; Code 1915, § 1110; C.S. 1929, § 33-2503; 1941 Comp., § 15-2503; 1953 Comp., § 15-27-3.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3, and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Election authorizing removal of county seat valid. - Election held Nov. 3, 1936 authorizing the removal of the county seat from Hillsboro to Hot Springs was valid. Orchard v. Board of Comm'rs, 42 N.M. 172, 76 P.2d 41 (1938).

## **Article 28**

### **Socorro County**

#### **§ 4-28-1. [Original county boundaries.]**

The boundaries of the county of Socorro are as follows: on the south, drawing a direct line to the eastward from the Muerto spring in the Jornada in the direction of La Laguna, and continuing until it terminates with the boundary of the territory; drawing a direct line toward the west from said Muerto spring, crossing the Rio del Norte, and continuing in the same direction until it terminates with the boundary of the territory, shall be the southern boundary, and the northern boundary is the southern extremity of the county of Valencia.

History: Laws 1851-1852, p. 292; C.L. 1865, ch. 42, § 11; C.L. 1884, § 252; C.L. 1897, § 518; Code 1915, § 1111; C.S. 1929, § 33-2601; 1941 Comp., § 15-2601; 1953 Comp., § 15-28-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Catron county, see 4-2-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Lincoln county, see 4-14-1 and 4-14-2 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Sierra county, see 4-27-1 and 4-27-2 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Valencia county, see 4-32-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Socorro county, as originally created, touched both the eastern and western boundaries of the territory. Lincoln county was created from the eastern part of Socorro county and Catron county from the western part.

Laws 1927, ch. 185, which attempted to abolish Catron county and divide its territory between Grant county and a new county to be called Rio Grande county, the latter to include also all of Socorro county, was held to violate N.M. Const., art. IV, § 24, since its purpose was to change county boundaries by special or local law, and not to create a new county, in State ex rel. Dow v. Graham, 33 N.M. 504, 270 P. 897 (1928).

Laws 1927, ch. 186 would have changed the name of Rio Grande county, created by Laws 1927, ch. 185, back to Socorro county, but since the latter was invalid, the former was of no effect.

By a special election held on March 7, 1950, certificate of which was filed with the

county clerk of Sierra county on September 13, 1951, there was annexed to Sierra county that portion of Socorro county lying south of the ninth township line south of the New Mexico base line.

The current boundaries of Socorro county may be described as follows: commencing at the southeast corner of township 9 south of range 9 west then east on the south line of township 9 south to the range line between ranges 5 and 6 east; thence north along said range line to the line between townships 7 and 8 south; thence east along said township line to the range line between ranges 8 and 9 east; thence north along said range line to the first parallel standard south; thence east along said standard parallel to the southeast corner of section 31 in township 5 south of range 10 east; thence north along the section lines to the New Mexico base line; thence west along said base line to the southeast corner of section 33 in township 1 north of range 5 east; thence north through the center of range 5 east to the southeast corner of Valencia county; thence south 82 degrees 39 minutes west 2 miles 544.6 feet to a point which bears north 38 degrees 27 minutes east 7768 feet from the southwest corner of section 6, township 2 north, range 5 east; thence north 63 degrees 17.5 minutes west 3 miles 1129.2 feet to a point on the centerline of the A.T. & S.F. railway bridge over Abo arroyo; thence north 71 degrees 20 minutes west 15 miles 5075.8 feet to a point described as being between the town of Jose Pino and the house of Jose Antonio Chavez on the east bank of the Rio Grande; thence northwesterly to the confluence of Alamito canyon with the Rio Puerco; thence due west on the section line 2 miles south of the first standard parallel north to the range line between ranges 8 and 9 west; thence south on said range line to the New Mexico base line; thence east on said base line to the northwest corner of township 1 south, range 8 west; thence south on the line between ranges 8 and 9 west to the first standard parallel south; thence east on said standard parallel to the northwest corner of township 6 south, range 8 west; thence south on the line between ranges 8 and 9 west to the point of beginning.

This section was incorporated in article 21, chapter 24 of the 1915 Code. It was not reenacted by its inclusion therein, but was compiled merely for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

## **Article 29**

### **Taos County**

#### **§ 4-29-1. [Original boundaries.]**

The boundaries of the county of Taos are as follows: on the south, from the first house of the town of Embudo, on the upper side, where the canyon of Picuris terminates, drawing a direct line toward the south over the mountain of Bajillo at the town of Rincones, until it reaches the front of the last house of Las Trampas, on the south side; from thence, drawing a direct line toward the east, dividing the mountain, until it reaches the junction of the rivers Mora and Sapello, and from thence to the boundary line of the

territory; from the above-mentioned house of Embudo, drawing a line toward the north over the mountain, and dividing the Rio del Norte in the direction of the Tetilla de la Petaca; from thence taking a westward direction until it terminates with the boundary line of the territory; and on the north by the boundary line of the territory of New Mexico.

History: Laws 1851-1852, p. 291; C.L. 1865, ch. 42, § 4; C.L. 1884, § 245; C.L. 1897, § 511; Laws 1901, ch. 52, § 1; Code 1915, § 1112; C.S. 1929, § 33-2701; 1941 Comp., § 15-2701; 1953 Comp., § 15-29-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Colfax county, see 4-4-1 to 4-4-3 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Mora county, see 4-18-1 to 4-18-3 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Rio Arriba county, see 4-21-1 and 4-21-2 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Taos county as originally created was the northernmost county of the territory reaching from the eastern to the western boundaries. Mora county was created from the eastern part of Taos county, and Colfax county was later created from the northern part of Mora county.

The boundary between Taos and Colfax counties may be described as follows: commencing on the township line between townships 23 and 24 north at a point where it intersects the summit of the divide between the Rio Grande and the Canadian rivers; thence northerly [description based on 4-18-2 NMSA 1978] along the summit of the divide to the southern base of Osha hill; thence northerly along the crest of Osha hill to the southwest corner of the Maxwell Land Grant; thence northerly along the western boundary of the Maxwell Land Grant (which generally follows the summit of the divide) to its junction with the eastern boundary of the Sangre de Cristo Grant; thence northerly along the eastern boundary of the Sangre de Cristo Grant to the Colorado-New Mexico state line.

The boundary with Mora county is described in 4-18-1 and 4-18-2 NMSA 1978 and compiler's notes thereunder.

The southern boundary with Rio Arriba county is described in this section and also the compiler's notes under 4-21-1 NMSA 1978.

The western boundary with Rio Arriba county was altered by Laws 1880, ch. 46, § 2, which read: "Hereafter all that portion of the county of Taos, on the west side of the public road leading from the Hot Springs in the county of Rio Arriba, to Conejos, in the state of Colorado, is hereby annexed to the county of Rio Arriba."

The boundary with Rio Arriba county west of the Rio Grande is described in 4-21-2 NMSA 1978 and the compiler's notes under 4-21-1 NMSA 1978.

The north boundary of Taos county is the state line.

This section was incorporated in article 22, chapter 24 of the 1915 Code. It was not



reenacted by its inclusion therein, but was compiled merely for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

## **Article 30**

### **Torrance County**

#### **§ 4-30-1. [County boundaries.]**

That a county which shall be known as Torrance county is hereby created out of that portion of the territory of New Mexico included within the following boundaries, as indicated by the United States surveys, to wit:

commencing at the standard corner to sections no. 33 and no. 34, township one north, range five east of the New Mexico principal base line, and running thence north through the center of townships one, two and three north to the line between townships three and four north; thence west on the said township line to the southwest corner of township four north, range five east; thence north on the range line between ranges four and five east, to the southwest corner of township eight north, range five east; thence east on the township line between townships seven and eight north to the southeast corner of township eight north, range seven east; thence north on the range line between ranges seven and eight east to the northwest corner of township eight north, range eight east, on the second standard parallel north; thence west on the second standard parallel north to the southwest corner of township nine north, range seven east; thence north on the range line between ranges six and seven east to the northwest corner of township nine north, range seven east; thence east on the township line between townships nine and ten north, to the northeast corner of township nine north, range fifteen east; thence south on the range line between ranges fifteen and sixteen east, to the New Mexico principal base line; and thence west on said New Mexico principal base line to the place of beginning.

History: Laws 1903, ch. 70, § 1; 1905, ch. 2, § 2; Code 1915, § 1113; C.S. 1929, § 33-2801; 1941 Comp., § 15-2801; 1953 Comp., § 15-30-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Santa Fe county, see 4-26-1 and 4-26-2 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Valencia county, see 4-32-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Torrance county was formed principally from the county of Valencia but also took in portions of other counties.

The sections of this article were incorporated in article 23, chapter 24 of the 1915 Code. They were not reenacted by their inclusion therein, but were compiled merely for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

Laws 1905, ch. 2, § 1, which amended the boundaries of the county and changed the county seat, was in the nature of a purpose clause.

### **§ 4-30-2. [County seat.]**

The county seat of the said county of Torrance shall be, and the same is hereby located at the town of Estancia in said county.

History: Laws 1903, ch. 70, § 2; 1905, ch. 2, § 3; Code 1915, § 1114; C.S. 1929, § 33-2802; 1941 Comp., § 15-2802; 1953 Comp., § 15-30-2.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Change of county seat. - Laws 1905, ch. 2, § 3, changed the county seat from Progreso to Estancia.

Collateral attacks on validity of act changing county seat. - A contention that a murder conviction made at a term of court held in Estancia was invalid on the grounds that this section, amending Laws 1903, ch. 70, § 2, changed the county seat from Progreso to Estancia and was a special act in violation of the former Springer Act (48 U.S.C., § 1471, now repealed), was not well taken, since Estancia was at least a de facto county seat, and the validity of this section had not been attacked in a direct proceeding. *Territory v. Clark*, 15 N.M. 35, 99 P. 697 (1909).

Action by taxpayer to restrain county commissioners from contracting for or erecting a courthouse or jail at Estancia, on ground that Estancia was not the lawful county seat in that act designating it as the county seat was unconstitutional, was not maintainable since it was a collateral attack on validity of location of county seat. *Torres v. Board of County Comm'rs*, 15 N.M. 703, 110 P. 851 (1910).

## **Article 31**

### **Union County**

#### **§ 4-31-1. [Original county boundaries.]**

That the county of Union is hereby created out of that portion of the territory of New Mexico lying and being situate within the following metes and bounds, to wit: commencing at a point on the line between the state of Colorado and the territory of New Mexico where the range line between ranges twenty-seven and twenty-eight east crosses said line between the territory of New Mexico and state of Colorado; thence from said point, running south on said range line between ranges twenty-seven and

twenty-eight east, to the south line of the county of Mora, in said territory; thence east along the south line of the said county of Mora to the east line of what is known and called the Pablo Montoya grant; thence in a southeasterly direction along the easterly line of the said Pablo Montoya grant to the north line of what is called and known as Baca location number two; thence east along the north line of said Baca location number two to the northeast corner of said Baca location number two; thence south along the east line of said Baca location number two to the southeast corner of said Baca location number two; thence continuing south to the township line between townships eleven and twelve north; thence east along said line between townships eleven and twelve north, to the east line of the territory of New Mexico; thence north on the east line of the territory of New Mexico to the northeast corner of said territory of New Mexico; thence west along the north line of said territory of New Mexico, to the range line, between ranges twenty-seven and twenty-eight east, the point of beginning.

History: Laws 1893, ch. 49, § 1; 1895, ch. 12, § 1; C.L. 1897, § 615; Code 1915, § 1115; C.S. 1929, § 33-2901; 1941 Comp., § 15-2901; 1953 Comp., § 15-31-1.

Cross-references. - As to boundaries of Colfax county, see 4-4-1 to 4-4-3 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Harding county, see 4-11-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Mora county, see 4-18-1 to 4-18-3 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Quay county, see 4-20-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of San Miguel county, see 4-25-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Union county was formed from the eastern portion of Colfax, Mora, and San Miguel counties. Harding and Quay counties have since been formed from the southern parts of Union county.

The present boundaries of Union county may be described as follows: commencing at a point on the line between the states of Colorado and New Mexico where the range line between ranges 27 and 28 east meets said state line; thence south [description from 4-31-1 NMSA 1978] on the range line between ranges 27 and 28 east to the southwest corner of township 23 north of range 28 east [description from 4-11-1 NMSA 1978]; thence east on the township line between townships 22 and 23 north to the range line between ranges 29 and 30 east; thence south on the range line between ranges 29 and 30 east to the township line between townships 21 and 22 north; thence east on said township line to the range line between ranges 33 and 34 east; thence south on said range line to the fifth standard parallel north; thence west on said standard parallel to the northwest corner of township 20 north of range 34 east; thence south on the range line between ranges 33 and 34 east to the township line between townships 17 and 18 north; thence east on the township line to the boundary line between the states of New Mexico and Texas [description from 4-20-1 NMSA 1978]; thence north on the east boundary line of the state to the south line boundary of the state of Colorado; thence west on the New Mexico-Colorado state line to the point of beginning.

The sections of this article were incorporated in article 24, chapter 24 of the 1915 Code. They were not reenacted by their inclusion therein, but were compiled merely for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

## **§ 4-31-2. [County seat.]**

The county seat of the county of Union shall be and the same is hereby located in the town of Clayton in said county.

History: Laws 1893, ch. 49, § 2; C.L. 1897, § 616; Code 1915, § 1116; C.S. 1929, § 33-2902; 1941 Comp., § 15-2902; 1953 Comp., § 15-31-2.

Cross-references. - As to removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3 and 4-34-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

## **Article 32**

### **Valencia County**

#### **§ 4-32-1. [Original county boundaries.]**

The county of Valencia shall be bounded as follows: on the south, drawing a line from a point between the town of Jose Pino and the house of Jose Antonio Chavez toward the east in the direction of the Bocas de Abo, and continuing said line along the Gabilan mountain until it terminates with the boundaries of the territory; drawing a direct line from the starting point of the eastern line, crossing the Rio del Norte, touching the dividing line between Belen and Sabinal, continuing the line in the direction of the canada of the Alamito del Rio Puerco, and following in the direction of Puerto de la Bolita de Oro, until it terminates with the boundary of the territory; on the north to be bounded by the county of Bernalillo.

History: Laws 1852-1853, p. 292; C.L. 1865, ch. 42, § 10; C.L. 1884, § 251; C.L. 1897, § 517; Code 1915, § 1117; C.S. 1929, § 33-3001; 1941 Comp., § 15-3001; 1953 Comp., § 15-32-1.

Cross-references. - As to change of northern boundary with Bernalillo county, see 4-1-2 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Catron county, see 4-2-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Cibola county, see 4-3A-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of McKinley county, see 4-17-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Sandoval county, see 4-23-1 NMSA 1978. As to original boundaries of Socorro county, see 4-28-1 NMSA 1978. As to boundaries of Torrance county, see 4-30-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Valencia county, which originally touched the east and west boundaries of the territory, has been greatly reduced in size since it was created by the above section.

The present boundaries of the county may be described as follows: commencing at the

junction of the Arizona-New Mexico state line with the second standard parallel north; thence south on the state line to the north line of Catron county; thence east and southeasterly on the north line of Catron and Socorro counties [description from this section; see also compiler's notes under 4-28-1 NMSA 1978] to the eastern boundary with Torrance county; thence north [description from 4-30-1 NMSA 1978] following the boundary line with Torrance county to the southeast corner of section 33 in township 8 north of range 5 east; thence northerly and westerly [description from 4-1-2 NMSA 1978; see also compiler's notes under 4-1-1 NMSA 1978] to the south base of Isleta hill on the east bank of the Rio Grande; thence down the Rio Grande to its intersection with the original north boundary line of the county; thence west and northwesterly (description from this section) on the present boundary with Bernalillo and Sandoval counties to the third standard parallel north; thence west on the south boundary of Sandoval and McKinley counties [see 4-17-1 and 4-23-1 NMSA 1978] to the state line and point of beginning.

Valencia county has been reduced in size by the formation of Cibola county out of that part of Valencia county lying westerly of the following described line: begin on the southerly boundary line of Valencia county at its intersection with the line common to Ranges 3 and 4 west, N.M.P.M.; then northerly along the line between Ranges 3 and 4 west to the intersection with the line common to Townships 8 and 9 north; then easterly along the line between Townships 8 and 9 north and along the easterly prolongation of this line to its intersection with the westerly boundary line of Bernalillo county, the point of termination.

This section was incorporated in article 25, chapter 24 of the 1915 Code. It was not reenacted by its inclusion therein, but was compiled merely for convenience. See the 1915 Code, p. 1665.

## **Article 33**

### **Creation or Change of Counties**

#### **§ 4-33-1. [Annexation of a portion of a county to another county; reasons.]**

Whenever, because of the location and conditions of roads, or the existence or nonexistence of transportation facilities, it will be more convenient for the residents of any portion of a county to travel to the county seat of some other contiguous county, and because of such location and condition of roads or the existence or nonexistence of transportation facilities, it will be more convenient and economical for such other county to render governmental services to such portion of such other county, the portion of the county so affected may be annexed to such other county in the following manner.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3305, enacted by Laws 1947, ch. 196, § 1; 1953 Comp., § 15-33-1.

Cross-references. - As to combined city and county corporations, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 4, and 3-16-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Constitutionality of article. - This article setting forth procedure for detachment and annexation proceedings is not void for vagueness and uncertainty. *Crosthwait v. White*, 55 N.M. 71, 226 P.2d 477 (1951).

This article is not void for uncertainty and ambiguity. *Youree v. Ellis*, 58 N.M. 30, 265 P.2d 354 (1954).

Annexation statute is not unconstitutional as special legislation. *Crosthwait v. White*, 55 N.M. 71, 226 P.2d 477 (1951).

This article does not violate N.M. Const., art. IV, § 24, as being special legislation. *Youree v. Ellis*, 58 N.M. 30, 265 P.2d 354 (1954).

Provisions for suit and court trial are an incident of an annexation proceeding and failure to mention them in title of the act providing for such proceedings does not invalidate this article. *Crosthwait v. White*, 55 N.M. 71, 226 P.2d 477 (1951).

Even in event something has been improperly omitted from the title, the saving clause in the constitutional provisions that only so much of the act as is not mentioned in the title shall be void will save this article providing for annexation of portions of counties. *Crosthwait v. White*, 55 N.M. 71, 226 P.2d 477 (1951).

Factors in determining convenience of travel to another county seat. - Neither mileage alone nor the existence of unused public transportation was a factor in determining whether it would be more convenient under this section for residents to travel to some other county seat. *Stone v. Crenshaw*, 56 N.M. 707, 248 P.2d 822 (1952).

Factors in determining convenience and economy of provision of governmental services by another county. - Testimony of county officials and others with knowledge of administrative and geographic conditions should be considered in determining whether it would be more convenient and economical under this section for the other county to render governmental services. *Stone v. Crenshaw*, 56 N.M. 707, 248 P.2d 822 (1952).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d *Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions* §§ 55 to 89.

Right of county to challenge acts or proceedings by which its boundaries or limits are affected, 86 A.L.R. 1373.

20 C.J.S. *Counties* § 39.

## **§ 4-33-2. [Petition for annexation.]**

A petition executed by at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the qualified electors residing within the portion of the county proposed to be annexed shall be filed with the county commissioners of the county in which such portion is located. Such petition shall set forth the facts showing the existence of the conditions described in Section 1 [4-33-1 NMSA 1978] hereof and shall accurately set out the boundaries of the portion of the county proposed to be annexed.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3306, enacted by Laws 1947, ch. 196, § 2; 1953 Comp., § 15-33-2.

When signers may withdraw names from petition. - While signers of petition may withdraw their names before the body to which it is addressed has acted on it, they may not do so afterwards. *Crosthwait v. White*, 55 N.M. 71, 226 P.2d 477 (1951).

Number of names on petition held sufficient. - Where signers of petition could no longer withdraw their names by a subsequent petition, leaving more than 51 percent of the electors asking for an election, a sufficient number of names appeared upon the petition. *Crosthwait v. White*, 55 N.M. 71, 226 P.2d 477 (1951).

### **§ 4-33-3. Contest; notice of election.**

Immediately upon the filing of such petition, it shall be the duty of the county commissioners with whom such petition is filed to cause a notice to be published in some newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in each county affected. Within thirty (30) days after the publication of such notice, but not thereafter, any resident of either of the counties affected, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, may bring an action in the district court of the county in which such area proposed to be annexed is located, against any one or more of the signers of the petition, alleging that the petition has not been executed by the requisite number of signers or that the description of the area to be annexed is not accurately described or that the conditions described in Section 1 [4-33-1 NMSA 1978] hereof do not exist.

The judge, after hearing, shall make a determination as to whether the allegations of the petition are well taken. If he shall determine that the allegations of the petition are well taken, he shall enter an order, and if the same be not stayed, it shall be the duty of the county commissioners to call an election to be held within 30 days within the county of the area proposed to be annexed, and shall cause a notice of election to be published two (2) times in a newspaper of general circulation in said county, the last publication thereof to be at least seven (7) days before the date set for the election. Such notice shall specify the polling places, which polling places shall be not fewer than there were in said county at the last general election. At such election all qualified electors who reside within said county shall be entitled to vote: provided, however, that this act [section] shall not apply in any case where a petition has been filed with any board of county commissioners under Chapter 196 of New Mexico Session Laws of 1947 [4-33-1

to 4-33-7 NMSA 1978] in accordance with the requirements of said act of 1947 and where such a petition has been filed prior to the effective date of this act, the election shall be held under the provisions of Chapter 196, New Mexico Session Laws of 1947.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3307, enacted by Laws 1947, ch. 196, § 3; 1951, ch. 148, § 1; 1953 Comp., § 15-33-3.

Notice that the board is required to publish is a notice of the filing with it of the petition mentioned in this section, citing it and its general purpose and object. It should describe the portion of the county proposed to be detached from the named county and attached to the other, and announce that any resident of either county affected within 30 days after publication, but not thereafter, may bring the action mentioned in this section, in the district court of the county in which the affected area lies, challenging, on grounds named in this section, the right to the annexation sought. *Youree v. Ellis*, 58 N.M. 30, 265 P.2d 354 (1954).

Hearing and determination as to correctness of petition. - If a contest is filed, the hearing provided for takes place as provided in this section. The judge of the district court of the county in which the proceedings are initiated must, at the hearing, determine whether the allegations of the petition are true. *Youree v. Ellis*, 58 N.M. 30, 265 P.2d 354 (1954).

If no contest is filed, then the proponents of the proposed annexation, upon calling the matter, by some appropriate pleading, to the attention of the district court of the county where the annexation proceedings are pending, may initiate the hearing contemplated by this section. Upon such hearing, even though the relief sought is unopposed, the court must determine whether there are jurisdictional grounds for the annexation as its authority to proceed further. *Youree v. Ellis*, 58 N.M. 30, 265 P.2d 354 (1954).

Procedure where second petition filed. - Where trial court has held on substantial evidence that a second petition seeking annexation is not an amendment of the first but an entirely new, independent and distinct petition, any defects in the first petition may be laid aside in determining the sufficiency of the second petition. *Youree v. Ellis*, 58 N.M. 30, 265 P.2d 354 (1954).

Right to contest annexation election. - See *Hartley v. Board of County Comm'rs*, 62 N.M. 281, 308 P.2d 994 (1957).

Sufficiency of findings of trial court. - Trial court findings, although phrased in disjunctive, were sufficiently clear to express intention to find the negative of each of the conditions relied on to support annexation. *Stone v. Crenshaw*, 56 N.M. 707, 248 P.2d 822 (1952).

#### **§ 4-33-4. [Judges for election; form of ballots.]**



At such election held hereunder there shall be three election judges named by the county commissioners. Ballots shall be printed and furnished by the county commissioners, which ballots shall read as follows:

USE THE ZOOM COMMAND TO VIEW THE FOLLOWING FORM:

"Shall the area described in the petition filed with the county commissioners of

.....

..... county be annexed to ..... county?

For annexation .....

Against annexation ....."

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3308, enacted by Laws 1947, ch. 196, § 4; 1953 Comp., § 15-33-4.

**§ 4-33-5. [Counting and canvassing of votes.]**

The ballots cast shall be counted by the election officials and the results thereof certified to the county commissioners. Within three days after the election held as herein provided, the county commissioners shall meet and canvass the votes cast and if a majority of those voting shall have voted for the annexation, the area as described in the petition shall be annexed to the other county as provided in said petition.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3309, enacted by Laws 1947, ch. 196, § 5; 1953 Comp., § 15-33-5.

**§ 4-33-6. [Copies of certificate of election; publication; delivery to state tax commission and county assessor of counties affected.]**

Immediately upon canvassing the results of the election, the county commissioners shall cause a certified copy of their certificate of election to be published in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in both counties, and cause a copy to be delivered to the state tax commission and to the county assessor of each county affected.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3310, enacted by Laws 1947, ch. 196, § 6; 1953 Comp., § 15-33-6.

Right to contest annexation election. - See *Hartley v. Board of County Comm'rs*, 62 N.M. 281, 308 P.2d 994 (1957).

### **§ 4-33-7. [Effective date of annexation; effect of outstanding indebtedness.]**

If the proposition carries, the area described in the petition shall be and become a part of the county to which annexation was made on January 1 of the next odd-numbered year. Provided that whenever there shall be any outstanding indebtedness of the county or school district in which such area was originally located, the annexation shall not be complete for debt service purposes until such indebtedness is discharged in full.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3311, enacted by Laws 1947, ch. 196, § 7; 1953 Comp., § 15-33-7.

### **§ 4-33-8. [Taking part of territory from existing county; indebtedness of existing county; taxation by new county.]**

Whenever a part of the territory embraced within the limits of any county of this state having outstanding indebtedness, bonded or otherwise, is taken to form a new county or to add to the area of a county already in existence, nothing in this article [4-33-8, 4-33-9 NMSA 1978] shall be construed to release any of the citizens or property, subject at that time or which may thereafter become subject to taxation within the exterior boundaries of the territory so taken, unless such indebtedness has been otherwise provided for, and the board of county commissioners of such new county or of the county to which such territory has been added is hereby authorized and required to levy annually a tax which shall be assessed and collected by the assessor and collector at the time and in the manner that other taxes are assessed, levied and collected in said county upon all the citizens and residents and property subject or which may thereafter become subject to taxation within the limits of the territory so taken as the same legally existed and is established at the time the said territory is taken: provided, that said tax shall be uniform between the county gaining and the county losing the territory. The board of county commissioners of the county whose territory has been taken shall notify the board of county commissioners of such new county to which territory has been added of the amount of the levy and for the purposes above specified immediately upon the same being made; and no adjournment of either board of county commissioners, when convened for making the levies for the purposes of taxation, shall be had until the levy herein provided for in this article shall have been made.

History: Laws 1903, ch. 20, § 1; Code 1915, § 1119; C.S. 1929, § 33-3101; 1941 Comp., § 15-3101; 1953 Comp., § 15-33-8.

Cross-references. - As to effect of outstanding indebtedness on annexation of a portion of one county to another, see 4-33-7 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The words "this article" were inserted by the compilers of the 1915 Code and referred to art. 26 of ch. 24 thereof. The provisions in art. 26 of ch. 24 of the 1915 Code are compiled as this section and 4-33-9 NMSA 1978.

Compulsion of contribution from former portion of county for payment of judgment against county. - Upon division of a county, it had the power to compel contribution from the segregated portions to pay a judgment against it in proportion to the taxable property received. Territory ex rel. Coler v. Board of County Comm'rs, 14 N.M. 134, 89 P. 252 (1907), aff'd, 215 U.S. 296, 30 S. Ct. 111, 54 L. Ed. 202 (1909).

Issuance of mandamus to compel tax levy to satisfy judgment on bonds of divided county. - Mandamus could issue to compel the board of county commissioners of Santa Fe county to levy a tax to satisfy a judgment on county bonds, although portions of that county had since been annexed to two adjoining counties, since Santa Fe county could compel contribution from the other counties. In such case a demand was not necessary. Commissioner of Santa Fe County v. New Mexico ex rel. Coler, 215 U.S. 296, 30 S. Ct. 111, 54 L. Ed. 202 (1909).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions §§ 94, 95.  
20 C.J.S. Counties §§ 36, 38.

#### **§ 4-33-9. [Disposition of taxes collected.]**

All moneys collected by the collector of such new county or of the county to which said territory has been added pursuant to the levy and assessment provided for in Section 4-33-8 NMSA 1978 shall be paid to the treasurer and collector of the county from which territory was taken, on or before the fifteenth day of each month.

History: Laws 1903, ch. 20, § 2; Code 1915, § 1120; C.S. 1929, § 33-3102; 1941 Comp., § 15-3102; 1953 Comp., § 15-33-9.

#### **§ 4-33-10. [Taking entire county; indebtedness of old county; taxation.]**

Should an entire county having an outstanding indebtedness, bonded or otherwise, be taken so as to form a new county or be absorbed into another county already existing, it is hereby made the duty of the board of county commissioners of such new county, or of the county into which such entire new county may have been absorbed, annually to levy a tax which shall be assessed and collected by the assessor and collector of said county at the time and in the manner that other taxes are levied, assessed and collected in said county, unless such indebtedness has been otherwise provided for, upon all citizens, residents and property now subject or which may herein be subject to taxation within the limits of the county so taken or absorbed as herein mentioned sufficient to

pay the interest or principal or both of such outstanding indebtedness in the same manner and to the same extent as was or would be required of the county commissioners of the county so taken or absorbed had the same not been taken or absorbed.

History: Laws 1903, ch. 20, § 3; Code 1915, § 1121; C.S. 1929, § 33-3301; 1941 Comp., § 15-3103; 1953 Comp., § 15-33-10.

Compulsion of contribution from former portion of county for payment of judgment against county. - Where a county has been divided between two other counties, it may compel contribution from such counties for the payment of a judgment in proportion to the taxable property in each. *Commissioners of Santa Fe County v. New Mexico ex rel. Coler*, 215 U.S. 296, 30 S. Ct. 111, 54 L. Ed. 202 (1909).

### **§ 4-33-11. [Retention of court jurisdiction on creation or change of county.]**

The jurisdiction of the courts of this state to proceed to final determination or settlement of all civil and criminal actions and probate proceedings pending therein shall in no wise be affected by the creation of a new county or by any other change of the boundary lines of any county, and the court in which such action or proceeding is then pending shall retain full jurisdiction of such action or proceeding to final judgment or decree, subject only to change of venue or appeals, as provided by law.

History: Laws 1899, ch. 55, § 1; Code 1915, § 1122; C.S. 1929, § 33-3302; Laws 1939, ch. 76, § 1; 1941 Comp., § 15-3104; 1953 Comp., § 15-33-11.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 20 C.J.S. Counties § 30.

### **§ 4-33-12. [Transcription of certain records.]**

That whenever a new county has been created out of any county or counties of the state of New Mexico it shall be the duty of the board of county commissioners of the new county to arrange within thirty days from the time said commissioners qualify, for the transcribing of all that portion of the records on file in the office of the probate clerk and recorder of the original county or counties which affect persons, real estate and personal property situate or being in the new county.

History: Laws 1899, ch. 70, § 1; Code 1915, § 1123; Laws 1917, ch. 106, § 1; C.S. 1929, § 33-3303; 1941 Comp., § 15-3105; 1953 Comp., § 15-33-12.

Cross-references. - As to payment for transcription of records, see 4-33-13, 4-33-16 NMSA 1978.

A photographic copy of a county record is a sufficient "transcript." 1921-22 Op. Att'y Gen. 32.

### **§ 4-33-13. [Cost of transcription; certificate.]**

The cost of transcribing such records shall be paid by the new county so created and the board of county commissioners of such county are [is] hereby empowered and directed to provide for such transcribing of records, either by contract let to some competent and responsible person or persons or by hiring responsible and competent persons for such work but in no event shall the price paid therefor exceed the sum of ten (10) cents per hundred (100) words for transcribing deeds and such printed or written matter or the sum of five cents [ (\$.05)] per square inch for the reproduction of maps, plats, etc. Provided, that no instrument shall be required to be transcribed for less than twenty-five (25) cents or any map or plat reproduced for less than one (\$1.00) dollar. When the transcription of such records shall have been completed the person or persons making such transcription shall enter, upon the last page of such new records created or upon the face of such plat or maps reproduced, a certificate under oath, that the same are true and correct copies of the instruments as originally recorded.

History: Laws 1899, ch. 70, § 2; Code 1915, § 1124; Laws 1917, ch. 106, § 2; C.S. 1929, § 33-3304; 1941 Comp., § 15-3106; 1953 Comp., § 15-33-13.

Cross-references. - As to payments to county clerk for transcription of records, see 4-33-16 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-33-14. [Transcription; effect; evidence.]**

Upon the completion of the transcription of any such record in the manner provided in the two preceding [preceding] sections [4-33-12, 4-33-13 NMSA 1978] and the delivery thereof to any such new county, the same shall be taken and deemed in law the equivalent of such original record and be of the same force and effect and impart notice equally with original records, and certified copies of the transcribed records or any part thereof made by the county clerk of said new county shall be receivable in evidence in the same manner certified copies of such original records would have been so received.

History: Laws 1899, ch. 70, § 3; Code 1915, § 1125; C.S. 1929, § 33-3305; 1941 Comp., § 15-3107; 1953 Comp., § 15-33-14.

Compiler's notes. - The 1915 Code compilers substituted "county clerk" for "probate clerk and ex officio recorder."

### **§ 4-33-15. [Transcriptions made prior to 1899 validated.]**

Whenever any county created prior to March 16, 1899 has already caused records affecting the property therein to be made from the records of the county or counties, from which the same was created and certified to be such transcription by the county clerk making the same; such transcription shall have the same force and effect and certified copies or any part thereof shall be receivable in evidence as above provided for counties which shall have such transcription after March 16th, 1899.

History: Laws 1899, ch. 70, § 4; Code 1915, § 1126; C.S. 1929, § 33-3306; 1941 Comp., § 15-3108; 1953 Comp., § 15-33-15.

Compiler's notes. - The 1915 Code compilers substituted "created prior to March 16, 1899" for "heretofore created by law," "affecting" for "effecting," "county clerk" for "probate clerk and ex officio recorder" and "shall have such transcription after March 16th, 1899" for "shall hereafter have such transcription."

#### **§ 4-33-16. [Payment for transcription; county clerk; deferred payments.]**

The account of such county clerk shall be presented to the board of county commissioners of the new county, said account to be itemized and verified, showing his expenses and services for such work, which shall consist of money, if any, actually expended by him for books of record in which the transcripts had been entered and a charge at the rate of fifteen cents [(\$.15)] per one hundred words for copying, comparing, indexing and certifying the transcripts of records and he shall be allowed interest on all deferred payments at six percent per annum.

History: Laws 1907, ch. 28, § 2; Code 1915, § 1128; C.S. 1929, § 33-3308; 1941 Comp., § 15-3110; 1953 Comp., § 15-33-17.

Cross-references. - As to costs of transcription of records, see 4-33-13 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Since this section seems to apply only to the county clerk of a county out of which another has been created, it may not apply to a person engaged to transcribe such records under 4-33-13 NMSA 1978 who is not a clerk of such county.

The 1915 Code compilers substituted "county clerk" for "probate clerk and ex officio recorder."

Compensation of deceased clerk. - Where probate clerk died in 1906 while in process of making transcripts of property records of old county for use of new county, the compensation to which his estate was entitled was fixed by C.L. 1897, § 1768 (superseded by 34-7-14, 34-7-15 NMSA 1978), and not by this section, which imposed additional duties which were not performed by the decedent. *Summers v. Board of County Comm'rs*, 15 N.M. 376, 110 P. 509 (1910).

## **§ 4-33-17. Annexation by resolution; notification of secretary of state; challenge.**

If there are no qualified electors residing within the portion of a county proposed to be annexed by another county, resolutions shall be passed by the county commissions of both affected counties approving a transfer of territory from one county to the other. The resolutions shall state the facts permitting such transfer by this method and a description of the territory to be transferred. The county clerks shall forward a copy of each resolution to the secretary of state. The county to which the territory is to be transferred shall place the territory within one or more of its voting precincts and so notify the secretary of state for compliance with election laws. Any aggrieved property owner or qualified elector within the annexed territory may file an action in the district court; if no action is filed within the ninety days, the transfer of the territory shall take place in accordance with the provisions of Section 4-33-7 NMSA 1978.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-33-17, enacted by Laws 1985, ch. 64, § 1.

Effective dates. - Laws 1985, ch. 64 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on June 14, 1985.

## **Article 34**

### **Change of County Seats**

#### **§ 4-34-1. [Petition; number of signers; calling of election; deposit in certain cases; deeds to property for buildings; prohibited removals; limitation on elections.]**

Whenever the citizens of any county in this state shall present a petition to the board of county commissioners signed by qualified electors of said county equal in number to at least one-half the legal votes cast at the last preceding general election in said county, asking for the removal of the county seat of said county to some other designated place, which petition shall be duly recorded in the records of said county, said board shall make an order directing that the proposition to remove the county seat to the place named in the petition, be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of said county at the next general election, if the same is to occur within one year of the time of presenting said petition, otherwise at a special election to be called for that purpose at any time within two months from the date of presenting said petition: provided, that whenever it is proposed to remove a county seat of any county which has public buildings consisting of a courthouse and jail, the original construction of which cost said county more than the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000), such cost to be ascertained from the records of the board of county commissioners of said county, then before said board of commissioners shall make such order so submitting such

proposition to remove the county seat, to the qualified voters of said county, [the board of commissioners] shall require from the petitioners or the persons interested in the removal of said county seat a deposit of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) in money, which said deposit shall be placed in the treasury of said county, which said sum of money when so placed in said treasury shall be used in the construction of a courthouse and jail in the event that the proposition for the removal shall receive a majority of the votes cast at such election, but such deposit shall not be required as a condition precedent to submitting such proposition for the removal in counties which have no courthouses and jails, the cost to the county of which, as ascertained from the records of said county commissioners is less than said sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) as aforesaid; but the same shall be required in all cases when it is proposed to remove a county seat from a point situated on a railroad to another point also so situated: provided, further, that the city, town, village or place named in the petition to which it is proposed to remove said county seat shall be at least twenty miles distant from the then county seat of said county and said petitioners or persons interested in the removal of said county seat shall cause to be conveyed to said county, by a good and perfect title, in the event that the proposition for the removal shall receive a majority of the votes cast at such election, sufficient suitable land to be accepted, if containing as much as three-fourths of an acre for courthouse, jail and other buildings for such county, the deed for which shall be filed with and accepted by the board of county commissioners before calling said election which deed to be redelivered to the grantor therein named in case said proposition to remove said county seat fails to receive a majority of the votes cast at such election, and that no proposition to remove a county seat from a city, town, village or place, situated on a railroad, to one not so situated, shall be entertained or voted upon, and that no vote shall be ordered on substantially the same proposition more than once in ten years.

History: Laws 1897, ch. 6, § 1; C.L. 1897, § 630; Laws 1909, ch. 80, § 2; Code 1915, § 1140; C.S. 1929, § 33-3501; 1941 Comp., § 15-3201; 1953 Comp., § 15-34-1.

Cross-references. - As to issuance of bonds for construction of buildings, see 4-34-3 NMSA 1978. As to acceptance of bonds and deeds to grounds in lieu of cash contribution, see 4-34-9 NMSA 1978. As to constitutional provisions for removal of county seats, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 3.

Compiler's notes. - New Mexico Const., art. X, § 3 provides that where there are county buildings, three-fifths of the votes are necessary for removal of the county seat. It also limits removal elections to once in eight years.

Constitutionality of article. - See *Codlin v. Kohlhausen*, 9 N.M. 565, 58 P. 499 (1899), appeal dismissed, 181 U.S. 151, 21 S. Ct. 584, 45 L. Ed. 793 (1901).

This section is valid and constitutional. *Gray v. Taylor*, 227 U.S. 51, 33 S. Ct. 199, 57 L. Ed. 413 (1913).

This section was not special or local by reason of the 20-mile limitation. *Gray v. Taylor*,



15 N.M. 742, 113 P. 588 (1910), aff'd on rehearing, 16 N.M. 171, 113 P. 588 (1911), aff'd, 227 U.S. 51, 33 S. Ct. 199, 57 L. Ed. 413 (1913).

This section was not invalid for want of registration of voters at particular election. *Gray v. Taylor*, 15 N.M. 742, 113 P. 588 (1910), aff'd on rehearing, 16 N.M. 171, 113 P. 588 (1911), aff'd, 227 U.S. 51, 33 S. Ct. 199, 57 L. Ed. 413 (1913).

This section was held not invalid for absence of signature of governor and certificate by him as of the date when he received it; nor for the absence of signatures of presiding officers of the legislative council and house, the journals showing passage in both houses. *Gray v. Taylor*, 15 N.M. 742, 113 P. 588 (1910), aff'd on rehearing, 16 N.M. 171, 113 P. 588 (1911), aff'd, 227 U.S. 51, 33 S. Ct. 199, 57 L. Ed. 413 (1913).

Effect of constitutional provision. - The constitutional provision relative to removal of county seats "as now or hereafter provided by law" authorized election under this section. *Orchard v. Board of Comm'rs*, 42 N.M. 172, 76 P.2d 41 (1938).

Meaning of "general election". - Legislature in authorizing municipalities to change their names and change their county seats by favorable vote at "general election" following appropriate action of the governing body meant the biennial election for choosing county, state and federal officials and representatives. *Benson v. Williams*, 56 N.M. 560, 246 P.2d 1046 (1952).

Contents of petition. - Petition to board of county commissioners to call an election to vote on proposition to remove county seat was held sufficient without requesting removal of county seat. *Gray v. Taylor*, 227 U.S. 51, 33 S. Ct. 199, 57 L. Ed. 413 (1913).

Determination of original cost of old building. - In determining original cost of old building, subsequent repairs should not be included. *Gray v. Taylor*, 15 N.M. 742, 113 P. 588 (1910), aff'd on rehearing, 16 N.M. 171, 113 P. 588 (1911), aff'd, 227 U.S. 51, 33 S. Ct. 199, 57 L. Ed. 413 (1913).

Selection of county seat for newly created county. - Under Laws 1909, ch. 6, § 2, which act created the county of Curry, the voters at the election required to be called at the end of one year after the passage and approval of the act were at liberty to vote for any place within the county as a permanent county seat, whether located on or off a railroad. 1909-12 Op. Att'y Gen. 111.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d *Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions* §§ 46 to 49.

Prohibition to restrain action of administrative officers as to relocation of county seat, 115 A.L.R. 33; 159 A.L.R. 627.

20 C.J.S. *Counties* §§ 61 to 71.

**§ 4-34-2. [Notice of election; publication and posting; ballots; canvassing.]**

The county commissioners shall cause a certified copy of such order to be published in some newspaper of general circulation published in said county for four consecutive weeks immediately prior to such election, and by handbills posted up at three of the most public places in each precinct at least four weeks prior to such election.

The ballots to be voted at such election shall have printed thereon the words: For county seat . . . . ., with the name of the place for which the voter desires to cast his ballot either printed or written thereon. Such ballots shall be canvassed as in elections for county officers and the returns of such election shall be certified by the county clerk to the secretary of state together with a certified copy of the order of the county commissioners and a sworn certificate of the publication thereof, to be filed in the office of said secretary.

History: Laws 1897, ch. 6, § 2; C.L. 1897, § 631; Code 1915, § 1141; C.S. 1929, § 33-3502; 1941 Comp., § 15-3202; 1953 Comp., § 15-34-2.

Cross-references. - As to canvassing of ballots, see 1-13-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to publication of notice, see 14-11-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Form of ballot. - Form of ballots in county seat removal election was held sufficient where ballot provided for in order was "For county seat . . . ." Gray v. Taylor, 15 N.M. 742, 113 P. 588 (1910), aff'd on rehearing, 16 N.M. 171, 113 P. 588 (1911), aff'd, 227 U.S. 51, 33 S. Ct. 199, 57 L. Ed. 513 (1913).

**§ 4-34-3. Bonds for new building; bids.**

Should a majority of the votes at such election be cast in favor of the place named in the petition, the county seat shall be removed to that place, and it shall be the duty of the board of county commissioners, as soon as the citizens of that place have delivered the deed and paid over the sum of money mentioned in the written guaranty provided for in Section 4-34-1 NMSA 1978, to cause to be erected upon the site so provided a courthouse and jail to cost not to exceed three times the amount paid by the citizens, including said amount.

For the purpose of such construction, the board of county commissioners is hereby authorized to issue bonds of that county in such form as the board of county commissioners shall determine, for such time and bearing such rate of interest as it may deem best, such bonds to be sold at, above or below par as permitted by the Public Securities Act [6-14-1 to 6-14-3 NMSA 1978], or taken at par in payment for such construction. The contract for the construction of such buildings shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder after advertising the time and place of opening sealed bids for the

same in a newspaper published in the county once a week for four consecutive weeks, such contractor to furnish a good and sufficient bond for the completion of such buildings according to the plans and specifications.

History: Laws 1897, ch. 6, § 3; C.L. 1897, § 632; Code 1915, § 1142; C.S. 1929, § 33-3503; 1941 Comp., § 15-3203; 1953 Comp., § 15-34-3; Laws 1983, ch. 265, § 15.

Cross-references. - As to bonds for courthouses, jails, bridges, hospitals and libraries, see 4-49-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to public works contracts, see 13-4-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to publication of notice, see 14-11-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

The 1983 amendment added the catchline, inserted "the board of" in the first paragraph and, in the second paragraph, inserted "once a week" in the second sentence and, in the first sentence, substituted "the board of" for "said" near the beginning, deleted "coupon" preceding "bonds," inserted "in such form as the board of county commissioners shall determine," deleted "not to exceed six percent per annum" following "rate of interest" and substituted "above or below par as permitted by the Public Securities Act" for "par."

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1983, ch. 265, § 64, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 7, 1983.

Vote required. - See Orchard v. Board of Comm'rs, 42 N.M. 172, 76 P.2d 41 (1938).

Prerequisites to bond issue. - Bonds for construction of buildings in removal of county seat may not be issued until county commissioners have complied with constitutional requirements. Orchard v. Board of Comm'rs, 42 N.M. 172, 76 P.2d 41 (1938).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - Public contracts: authority of state or its subdivision to reject all bids, 52 A.L.R.4th 186.

#### **§ 4-34-4. [Removal to new county seat; neglect of officer; misdemeanor; penalty.]**

So soon as convenient buildings can be had at such new county seat the courts for said county shall be held therein, and so soon as the new courthouse and jail shall have been completed, the county commissioners shall cause all the county records, county offices and property pertaining thereto, and all county prisoners, to be removed to the new county seat. Any county commissioner or other county officer who shall neglect or refuse to carry out any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined in a sum not less than five hundred dollars [(\$500)] nor more than one thousand dollars [(\$1,000)], which fine may be collected by a suit on his official bond and shall be paid over to the county treasurer for the general county fund.

History: Laws 1897, ch. 6, § 4; C.L. 1897, § 633; Code 1915, § 1143; C.S. 1929, § 33-3504; 1941 Comp., § 15-3204; 1953 Comp., § 15-34-4.

Cross-references. - As to requirement that county surveyor keep office at county seat, see 4-42-4 NMSA 1978. As to requirement that county officers keep offices at county seat, see 4-44-34 NMSA 1978. As to requirement that clerk of probate court have office at county seat, see 34-7-4 NMSA 1978.

Section not repealed by 4-44-34 NMSA 1978. - This section was not repealed by 4-44-34 NMSA 1978, amending the law relating to the duty of officers to keep office at the county seat. Territory ex rel. White v. Riggle, 16 N.M. 713, 120 P. 318 (1911).

A courthouse must be built on property within the county seat. 1967 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 67-61.

When removal to new county seat required. - In case of removal to a new county seat, officers are not required to remove offices and books before a courthouse and jail are completed. Territory ex rel. White v. Riggle, 16 N.M. 713, 120 P. 318 (1911).

Where convenient buildings have been obtained at the new county seat for the purpose of holding court, the district court may and shall convene its sessions therein, but none of the other county offices, records or prisoners shall be removed to the new county seat until the courthouse and jail are completed, and this includes the probate office. 1937-38 Op. Att'y Gen. 34.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - Officer's failure or refusal to reside at county seat as neglect of duty punishable as offense, 134 A.L.R. 1256.

#### **§ 4-34-5. [Notice of establishment of new county seat; pending actions and proceedings.]**

When a new county seat shall have been established in accordance with this article the county commissioners shall cause due notice thereof to be published in some newspaper of general circulation published in said county for four consecutive weeks, and all suits, actions, process, prosecutions and proceedings already commenced or that may be commenced shall proceed to final judgment and execution at such new county seat.

History: Laws 1897, ch. 6, § 5; C.L. 1897, § 634; Code 1915, § 1144; C.S. 1929, § 33-3505; 1941 Comp., § 15-3205; 1953 Comp., § 15-34-5.

Cross-references. - As to publication of notice, see 14-11-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Compiler's notes. - The words "this article" were substituted for the words "this act" by the 1915 Code compilers and referred to art. 29 of ch. 24 of the 1915 Code compiled herein as 4-34-1 to 4-34-10 NMSA 1978. The words "this act" referred to Laws 1897, ch. 6, compiled herein as 4-34-1 to 4-34-5 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-34-6. [City cooperating in erection of buildings; bonds; taxation.]**

Hereafter when the county seat of any county in this state shall be established at any incorporated city and the council of such city shall desire to join with said county in the erection of a public building to be used as a courthouse and jail, as well as for city purposes, such council may issue bonds of such city for the purpose of such construction and the purchase of suitable grounds for such buildings, not to exceed in amount three percent upon the total value of all the taxable property within the limits of such city, as shown by the last preceding general assessment for the purpose of taxation: provided, the total indebtedness of such city, including such bonds, shall not exceed four per centum of the total value of all taxable property within the limits of such city according to such last preceding general assessment.

Such bonds may be payable in such time and manner and with such rate of interest not to exceed six per centum per annum as such council shall prescribe; and it shall be the duty of such council, or the county commissioners of said county, as the case may be, to cause to be levied and collected in the manner and at the time of the levying and collecting other taxes each year and until such bonds and interest thereon shall be fully paid, a special tax upon all taxable property in the said city sufficient in amount to meet the interest and create a sinking fund to pay said bonds at maturity in accordance with the provisions thereof.

History: Laws 1897, ch. 33, § 1; C.L. 1897, § 635; Code 1915, § 1145; C.S. 1929, § 33-3506; 1941 Comp., § 15-3206; 1953 Comp., § 15-34-6.

Cross-references. - As to joint City-County Building Law, see 5-5-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

#### **§ 4-34-7. [City cooperating; amount of bonds required; city to have perpetual use.]**

The county commissioners of such county are hereby authorized to join with the council of such city in the construction of such building: provided, the par value of the bonds so issued and contributed by such city shall equal the cost of the grounds for such building. The [, the] amount of the cash contribution provided by law to be made by the city to which the county seat shall be removed, and a sufficient sum in addition thereto to cover the costs of the additional space to be used for city purposes; and upon completion of said building to give such city a lease for the perpetual use of such portion

of said building as it may be entitled to; and also to arrange for the keeping of city prisoners in said jail.

History: Laws 1897, ch. 33, § 2; C.L. 1897, § 636; Code 1915, § 1146; C.S. 1929, § 33-3507; 1941 Comp., § 15-3207; 1953 Comp., § 15-34-7.

Cross-references. - As to requirement of contribution by city to which county seat to be removed, see 4-34-1 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-34-8. [City cooperating; sale of bonds; construction by commissioners; maintenance.]**

Such bonds shall be sold at par or taken at par in payment for grounds or building, and such bonds shall be delivered to the county commissioners or to such person as they may designate to have charge of the construction and payment for such building. The contract for such construction shall be let by the county commissioners, and said grounds and building shall belong to the county, and the county shall have the right to charge and collect from such city its proper share of the cost of maintenance, repair and insurance thereof.

History: Laws 1897, ch. 33, § 3; C.L. 1897, § 637; Code 1915, § 1147; C.S. 1929, § 33-3508; 1941 Comp., § 15-3208; 1953 Comp., § 15-34-8.

Cross-references. - As to public works contracts, see 13-4-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

#### **§ 4-34-9. [City cooperating; bonds and deeds may be in lieu of cash contribution.]**

Such county commissioners shall receive and accept bonds of such city issued according to this article, together with an agreement duly executed by the owners of suitable grounds for said public building, to execute a good and sufficient deed conveying the same to said county in exchange for a certain amount of said bonds in lieu of the cash contribution and guaranty provided by law in case of removal of county seats.

History: Laws 1897, ch. 33, § 4; C.L. 1897, § 638; Code 1915, § 1148; C.S. 1929, § 33-3509; 1941 Comp., § 15-3209; 1953 Comp., § 15-34-9.

Cross-references. - As to requirement of contribution by city to which county seat to be removed, see 4-34-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The words "this article" were substituted for the words "this act" by the 1915 Code compilers and referred to art. 29 of ch. 24 of the 1915 Code compiled

herein as 4-34-1 to 4-34-10 NMSA 1978. The words "this act" referred to Laws 1897, ch. 33, compiled herein as 4-34-6 to 4-34-10 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-34-10. [Tax levy for payment of bonds.]**

In case of a removal of the county seat as provided by law and the issue of bonds by any county for the purpose of constructing county buildings, it shall be the duty of the county commissioners of such county to cause to be levied and collected at the time and in the manner of levying and collecting other taxes, each year until said bonds and the interest thereon are fully paid, a special tax upon all taxable property within said county sufficient to pay the interest on such bonds and to create a sinking fund to retire said bonds at maturity in accordance with the provisions thereof.

History: Laws 1897, ch. 33, § 5; C.L. 1897, § 639; Code 1915, § 1149; C.S. 1929, § 33-3510; 1941 Comp., § 15-3210; 1953 Comp., § 15-34-10.

Cross-references. - As to bonds for courthouses, jails, bridges, hospitals and libraries, see 4-49-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

## **Article 35**

### **Determination of Boundary Disputes**

#### **§ 4-35-1. [Boundary commission; members.]**

That whenever the location of the boundary line between two or more counties is in dispute such controversy shall be settled by a boundary commission consisting of the chairman of the board of county commissioners and county surveyor of each of the counties affected by such dispute and the district attorney of the district in which such counties are situate.

If such counties are in more than one judicial district, the district attorney of each district shall be a member of such commission.

History: Laws 1912, ch. 45, § 1; Code 1915, § 1174; C.S. 1929, § 33-4003; 1941 Comp., § 15-3301; 1953 Comp., § 15-35-1.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions § 41.

Right of county as to challenging acts or proceedings by which its boundaries are affected, 86 A.L.R. 1373.

20 C.J.S. Counties § 18.

## **§ 4-35-2. [Survey; plat and field notes.]**

It shall be the duty of such boundary commission to cause a joint survey to be made of such boundary line according to the description thereof in the statutes and to have such line plainly marked by suitable monuments set at convenient intervals and to cause a plat and field notes of such survey to be filed in the office of the county clerk of each of said counties. Such plat and field notes shall be signed and certified by the members of the boundary commission as the official plat and field notes of said boundary line as located by the commission.

History: Laws 1912, ch. 45, § 2; Code 1915, § 1175; C.S. 1929, § 33-4004; 1941 Comp., § 15-3302; 1953 Comp., § 15-35-2.

Cross-references. - As to descriptions of county boundaries, see 4-1-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to survey for establishment of county boundaries, see 4-42-9 NMSA 1978.

## **§ 4-35-3. [District attorney; duties; payment of expenses.]**

The district attorney or district attorneys, as the case may be, shall call a meeting of the commission to arrange for making such joint survey.

The officers serving on such boundary commission shall receive no additional compensation for such services. The expense incurred by the commission for transportation, subsistence and the necessary assistants and employes shall be borne share and share alike by the several counties interested, to be paid upon warrants drawn by the several boards of county commissioners.

History: Laws 1912, ch. 45, § 3; Code 1915, § 1176; C.S. 1929, § 33-4005; 1941 Comp., § 15-3303; 1953 Comp., § 15-35-3.

## **§ 4-35-4. Boundary commission; inability to locate line [; procedure for judicial determination].**

If for any reason the joint boundary commission be unable to locate the boundary line according to the description thereof in the statutes, the commission shall certify such disagreement to the attorney general of the state of New Mexico, and it shall thereupon be the duty of the attorney general of the state of New Mexico to forthwith file petition in the district court of the judicial district wherein the two counties disagreeing as to the boundary are located, or, if said counties are in two judicial districts, said petition shall be filed in either of said judicial districts as may be determined by the said attorney general of the state of New Mexico; such petition shall accurately describe by metes and bounds or by section, township and range, the area in controversy. The judge of the district court in which such petition is filed shall thereupon enter an order fixing a time



and place for hearing upon said petition, and cause such notice thereof to be given to interested parties as the court in such order may prescribe. Upon such hearing the court shall receive and hear such competent evidence as may be material to prove the true location of such county line as fixed by the statutes of New Mexico; and the court shall from such evidence determine and fix by judicial decree the boundary line between the two counties, as it may find the same to exist under the laws of the state of New Mexico and shall assess the costs to the parties as to the court may seem just and equitable. The board of county commissioners of either county interested, or any taxpayer of the district or area involved in the controversy may appear at said hearing and introduce evidence as to the true location of such boundary line. In the event such decree shall establish a boundary line different from the line theretofore recognized by either county in the matter of assessment and collection of taxes, or by individual owning real estate in the area thus in controversy in the matter of the filing or recording of instruments of writing affecting such real estate, such decree shall not affect taxes or property already assessed for taxes at the time of the rendition of such decree, and the record of instruments affecting such real estate made in good faith in either county before the rendition of said decree shall not be affected thereby, but such filing or recording of such instruments shall be legal, and have the same effect as if such instruments had been filed or recorded in the proper county as determined by the decree so establishing such boundary line.

History: Laws 1912, ch. 45, § 4; Code 1915, § 1177; C.S. 1929, § 33-4006; Laws 1939, ch. 160, § 1; 1941 Comp., § 15-3304; 1953 Comp., § 15-35-4.

Cross-references. - As to descriptions of county boundaries, see 4-1-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

## **Article 36**

### **Miscellaneous Powers of Counties**

#### **§ 4-36-1. [County public library;] secretary of state to furnish publications.**

After a public library is established, the secretary of state shall furnish to the public library a copy of any work published under his authority.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-36-1.2, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 87, § 2.

#### **§ 4-36-2. [Library services;] contract with other counties.**

A. A county may:

(1) contract with one or more counties and with the library division of the office of cultural affairs for the furnishing of library services;

(2) contract for the establishment of a regional library serving more than one county; and

(3) appropriate money for the support of a regional library or library services.

B. Any regional library so established must first be approved by the state librarian.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-36-1.3, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 87, § 3; 1977, ch. 246, § 46; 1980, ch. 151, § 2.

Effective dates. - Laws 1977, ch. 246, § 71, makes the act effective on March 31, 1978.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1965, ch. 87, § 4, makes the act effective immediately. Approved March 17, 1965.

### **§ 4-36-3. County power to act as agent; purpose.**

A county may act as an agent of the United States government for the expenditure of money authorized by any act of the United States congress.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-36-1.4, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 137, § 1.

County receipt of wastewater system construction grants. - There are no constitutional or statutory limitations which would prevent counties from being eligible to receive wastewater system construction grants from the environmental protection agency. 1978 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 78-15.

### **§ 4-36-4. [County property.]**

Any real or personal property heretofore or which may hereafter be transferred to any county shall be deemed the property of such county.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 2; C.L. 1884, § 333; C.L. 1897, § 652; Code 1915, § 1151; C.S. 1929, § 33-3602; 1941 Comp., § 15-3402; 1953 Comp., § 15-36-2.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions §§ 532 to 540.

Absence of specific statutory authority, power of governing body of county to dispose of county real estate in, 21 A.L.R.2d 722.

Public utility plant or interest therein, power of county to sell, lease or mortgage, 61

A.L.R.2d 595.  
20 C.J.S. Counties §§ 165, 166.

### **§ 4-36-5. Firefighting; county may purchase from municipalities.**

Counties may contract with municipalities for purchase of firefighting services for the county or certain areas in a county where such services are needed when, in the opinion of the county commissioners, such services may be more economically provided by such contracts than maintaining firefighting services by the county. The contract price shall be based upon the cost of the services, the depreciation of the equipment and the cost of insurance necessary or desirable to protect the municipality from loss or claim during the time it is engaged in extraterritorial firefighting under a contract with the county. Subject to the agreement between the municipality and the county, the contract may provide for annual, monthly or actual-use payments.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-36-40, enacted by Laws 1967, ch. 115, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to municipal powers for fire prevention and protection, see 3-18-11 NMSA 1978. As to municipal fire-fighting facilities, see 3-35-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to Fire Protection Fund Law, see 59A-53-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

### **§ 4-36-6. Parks; county government acquisition.**

No county government shall acquire property within the exterior boundaries of any other local government for park purposes unless it has received the prior approval for such acquisition for such purposes from the governing body of the local government within whose boundaries the property is situated.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-36-42, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 368, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to powers of municipalities as to parks generally, see 3-18-18 NMSA 1978. As to construction of parks and recreational facilities, see 3-18-19 NMSA 1978.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - Liability to one struck by golf ball, 53 A.L.R.4th 282.

## **Article 37**

### **County Ordinances**

#### **§ 4-37-1. Counties; powers; ordinances.**

All counties are granted the same powers that are granted municipalities except for those powers that are inconsistent with statutory or constitutional limitations placed on counties. Included in this grant of powers to the counties are those powers necessary and proper to provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of any county or its inhabitants. The board of county commissioners may make and publish any ordinance to discharge these powers not inconsistent with statutory or constitutional limitations placed on counties.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-36A-1, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 312, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to municipal ordinances generally, see 3-17-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to powers of municipalities generally, see 3-18-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to zoning regulations, see 3-21-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Powers generally. - A county is merely a governmental unit of the state and possesses only such powers as are expressly or impliedly conferred upon it by constitutional provisions or legislative enactments. 1969 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 69-103.

Construction of grants of authority generally. - It is not necessary that grant of powers to counties or other municipal corporations contain a specification of each particular act to be done, but it is sufficient if the words used are sufficiently comprehensive to include the proposed acts; an express authority might be general as well as particular. *Agua Pura Co. v. Mayor of Las Vegas*, 10 N.M. 6, 60 P. 208 (1900).

Under the general rule, the grant to counties of the authority to carry out normally proprietary functions may not be implied under any statute. 1969 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 69-103.

General superintending authority of commission or council. - A county commission or a county council does not have any general superintending authority over other elected county officials. 1987 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 87-18.

Violation of law by county officials. - Elected county officials who fail to perform their official duty are subject to removal, civil suit or criminal prosecution if they violate the law. 1987 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 87-18.

General police power and zoning ordinances. - Counties have statutory authority to enact general police power and zoning ordinances; however, enactment procedures and regulatory powers differ between the two. *Board of County Comm'rs v. City of Las Vegas*, 95 N.M. 387, 622 P.2d 695 (1980).

Lease of equipment or personal property. - Municipalities or counties may lease equipment or other personal property on a long-term basis, since municipalities and counties in New Mexico have been given express authority to contract, and a lease is

merely a contract. 1966 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 66-20.

A county has the power to lease road equipment as a power included in the right to purchase. *Allstate Leasing Corp. v. Board of County Comm'rs*, 450 F.2d 26 (10th Cir. 1971).

Or charitable institutions. - It may be implied, from construction of N.M. Const., art. IX, § 14, that a county would have the power to do road work for a charitable institution which was providing for the care of sick and indigent persons. 1969 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 69-103.

Or private persons. - The county road departments may not perform services for private persons without specific statutory authority. 1969 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 69-103.

Purchase and sale of land for industrial park development. - Under this section, it appears that a county may purchase land for industrial park development and in turn sell the property in order for the development to be realized if such a transaction would be for the benefit of the inhabitants of the county. It appears that so long as the land purchased for industrial park development is sold at a fair market price, the operation of such a project will not run afoul of N.M. Const., art. IX, § 14. 1965 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 65-75.

Operation of housing project. - The county commissioners are invested with broad powers regarding authority to do acts in the interest of the county. The operation of a housing project is certainly in the interest of the county and for a county purpose and county commissioners have the power to maintain and operate a housing project. 1953-54 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 5725.

Consolidation of counties. - Two or more counties possess the authority to consolidate in accordance with 3-5-1 NMSA 1978. The counties, however, must be contiguous. 1987 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 87-55.

The legislature would be prohibited from passing a special law that would in effect or specifically abolish a county. When two or more counties consolidate under a general statute, however, they effectively are abolished, and a new entity would emerge. 1987 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 87-55.

The laws providing for annexation or consolidation of portions of counties provide no "priorities" among contiguous counties. The petition must accurately set out the boundaries of the county proposed to be annexed and must state to which county the residents desire to be annexed. The resolutions providing for consolidation must also include within their terms the counties to be consolidated. 1987 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 87-55.

Removal of offices, property and prisoners to new county seat. - A county is a quasi-municipal corporation and among its definite powers is the power, coupled with a mandatory duty, to remove to new county seat, when properly selected, all county

offices and property, and all county prisoners, if courthouse and jail are completed. Orchard v. Board of Comm'rs, 42 N.M. 172, 76 P.2d 41 (1938).

Cooperation with cities and federal government. - A county and a city can enter into an agreement to cooperate in sponsoring a flood control project, and counties and cities can cooperate with the federal government and seek aid under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. § 1001 et seq.). 1963-64 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 63-82 (opinion rendered under former law).

Authority over sewage facilities. - Pursuant to this section and 3-26-1 A(1) NMSA 1978, counties have the authority to acquire and maintain sewage facilities and thereby meet the requirements of 40 C.F.R. 131.11(o)(2)(ii), which requires an agency to have the authority to effectively manage waste treatment works, etc. 1978 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 78-15.

County may not impose criminal sanctions by resolution rather than by ordinance. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-26.

No authority to call for referendum. - In the absence of a constitutional reservation of the right of the people to hold referendum on county ordinances, and in the absence of a specific statutory authority requiring a referendum on ordinances, there is no authority for a county to call a voluntary referendum. Should such a referendum be held, it would not, regardless of its outcome, affect the adoption or validity of the ordinance. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-35.

Law reviews. - For note, "County Regulation of Land Use and Development," see 9 Nat. Resources J. 266 (1969).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions §§ 193 to 230, 343 to 422.

Loan or transfer temporarily of money from one fund to another, power to make, 70 A.L.R. 431.

Mortgage or pledge of property or income thereof, power as to, 71 A.L.R. 828.

Federal courts, applicability to, of state constitutional or statutory provisions regarding liability of county to suit, 86 A.L.R. 1019.

Insurance of public property, right or duty to carry, 100 A.L.R. 600.

Compromise claim, power of county or its officials to, 105 A.L.R. 170; 15 A.L.R.2d 1359.

"County and corporate" purposes, what are, within constitutional provision that legislature may invest power to levy taxes for, in the local authorities, 106 A.L.R. 913.

Stock of private corporation, constitutional or statutory provisions prohibiting counties from acquiring or subscribing to, 152 A.L.R. 495.

Auditorium or stadium as public purpose for which taxing power may be exercised, 173 A.L.R. 415.

Assignment of claims arising out of contract against state, constitutionality, construction and effect of statute forbidding, 175 A.L.R. 1119.

Real estate, power of governing body to dispose of in absence of specific statutory

authority, 21 A.L.R.2d 722.

Tax claim, power to remit, release or compromise, 28 A.L.R.2d 1425.

Public utility plant or interest therein, power of county to sell, lease or mortgage, 61 A.L.R.2d 595.

20 C.J.S. Counties §§ 49, 84.

## **§ 4-37-2. Areas in which county ordinances are effective.**

County ordinances are effective within the boundaries of the county, including privately owned land or land owned by the United States. However, ordinances are not effective within the limits of any incorporated municipality.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-36A-2, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 312, § 2.

Cross-references. - As to municipal ordinances generally, see 3-17-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to zoning regulations, see 3-21-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Municipality not exempt from regulations of air quality control board. - This section does not exempt a municipality from regulations adopted by the Albuquerque-Bernalillo county air quality control board, which has the authority to adopt regulations to prevent or abate air pollution in Bernalillo county. 1982 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 82-7.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - "Radius," meaning of term employed in contract, statute or ordinance as descriptive of area, location or distance, 10 A.L.R.2d 605.

## **§ 4-37-3. Enforcing county ordinances; jurisdiction.**

County ordinances may be enforced by prosecution for violations of those ordinances in any court of competent jurisdiction of the county. Penalties for violations of any county ordinances shall not exceed a fine of three hundred dollars (\$300) or imprisonment for ninety days, or both the fine and imprisonment; except that a county may enact and enforce ordinances that impose the following penalties in addition to any other penalty provided by law: no more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for discarding or disposing of refuse, litter or garbage on public or private property in any manner other than by disposing it in an authorized landfill and no more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the improper or illegal disposal of hazardous materials or waste in any manner other than as provided for in the Hazardous Waste Act [Chapter 74, Article 4 NMSA 1978]. Prosecution of violations under this section may be commenced by the issuance of a citation charging the violation. Citations may be issued by the code enforcement officer of the county or an employee or employees of the county authorized by the board of county commissioners to issue such citations.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-36A-3, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 312, § 3; 1989, ch. 370, § 1.

The 1989 amendment, effective June 16, 1989, added all of the language of the second sentence beginning with "except", and added the third and fourth sentences.

#### **§ 4-37-4. Enforcement officers in counties; duties.**

A. It is the duty of every county sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable and other county law enforcement officer to:

(1) enforce the provisions of all county ordinances;

(2) diligently file a complaint or information alleging a violation if circumstances would indicate that action to a reasonably prudent person; and

(3) cooperate with the district attorney or other prosecutor in all reasonable ways.

B. Any county law enforcement officer that fails to perform his duty in any material respect is subject to removal from office and payment of all costs of prosecution.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-36A-4, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 312, § 4.

Cross-references. - As to county sheriff generally, see 4-41-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to payment of expenses of sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and guards in performing certain official business, see 4-44-18 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-37-5. County ordinances; style and form.**

The style and form of county ordinances shall be determined by the board of county commissioners.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-36A-5, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 312, § 5.

#### **§ 4-37-6. Voting on proposed county ordinances; majority vote required for passage or repeal.**

A. A proposed county ordinance shall be passed only by a majority vote of all the members of the board of county commissioners, and an existing county ordinance shall be amended or repealed in the same manner. Upon a vote of passage, amendment or repeal of any county ordinance, the yeas and nays shall be called and recorded.



B. Within thirty days of the adoption, amendment or repeal of an ordinance or resolution in an H class county, a petition may be presented to the board of county commissioners asking that the measure be submitted to a special election for its adoption or rejection. The petition must be signed by more than fifteen percent of the number of qualified electors who voted at the previous general election. Only qualified electors may sign the petition. Upon the filing of the petition with the board of county commissioners, the ordinance or resolution becomes ineffective and the board shall provide for an election on the measure within sixty days of the filing of the petition. The ballot shall contain the text of the ordinance or resolution in question. Below the text shall be the phrases: "for the measure" and "against the measure" followed by spaces for marking with a cross the phrase desired. The election may be held using voting machines in which case copies of the ordinance or resolution shall be made available at the polls. If a majority of the votes cast favor the measure, it shall take effect immediately. If a majority of the votes cast are against the measure, it shall not take effect.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-36A-6, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 312, § 6.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - Injunctive relief against submission of constitutional amendment, statute, municipal charter or municipal ordinance, on ground that proposed action would be unconstitutional, 19 A.L.R.2d 519.

#### **§ 4-37-7. Proposal of ordinances; publication.**

A. Ordinances may be proposed by any member of the board of county commissioners. Ordinances shall not be submitted to the board for final passage until a majority of the members have directed that the title and a general summary of the subject matter of the proposed ordinances be published one time in a newspaper of general circulation within the county at least two weeks prior to the meeting of the board at which the ordinance is proposed for final passage. The date and time of the meeting at which the ordinance is to be considered shall also be published.

B. Copies of proposed ordinances shall be made available to interested persons during normal and regular business hours of the county clerk upon request and payment of reasonable charge, beginning with the date of publication and continuing to the date of consideration by the county's elected commission.

C. This section shall not apply to ordinances dealing with an emergency declared by the board of county commissioners to be an immediate danger to the public health, safety and welfare of the county or to ordinances the subject matter of which amends a city zoning map if the amendment has been considered by, and recommended to, the board of county commissioners by a planning commission with jurisdiction in the matter.

D. It is a sufficient defense to any suit or prosecution to show that notice by publication was not made.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-36A-7, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 312, § 7; 1981, ch. 218, § 2.

Cross-references. - As to adoption of municipal ordinances, see 3-17-4 NMSA 1978.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 218, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

An omission of a publication of an ordinance would render the enactment of the ordinance void and it could not be enforced. 1964 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 64-117 (rendered under former law).

#### **§ 4-37-8. Printed county ordinances; seal; use as evidence.**

County ordinances may be received in evidence without further proof when they are printed and when the ordinance purports to be printed by the county. Ordinances may also be proved by the seal of the board of county commissioners.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-36A-8, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 312, § 8.

#### **§ 4-37-9. County ordinances; recording and publication; effective date.**

A. All county ordinances, immediately after their passage, shall be recorded in a book kept for that purpose and shall be authenticated by the signature of the county clerk.

B. No ordinance shall take effect until thirty days after the ordinance has been recorded in the book kept by the county for that purpose.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-36A-9, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 312, § 9.

Saving clauses. - Laws 1975, ch. 312, § 10, provides that all ordinances enacted pursuant to any law repealed by the act are not repealed but shall have the same effect as if enacted pursuant to the act.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - Conclusiveness of declaration of emergency in ordinance, 35 A.L.R.2d 586.

#### **§ 4-37-10. Short title.**

This act [4-37-10 to 4-37-13 NMSA 1978] may be cited as the "Home Rule County Validation Act".

History: Laws 1987, ch. 8, § 1.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1987, ch. 8, § 6 makes the Home Rule County Validation Act effective immediately. Approved March 4, 1987.

### **§ 4-37-11. Validation.**

All amendments adopted under color of law to a county charter adopted under the provisions of Article 10, Section 5 of the constitution of New Mexico allowing or purporting to allow the county to exercise all legislative powers and perform all functions not expressly denied by general law or charter as provided in Article 10, Section 6 of the constitution of New Mexico and all acts and proceedings heretofore taken under such charter amendments are hereby validated, ratified, approved and confirmed, as of the date of adoption or attempted adoption of such amendments, notwithstanding any lack of power, authority or otherwise, and notwithstanding any defects and irregularities in such acts and proceedings.

History: Laws 1987, ch. 8, § 2.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1987, ch. 8, § 6 makes the Home Rule County Validation Act effective immediately. Approved March 4, 1987.

### **§ 4-37-12. Effect and limitations.**

The Home Rule County Validation Act [4-37-10 to 4-37-13 NMSA 1978] shall operate to supply such legislative authority as may be necessary to validate any amendments to a county charter adopted under Article 10, Section 5 of the constitution of New Mexico allowing the county to exercise the powers provided for in Article 10, Section 6 of the constitution of New Mexico and any acts and proceedings heretofore taken under such charter amendments which the legislature could have supplied or provided for or can now supply or provide for in the law under which such amendments were adopted and such acts and proceedings were taken. The Home Rule County Validation Act, however, shall be limited to the validation of charter amendments, acts and proceedings to the extent to which such validation can be effectuated under the state and federal constitutions. The Home Rule County Validation Act shall not operate to validate, ratify, approve, confirm or legalize any charter amendment, act, proceeding or other matter which has heretofore been determined in any legal proceeding to be illegal, void or ineffective.

History: Laws 1987, ch. 8, § 3.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1987, ch. 8, § 6 makes the Home Rule County Validation Act effective immediately. Approved March 4, 1987.

### **§ 4-37-13. Construction.**

The Home Rule County Validation Act [4-37-10 to 4-37-13 NMSA 1978], being necessary to secure the public health, safety, convenience and welfare, shall be liberally construed to carry out its purposes.

History: Laws 1987, ch. 8, § 4.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1987, ch. 8, § 6 makes the Home Rule County Validation Act effective immediately. Approved March 4, 1987.

Severability clauses. - Laws 1987, ch. 8, § 5 provides for the severability of the act if any part or application thereof is held invalid.

## **Article 38**

### **Board of County Commissioners**

#### **§ 4-38-1. [Exercise of county powers.]**

The powers of a county as a body politic and corporate shall be exercised by a board of county commissioners.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 3; C.L. 1884, § 334; C.L. 1897, § 653; Code 1915, § 1188; C.S. 1929, § 33-4201; 1941 Comp., § 15-3501; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-1.

Cross-references. - As to powers of counties generally, see 4-37-1 NMSA 1978. As to management powers of board generally, see 4-38-18 NMSA 1978. As to filling of vacancies in legislative offices, see N.M. Const., art. IV, § 4. As to control of property of disincorporated municipalities, see 3-4-7 NMSA 1978. As to subdivision planning, see 3-20-5 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to investigation of bonds of county and precinct officers, see 10-2-12 NMSA 1978. As to filling of vacancies in county and precinct offices, see 10-3-3 NMSA 1978. As to liability of governmental entities and public employees, see 41-4-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to subdivision regulation, see 47-6-9 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Government of county vested in boards of county commissioners. - By the 1876 act of which this section was a part, it was evidently intended that the government of the county should pass from the probate judge to the boards of county commissioners. *Coler v. Board of County Comm'rs*, 6 N.M. 88, 27 P. 619 (1891).

County officials are trustees for the people within the county. As such, they are required to act with reasonable skill and diligence, and to discharge their duties with that prudence, caution and attention which careful men usually exercise in the management of their own affairs. 1967 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 67-149.

General superintending authority. - A county commission or a county council does not have any general superintending authority over other elected county officials. 1987 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 87-18.

Violation of law. - Elected county officials who fail to perform their official duties are subject to removal, civil suit or criminal prosecution if they violate the law. 1987 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 87-18.

Board of county commissioners may legally award a franchise to a water company for the operation of a water system outside corporate limits of a municipality. 1945-46 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 4915.

Ownership, operation and maintenance of an airport is within the powers of the board of county commissioners. 1947-48 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 5007.

Closing county offices on Saturdays. - In view of the language of the statutes and the holdings in the supreme court, the county commissioners in the various counties have the absolute power and discretion to determine if they should close the county offices on Saturdays. 1955-56 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 6221.

Employment offer from two commissioners held invalid. - The action of two county commissioners orally extending an offer of a two-year employment was without statutory authority because it was not made at a duly constituted meeting of the board and, thus, it was not a valid act capable of binding the county. *Trujillo v. Gonzales*, 106 N.M. 620, 747 P.2d 915 (1987).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d *Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions* §§ 140 to 192.

Power of board to make appointment to office extending beyond its own term, 70 A.L.R. 794; 149 A.L.R. 336.

Compromise claim, power of county or its officials to, 15 A.L.R.2d 1359.

Real estate: power of governing body of county to dispose of county real estate in absence of specific statutory authority, 21 A.L.R.2d 722.

20 C.J.S. *Counties* § 81.

## **§ 4-38-2. Members; quorum.**

A. The board of county commissioners shall consist of three qualified electors, any two of whom shall be competent to transact business, who shall be elected according to law.

B. The board of county commissioners of any county having a population of more than one hundred thousand, as shown by the most recent decennial census, and having a final, full assessed valuation in excess of seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000) shall consist of five qualified electors who shall be elected according to law. For the purpose of transacting business, three members shall constitute a quorum.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 8; C.L. 1884, § 339; C.L. 1897, § 658; Code 1915, § 1189; C.S. 1929, § 33-4202; 1941 Comp., § 15-3502; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-2; Laws 1974, ch. 21, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to classification of counties for salary purposes, see 4-44-1 NMSA 1978. As to five member boards of county commissioners, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 7. As to oath and bond of county officers, see 10-1-13 NMSA 1978.

Relationship of constitutional provisions concerning office of county commissioner. - When N.M. Const., art. X, § 7, was added by constitutional amendment, the old § 2 of article X ceased to apply to counties having a population greater than 100,000 and an assessed valuation greater than \$75,000,000. Under N.M. Const., art. X, § 7, the original offices of county commissioner for two-year terms in affected counties were in effect abolished and new offices of county commissioner for two four-year terms were created, notwithstanding that the new constitutional provision does not expressly say that the old offices were abolished and new ones created. *Morris v. Gonzales*, 91 N.M. 495, 576 P.2d 755 (1978).

Permissible terms of office. - A county commissioner who has previously served a two-year term as county commissioner under N.M. Const., art. X, § 2, and one four-year term under N.M. Const., art. X, § 7, may serve an additional four-year term under N.M. Const., art. X, § 7. *Morris v. Gonzales*, 91 N.M. 495, 576 P.2d 755 (1978).

Constitutionality of scheme for election of county commissioners. - Statutory provisions for election of county commissioners from five separate voting districts in certain heavily populated counties does not deny equal protection under federal constitution to residents of less heavily populated counties where three county commissioners are elected at large, since classification between heavily populated counties, with a greater variety of social and economic needs of the populace, and more rural counties, where needs of the general populace were likely to be similar, has a substantial and reasonable relation to the subject matter involved. *Pierce v. King*, 373 F. Supp. 1130 (D.N.M. 1974).

Eligibility of county employee for office of county commissioner. - A school bus driver, employed by the county, is eligible to be a candidate and may run for election for the office of county commissioner if he is a qualified elector and is not otherwise disqualified generally by reason of the disqualification spelled out in the New Mexico constitution. 1959-60 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 59-210.

There is no statute prohibiting a county commissioner from accepting another office. The office is not incompatible with an office under the cattle sanitary board (now New Mexico livestock board) or the state highway department. 1939-40 Op. Att'y Gen. 50.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions §§ 147, 148.

Power of courts or judges in respect of removal of county commissioner, 118 A.L.R. 175.

20 C.J.S. Counties §§ 74, 75.

### **§ 4-38-3. Residence in districts; period for districting; election at large.**

A. Each county having a population greater than thirteen thousand shall be divided by the board of county commissioners into as many compact single-member districts as there are board members to be elected and which shall be as equal in population as possible and numbered respectively to correspond to the number of board members. One commissioner shall be elected from each district by the voters of the district and he shall be a resident of the district from which he is elected. If any commissioner permanently removes his residence from or maintains no residence in the district from which he was elected, he shall be deemed to have resigned. The division of the county into single-member districts shall be made once after each federal decennial census. Any H class county and any county having a population of thirteen thousand or less may be divided by the board of county commissioners into single-member districts as provided in this section.

B. The board of county commissioners of any county having a population of more than one hundred thousand, as shown by the most recent decennial census, and having a final, full assessed valuation in excess of seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000) shall be divided into five county commission districts as provided by law and as equal in proportion to population as possible. Such apportionment shall be made once after each federal decennial census. One commissioner shall be elected by the voters of each district and shall be a resident of the district from which he is elected. If any commissioner permanently removes his residence from or maintains no residence in the district from which he was elected, he shall be deemed to have resigned.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 10; 1880, ch. 19, § 1; C.L. 1884, § 341; C.L. 1897, § 660; Code 1915, § 1190; C.S. 1929, § 33-4203; 1941 Comp., § 15-3503; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-3; Laws 1959, ch. 106, § 1; 1961, ch. 27, § 1; 1974, ch. 21, § 2; 1985, ch. 204, § 1; 1987, ch. 290, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to precinct designations for election of commissioners generally, see 4-38-4 NMSA 1978. As to districting of Bernalillo county, see 4-38-5 NMSA 1978. As to election of county commissioners, see 4-38-6 NMSA 1978. As to class H county, see 4-44-3 NMSA 1978. As to authority of legislature to enact laws permitting division of

counties into county commission districts and to provide that elective county commissioners reside in respective county commission districts, see N.M. Const., art. V, § 13. As to qualifications for holding office generally, see N.M. Const., art. VII, § 2. As to five member boards of county commissioners, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 7.

The 1985 amendment, in Subsection A, substituted "Each county having a population greater than thirteen thousand shall be divided" for "Each county may be divided" and deleted "proportion to" following "as equal in" in the first sentence, substituted "district and" for "whole county, but" in the second sentence, deleted "If made" at the beginning and substituted "once after each federal decennial census" for "within six months after the board of county commissioners is elected to office" at the end of the third sentence, and added the fourth sentence; deleted former Subsection B, relating to election of county commissioners of counties of the H class; and redesignated former Subsection C as present Subsection B.

The 1987 amendment, effective June 19, 1987, in Subsection A, inserted "and" near the middle of the first sentence, substituted "voters" for "votes" in the second sentence, and added the third sentence. The amendment also added the last sentence of Subsection B.

Effective dates. - Laws 1985, ch. 204 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on June 14, 1985.

Constitutionality of scheme for election of county commissioners. - Statutory provisions for election of county commissioners from five separate voting districts in certain heavily populated counties does not deny equal protection under federal constitution to residents of less heavily populated counties where three county commissioners are elected at large, since classification between heavily populated counties, with a greater variety of social and economic needs of the populace, and more rural counties, where needs of the general populace were likely to be similar, has a substantial and reasonable relation to the subject matter involved. *Pierce v. King*, 373 F. Supp. 1130 (D.N.M. 1974).

Effect of Subsection B. - The last proviso of this section (now essentially Subsection B) is operative so as to allow "H" class counties to elect their county commissioners at large. 1959-60 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 59-188.

Power to draw boundaries for election of five member boards of county commissioners. - See *State ex rel. Robinson v. King*, 86 N.M. 231, 522 P.2d 83 (1974).

Commission districts to be drawn by state legislature. - Although Subsection C requires qualifying counties to be divided districts, it does not give the county commissioners the power to district themselves; thus, the power to district qualifying counties must rest in the state legislature. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-31.



Thus, Bernalillo county commission has no authority to reapportion itself. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-31.

Redistricting. - If redistricting has not occurred within two years and in the board's discretion redistricting is needed and justifiable, the board of county commissioners may do so, filing a map and record of the change in the county clerk's office. 1941-42 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 3863.

Reapportionment three or four years after census. - Subsection C does not require reapportionment of a county at the first legislative session following the federal census; therefore, a delay in reapportioning a county until three or four years after the census would effect a reasonably current reapportionment, within the minimum 10-year period required by the federal equal protection clause. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-31.

Candidate for county commissioner must file in district of residency. - In order for a candidate for county commissioner to qualify for that office, he must file in the district where he resides. 1966 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 66-30.

- A candidate for county commissioner must reside in the district in which he runs. Velasquez v. Chavez, 102 N.M. 54, 691 P.2d 55 (1984).

And must be resident of district at time name certified. - A reason for restricting candidates to residents of the district from which they seek election is to insure that each elected commissioner has knowledge of the problems and the needs of the district from which he is elected. It is properly within the spirit of such restriction, and will promote efficient filing administration, to require that a candidate be a resident of the district from which he seeks election at the time his name is certified. State ex rel. Rudolph v. Lujan, 85 N.M. 378, 512 P.2d 951 (1973).

Declaration of candidacy to be used in determining residency of candidate. - Since a candidate may move without changing his affidavit of registration, the address (or precinct) shown on the declaration of candidacy should be used in determining the candidate's precinct. 1966 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 66-30.

Investigation by county clerk of residency of candidate. - If the county clerk's office has any reason to believe that a person's residence is other than that shown on the declaration of candidacy, the county clerk should investigate to ascertain if the address (or precinct) shown on the declaration of candidacy is in fact the candidate's residency. The county clerk may use his staff to do so, or may call upon the services of the sheriff's office. 1966 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 66-30.

Residency of persons appointed to fill vacancies. - Person appointed to fill vacancy in office of county commissioner must, at the time of appointment, be a resident of the commissioner district from which his predecessor was elected. 1915-16 Op. Att'y Gen. 335.

Effect of change of residence by county commissioner subsequent to election. - A county commissioner, once elected and qualified, does not lose his right to the office by change of residence, unless he removes entirely from the county. 1915-16 Op. Att'y Gen. 103.

Where a county is divided and a new county is made, commissioners who reside in the new county forfeit their office as commissioners of the old county. 1917-18 Op. Att'y Gen. 146.

Holding of another office or position by county commissioner. - There is nothing in our statutes prohibiting a county commissioner from holding a position with the state administration, but under 10-3-1 NMSA 1978, his office would be vacated if he undertook to discharge the duties of an incompatible office. Whether it would be incompatible depends on the position itself. 1939-40 Op. Att'y Gen. 73.

A person may serve as a member of the board of trustees of a town and county commissioner or county assessor at the same time unless the two offices held at the same time are considered legally incompatible. 1959-60 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 60-30.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - "At-large" elections as violation of § 2 of Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 USCS § 1973), 92 A.L.R. Fed. 824.  
20 C.J.S. Counties § 76.

#### **§ 4-38-4. Precincts.**

Precinct designations and boundaries used in Section 4-38-5 NMSA 1978 shall be those precinct designations and boundaries set by the boards of county commissioners of the respective counties for the 1982 general election, unless otherwise specifically stated.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-37-3.1, enacted by Laws 1974, ch. 21, § 3; 1983, ch. 126, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to division of counties into districts and residence requirements for county commissioners, see 4-38-3 NMSA 1978. As to authority of legislature to enact laws permitting division of counties into county commission districts and to provide that elective county commissioners reside in respective county commission districts, see N.M. Const., art. V, § 13. As to five member boards of county commissioners, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 7.

The 1983 amendment substituted "1982" for "1972."

Effective dates. - Laws 1983, ch. 126, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

## **§ 4-38-5. Bernalillo county; districts designated.**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 4-38-3 NMSA 1978, the county of Bernalillo is districted as follows:

A. "commission district 1" shall be composed of the following precincts in Bernalillo county: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 30, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 151, 152, 153, 161, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 211, 344, 346, 347, 431, 432, 433, 435, 436, 437, 438, 442, 443 and 444;

B. "commission district 2" shall be composed of the following precincts in Bernalillo county: 31, 32, 33, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 154, 155, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 212, 213, 216, 217, 221, 222, 225 and 345;

C. "commission district 3" shall be composed of the following precincts in Bernalillo county: 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 214, 215, 223, 224, 226, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 321, 324, 325, 326, 341, 342, 343, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 441, 465 and 467;

D. "commission district 4" shall be composed of the following precincts in Bernalillo county: 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 434, 439, 445, 446, 461, 462, 466, 480, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 526, 527, 528, 529, 537, 538 and 539; and

E. "commission district 5" shall be composed of the following precincts in Bernalillo county: 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 316, 317, 322, 323, 327, 416, 417, 463, 464, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 503, 504, 505, 519, 525, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557 and 560.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-38-5, enacted by Laws 1983, ch. 126, § 2.

Cross-references. - As to division of counties into districts and residence requirements for county commissioners, see 4-38-3 NMSA 1978. As to election of county commissioners, see 4-38-6 NMSA 1978. As to authority of legislature to enact laws permitting division of counties into districts and to provide that elective county commissioners reside in respective county commission districts, see N.M. Const., art. V, § 13. As to five member boards of county commissioners, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 7.

Repeals and reenactments. - Laws 1983, ch. 126, § 2, repeals former 4-38-5 NMSA 1978, relating to the designation of districts in Bernalillo county, and enacts the above section.

Effective dates. - Laws 1983, ch. 126, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Temporary provisions. - Laws 1984, ch. 61, § 1, authorizes a study of the inadequacies of basic governmental services in southeast and southwest quadrants of Bernalillo county and directs that county government to appoint a special citizens oversight committee to coordinate the study and report its findings and recommendations to the first session of the thirty-seventh legislature.

Laws 1984, ch. 61, § 2 appropriates \$98,000 from the general fund to the department of finance and administration for expenditure in the seventy-second and seventy-third fiscal years to be allocated to the local government division to carry out the purpose delineated in Laws 1984, ch. 61, § 1, and provides that any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of the seventy-third fiscal year shall revert to the general fund.

Laws 1984, ch. 61, § 3, makes the act effective immediately. Approved March 3, 1984.

Commission districts to be drawn by state legislature. - Although 4-38-3C NMSA 1978 requires qualifying counties to be divided districts, it does not give the county commissioners the power to district themselves; thus, the power to district qualifying counties must rest in the state legislature. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-31.

Thus, Bernalillo county commission has no authority to reapportion itself. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-31.

Constitutionality of scheme for election of county commissioners. - Statutory provisions for election of county commissioners from five separate voting districts in certain heavily populated counties does not deny equal protection under federal constitution to residents of less heavily populated counties where three county commissioners are elected at large, since classification between heavily populated counties, with a greater variety of social and economic needs of the populace, and more rural counties, where needs of the general populace were likely to be similar, has a substantial and reasonable relation to the subject matter involved. *Pierce v. King*, 373 F. Supp. 1130 (D.N.M. 1974).

Reapportionment three or four years after census. - Section 4-38-3C NMSA 1978 does not require reapportionment of a county at the first legislative session following the federal census; therefore, a delay in reapportioning Bernalillo county until three or four years after the census would effect a reasonably current reapportionment, within the

minimum 10-year period required by the federal equal protection clause. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-31.

Power to draw boundaries for election of county commissioners. - See State ex rel. Robinson v. King, 86 N.M. 231, 522 P.2d 83 (1974).

### **§ 4-38-6. Election; term.**

A. At each general election in New Mexico, there shall be elected three county commissioners in each county, except in those counties having a population of more than one hundred thousand, as shown by the most recent decennial census, and having a final, full assessed valuation in excess of seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000) where there shall be elected five county commissioners.

B. In accordance with the provisions of Section 4-38-5 NMSA 1978, at the first general election after the effective date of this act, commissioners from commission districts 3 and 4 shall be elected for terms of two years; commissioners from commission districts 1 and 5 shall be elected for terms of four years; and the commissioner from commission district 2 shall be elected for a term of six years; thereafter, each county commissioner shall be elected for a term of four years.

History: Laws 1899, ch. 30, § 1; Code 1915, § 1191; C.S. 1929, § 33-4204; 1941 Comp., § 15-3504; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-4; Laws 1974, ch. 21, § 5; 1983, ch. 126, § 3.

Cross-references. - As to residence of county commissioners in areas from which elected, see 4-38-3 NMSA 1978. As to terms of county officers generally, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 2. As to five member boards of county commissioners, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 7.

The 1983 amendment added the comma following "New Mexico" near the beginning of the first sentence in Subsection A.

Effective dates. - Laws 1974, ch. 21, contains no effective date provision but was enacted at a session which adjourned on February 14, 1974. Approved February 20, 1974.

Laws 1983, ch. 126, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Meaning of "general election". - See Benson v. Williams, 56 N.M. 560, 246 P.2d 1046 (1952).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 20 C.J.S. Counties § 75.

### **§ 4-38-7. [Holding office until successor is qualified.]**

Every person appointed county commissioner shall hold his office until the general election, and until his successor shall be qualified and enters upon the duties of such office.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 39; C.L. 1884, § 370; C.L. 1897, § 689; Code 1915, § 1192; C.S. 1929, § 33-4205; 1941 Comp., § 15-3505; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-5.

Cross-references. - As to terms of office of county commissioners, see N.M. Const., art. X, §§ 2 and 7 and 4-38-6 NMSA 1978. As to tenure of officers generally, see N.M. Const., art. XX, § 2. As to filling of vacancies of county commissioners, see N.M. Const., art. XX, § 4.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 20 C.J.S. Counties § 77.

### **§ 4-38-8. Meetings.**

The board of county commissioners shall meet, after notice as required by law for meetings of public bodies, at the county seat of each county at quarterly meetings in January, April, July and October in each year and at such other times within the prescribed county as in the opinion of the board the public interests may require. Meetings other than quarterly meetings may be held in the municipality with the largest population concentration in the county, and meetings concerning matters of local interest only may be held in the community affected. All meetings shall be held in a public building owned by [by] the state, county or public schools.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 11; C.L. 1884, § 343; C.L. 1897, § 662; Code 1915, § 1194; C.S. 1929, § 33-4208; 1941 Comp., § 15-3507; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-7; Laws 1975, ch. 30, § 1; 1981, ch. 81, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to duties of county clerk as clerk of board of county commissioners, see 4-40-3 to 4-40-6 NMSA 1978. As to examination by board of canceled orders, see 4-45-7 NMSA 1978. As to meetings of policy-making bodies, see 10-15-1 to 10-15-4 NMSA 1978.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 81, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Election of chairman. - This section and 4-38-10 NMSA 1978 in essence provide that at its first meeting in the January following its election, a board of county commissioners shall elect a chairman to serve as such during his term of office. 1969 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 69-110.

Authority to call special meetings. - The two commissioners other than the chairman most certainly possess the authority to call special meetings. So far as the chairman is concerned, his power is no greater and no less than the authority possessed by his fellow county commissioners. 1959-60 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 59-204.

County seat as "designated post of duty". - The "designated post of duty" (as referred to in 10-8-4 NMSA 1978) of a county commissioner for purposes of per diem and mileage rates is established by reference to this section at the county seat. 1988 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 88-65.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions §§ 155 to 180.  
20 C.J.S. Counties § 88.

### **§ 4-38-9. [Proceedings to be published.]**

The proceedings of the several boards of county commissioners shall be published within twenty days after each meeting in some newspaper of general circulation, in the county in which such a meeting is held, in English, such publication to be made but once.

History: Laws 1897, ch. 60, § 16 [15]; C.L. 1897, § 867(15); Code 1915, § 1195; C.S. 1929, § 33-4209; 1941 Comp., § 15-3508; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-8.

Cross-references. - As to publication of annual report of receipts and expenditures, see 4-38-27 NMSA 1978. As to preparation and disposition of monthly summary of minutes of board, see 10-17-1, 10-17-2 NMSA 1978. As to publication of list of monthly expenditures of board, see 10-17-3 NMSA 1978. As to filing with clerk by county officers of monthly statement of public moneys received and disbursed, see 10-17-4 NMSA 1978. As to language requirements pertaining to publication of board proceedings, see 14-11-11 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The 1915 Code compilers deleted "or Spanish or in both English and Spanish" after "English" and deleted "and the county commissioners shall allow for such publication not to exceed the following amounts: For counties of the first, second, third and fourth classes \$250 per annum" at the end of the section.

The first change noted was apparently made to reconcile this section with 14-11-11 NMSA 1978, originally providing for such publication only once and in English. As amended in 1919, however, 14-11-11 NMSA 1978 makes provision for publication in Spanish.

This section may be affected by 10-17-1 and 10-17-2 NMSA 1978 which provide for a monthly summary of minutes of proceedings to be filed with the clerk, such minutes to be open to public inspection, and for mailing to legal newspapers copies thereof.

Prior to its amendment in 1947, 10-17-3 NMSA 1978 required a monthly publication of a list of expenditures and would appear to have superseded this section in part (see 1943-44 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 4215). The 1947 and 1953 amendments of 10-17-3 NMSA 1978 made publication of the list discretionary.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 20 C.J.S. Counties § 91.

#### **§ 4-38-10. [Chairman; appointment; temporary chairman.]**

They shall at the first meeting after their election choose one of their number chairman, who shall preside at such meeting and all other meetings during the year if present, but in case of his absence from such meeting the members present shall choose one of their number as temporary chairman.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 17; C.L. 1884, § 348; C.L. 1897, § 667; Code 1915, § 1196; C.S. 1929, § 33-4210; 1941 Comp., § 15-3509; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-9.

Election of chairman generally. - Section 4-38-8 NMSA 1978 and this section in essence provide that at its first meeting in the January following its election, a board of county commissioners shall elect a chairman to serve as such during his term of office. 1969 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 69-110.

Term of chairman. - The language "who shall preside at such meeting and all other meetings during the year if present" might be considered as limiting the term of the chairman to one year. However, it is felt that this language merely relates back and refers to 4-38-8 NMSA 1978 setting forth the regular meetings to be held during any year and does not limit the term of the chairman to one year when his term of office as county commissioner is for two years. 1953-54 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 5983 (decided prior to adoption of N.M. Const., art. X, § 7 and amendment of 4-38-6 NMSA 1978).

When new chairman may be elected. - Only if the chairman either resigns as chairman or ceases to be a member of the board may a new chairman be legally elected. 1969 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 69-110.

#### **§ 4-38-11. [Chairman; powers and duties.]**

The chairman of said board shall have power to administer oaths to any person concerning any matter submitted to the board or connected with their powers and duties and he shall sign all orders on the county treasury.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 18; C.L. 1884, § 349; C.L. 1897, § 668; Code 1915, § 1197; C.S. 1929, § 33-4211; 1941 Comp., § 15-3510; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-10.



Cross-references. - As to signature by chairman of county orders, see 4-45-4 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-38-12. [Seal; sessions to be public; rules and regulations.]**

Every board of county commissioners shall have a seal, or scroll until a seal can be procured, and may alter the same at pleasure. Their sessions shall be public with open doors, and all persons conducting themselves in an orderly manner may attend their meetings, and they may establish rules and regulations to govern the transaction of their business.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 16; C.L. 1884, § 347; C.L. 1897, § 666; Code 1915, § 1198; C.S. 1929, § 33-4212; 1941 Comp., § 15-3511; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-11.

Cross-references. - As to duty of sheriff to attend meetings of board of county commissioners, see 4-41-16 NMSA 1978. As to meetings of policy-making bodies, see 10-15-1 to 10-15-4 NMSA 1978.

Approval and signature of minutes of special meeting. - If a special meeting is held and the minutes of the proceedings are read later at the regular meeting, the commissioners who concurred in the special meeting may approve and sign them if the proper procedures are followed, as motion to approve, second, etc. 1959-60 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 59-204.

### **§ 4-38-13. [Powers; property belonging to county.]**

The board of county commissioners shall have power at any session to make such orders concerning the property belonging to the county as they may deem expedient.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 14(1); C.L. 1884, § 345(1); C.L. 1897, § 664(1); Code 1915, § 1199; C.S. 1929, § 33-4213; 1941 Comp., § 15-3512; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-12.

Cross-references. - As to county property, see 4-36-4 NMSA 1978. As to powers of counties generally, see 4-37-1 NMSA 1978. As to control of property of disincorporated municipality, see 3-4-7 NMSA 1978. As to insuring of public buildings, see 13-5-1, 13-5-3 NMSA 1978. As to maintenance and upkeep of district attorney facilities, see 36-1-8.1 NMSA 1978.

Rental of space in county buildings to private persons. - Board of county commissioners may rent space in county courthouse to private individual when it does not interfere with public use and rental is for a short term only. 1945-46 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 4723.

Lease of county buildings free of rent. - The board of county commissioners may permit the department of public welfare (now human services department) to use county buildings for its purposes free of rent. 1937-38 Op. Att'y Gen. 216.

Determination of use of space assigned to county sheriff. - While this section and 4-38-18 NMSA 1978 grant the board of county commissioners the authority to control and manage county property, this does not mean the board may arbitrarily decide how space assigned to the county sheriff may be used. 1969 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 69-50.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions §§ 532 to 540.

Real estate: power of governing body of county to dispose of county real estate in absence of specific statutory authority, 21 A.L.R.2d 722.

Public utility plant or interest therein, power of county to sell, lease or mortgage, 61 A.L.R.2d 595.

20 C.J.S. Counties §§ 165 to 172.

### **§ 4-38-13.1. County equipment and property; permitted uses.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board of county commissioners of any county except a class A county may contract for the use of county equipment or property for the benefit of community ditch associations, mutual domestic water associations or other public entities providing services to significant groups of county residents, which services could legally be provided by a governmental entity. In granting this permission, the board shall specifically describe the equipment or property to be used and the entity on whose behalf it will be used.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-38-13.1, enacted by Laws 1984, ch. 43, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to exercise of county powers through ordinances, see 4-37-1 NMSA 1978.

Effective dates. - Laws 1984, ch. 43, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on February 16, 1984. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

### **§ 4-38-14. [County appropriation for state fair authorized.]**

That the county commissioners in each respective county of the state may, for the purpose of aiding their county in displaying its products or potential products at the New Mexico state fair in Albuquerque, appropriate and expend out of the general fund of such county a sum not exceeding \$1,000 annually.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3512a, enacted by Laws 1951, ch. 88, § 1; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-13.

Cross-references. - As to state fairs generally, see 16-6-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

#### **§ 4-38-15. [Agent of county having charge of county exhibit at state fair; appointment.]**

That said county commissioners may appoint a qualified and suitable person to have charge of said county exhibits and to represent their county at the New Mexico state fair, and may if necessary compensate said agent for such services out of said appropriation.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3512b, enacted by Laws 1951, ch. 88, § 2; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-14.

Cross-references. - As to state fairs generally, see 16-6-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

#### **§ 4-38-16. [Accounts; county buildings; taxation.]**

To examine and settle all accounts of the receipts and expenses of the county, and to examine and settle, and allow all accounts chargeable against the county, and when so settled they may issue county orders therefor as provided by law.

To build and keep in repair all county buildings, and in case there are no county buildings, to provide suitable rooms for county purposes.

To apportion and order the collection of taxes by law.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 14(2-4); C.L. 1884, § 345(2-4); C.L. 1897, § 664(2-4); Code 1915, § 1200; C.S. 1929, § 33-4214; 1941 Comp., § 15-3513; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-15.

Cross-references. - As to publication of report of receipts and expenditures, see 4-38-27 NMSA 1978. As to settlement of accounts upon turning over of office by county collector, see 4-43-4 NMSA 1978. As to accounts and claims against counties, see 4-45-3 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to contracts for construction of courthouses, jails or bridges, see 4-49-15 NMSA 1978. As to construction of county auditoriums, see 5-3-11 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to joint city-county building, see 5-5-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to publication of list of monthly expenditures of board, see 10-17-3 NMSA 1978. As to filing with clerk by county officers of monthly statement of public moneys received and disbursed, see 10-17-4 NMSA 1978. As to public works generally, see 13-4-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to insuring of public buildings, see 13-5-1, 13-5-3 NMSA 1978.

Meaning of "county purposes". - County purposes are those purposes which promote the welfare of the county as a whole and its citizens. The term "county purposes" means such enterprises as would not advance the wants and demands of the community independent of public aid. The building of courthouses, jails, poorhouses and common roads and bridges by which they are made accessible to the people are county purposes, while hotels and mercantile, trading, banking and manufacturing establishments would not be. Functions pertaining to legal aid, a health center, welfare services, employment, job training and counseling services and relocation and rehabilitation services would be of such a nature as to provide a primary benefit to the county in which they are situated. Therefore, they are county purposes and may be housed by the county. 1967 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 67-145.

The board has jurisdiction to allow and authorize the payment of only legal accounts against the county. *State ex rel. Baca v. Montoya*, 20 N.M. 104, 146 P. 956 (1915).

The county commissioners are not authorized to allow an account not legally chargeable against the county, such as allowing a deputy assessor, whose compensation is not fixed by statute, a claim for services as a public officer. *Fancher v. Board of Comm'rs*, 28 N.M. 179, 210 P. 237 (1921).

Court can inquire into judgment rendered against a county to ascertain if the claim is legally payable out of taxes sought to be so applied. *State ex rel. Baca v. Montoya*, 20 N.M. 104, 146 P. 956 (1915); *Atchison, T. & S.F.R.R. v. Territory*, 11 N.M. 669, 72 P. 14 (1903), appeal dismissed, 201 U.S. 41, 26 S. Ct. 386, 50 L. Ed. 651 (1906).

Provision of water supply for community within county. - Providing an adequate supply of water for municipal and domestic purposes in one of the communities of the county possessed of no other municipal government than that afforded by the county was a legitimate county purpose. *Agua Pura Co. v. Mayor of Las Vegas*, 10 N.M. 6, 60 P. 208 (1900).

Provision of sleeping accommodations in jail. - The county commissioners have no authority to divert money from one fund to another; but providing sleeping accommodations in the jail could properly be paid from the courthouse repair fund. 1914 Op. Att'y Gen. 2.

Arrangement for sale of county bonds. - It is within the power of the county commissioners to make such arrangement as is possible to secure the sale of county bonds at par and accrued interest, which are worth less than par in the market. 1914 Op. Att'y Gen. 142.

Provision for assessors' expenses. - The matter of providing for assessors' expenses is governed by the general powers of the county commissioners. 1923-24 Op. Att'y Gen. 118.

Rental of office space outside county seat. - The county commissioners have the power under this section to rent office space outside the county seat for an assistant district attorney. 1951-52 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 5501.

Purchase and maintenance of automobile for official use by sheriff. - County funds may be used for the purchase of an automobile to be used by the sheriff in his official business, and also to maintain the same, if no claim is made for mileage. 1921-22 Op. Att'y Gen. 74.

Payment of expenses in kidnapping case. - It was within the discretionary power of the commissioners to allow and pay expenses incurred in child kidnapping case, but such expenses should be paid out of the general county fund, and could not properly be charged to the court fund. 1909-12 Op. Att'y Gen. 187.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions §§ 541, 579, 827; 71 Am. Jur. 2d State and Local Taxation §§ 86, 87; 72 Am. Jur. 2d State and Local Taxation §§ 704, 753, 834, 881.

20 C.J.S. Counties §§ 81, 167, 238 to 242, 284, 285, 304.

#### **§ 4-38-17. Tax levy for county general purposes; allocation.**

Boards of county commissioners are authorized to levy a tax on all taxable property in the county for general county purposes, including salaries and expenses of county officers, deputies and employees, subject to maximum rates provided by law. Proceeds of the tax shall be allocated to appropriate funds, budgeted and expended as provided by law.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-37-15.1, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 4, § 10.

#### **§ 4-38-18. [Management in general.]**

To represent the county and have the care of the county property and the management of the interest of the county in all cases where no other provision is made by law.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 14(5); C.L. 1884, § 345(5); C.L. 1897, § 664(5); Code 1915, § 1201; C.S. 1929, § 33-4215; 1941 Comp., § 15-3514; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-16.

Cross-references. - As to county powers generally, see 4-37-1 NMSA 1978. As to exercise of powers of county by board of county commissioners generally, see 4-38-1 NMSA 1978. As to county advisory boards, see 4-38-38 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Discretion of commissioners. - This section gives the county commissioners very wide discretionary power in management of interest of county in cases not otherwise

provided for by law. 1915-16 Op. Att'y Gen. 64.

The powers given to the county commissioners to act in the interest of the county are extremely broad. 1967 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 67-145.

Representing county. - This section would authorize the commissioners to represent the county against unwarranted injuries or prejudice to its rights and property. Board of Comm'rs v. Hubbell, 28 N.M. 634, 216 P. 496 (1923), distinguished in Dietz v. Hughes, 39 N.M. 349, 47 P.2d 417 (1935).

Expenditure of county's general funds. - The commissioners may, in their discretion, expend the county's general funds for any purpose which will be of benefit to the county unless such expenditure is expressly prohibited by law. 1957-58 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 58-21.

Use of excess funds in county treasury. - County commissioners have discretionary power to use excess funds remaining in treasury for county purposes. 1914 Op. Att'y Gen. 95, 113.

Use of funds arising from interest on deposits. - Under this section, county commissioners have discretion to use money arising from interest on deposits. 1914 Op. Att'y Gen. 87.

Employment of agents and servants. - The general rule is that county commissioners are without power to employ a person to perform acts which are part of the official duties imposed by statute on another county or state officer, or where the matter of employment of persons is expressly and fully covered by the statute, but with these limitations they have implied power to employ such agents and servants as may be required for county purposes and which are not otherwise provided for by statute or by the state constitution, and the wisdom and expediency of making a particular appointment is within their exclusive discretion. 1939-40 Op. Att'y Gen. 97. See also 4-38-19 NMSA 1978.

This section is an exceedingly broad grant of power, and county commissioners may, in their discretion, appoint purchasing agents or other servants necessary to efficiently carry out the business of the county. 1939-40 Op. Att'y Gen. 97.

County commissioners may cooperate with the agricultural college (now New Mexico state university) to employ an agricultural agent for the benefit of the county. 1914 Op. Att'y Gen. 158.

Expenditure of county money in cooperation with the state in putting a farm demonstrator at work in the county was within this section. 1915-16 Op. Att'y Gen. 64.

Merit system for county employees. - The county commissioners may establish by ordinance a merit system to regulate the employment of county employees. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-29.

Security for county courthouse. - Commissioners are responsible for providing security for county courthouse on 24-hour basis. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-4.

Supplying of unincorporated town in county with water. - The powers of a county are not only corporate but administrative, and it is authorized to do the acts in the interest of the county and to make necessary contracts when not otherwise provided by law. This will include the right to supply an unincorporated town with water for domestic and municipal use. *Agua Pura Co. v. Mayor of Las Vegas*, 10 N.M. 6, 60 P. 208 (1900).

Rental of space in county buildings to private persons. - Board of county commissioners may rent space in county courthouse to private individual when it does not interfere with public use and rental is for a short term only. 1945-46 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 4723.

Determination of use of space assigned to county sheriff. - While 4-38-13 NMSA 1978 and this section grant the board of county commissioners the authority to control and manage county property, this does not mean the board may arbitrarily decide how space assigned to the county sheriff may be used. 1969 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 69-50.

Provision for lodging of prisoners from other counties in county jail. - The board of county commissioners can lodge federal prisoners from surrounding counties if adequate facilities for their care and custody are not available in that particular county; however, the sheriff of the county wherein the jail is situated has, even in the case of a contract between two counties within the state of New Mexico, the right to maintain the standards of cleanliness, health and discipline, and such a contract cannot work to the exclusion of the prisoners of the county wherein the jail is situated. 1957-58 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 57-234.

Closing county offices on Saturdays. - In view of the language of the statutes and the holdings in the supreme court, the county commissioners in the various counties have the absolute power and discretion to determine if they should close the county offices on Saturdays. 1955-56 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 6221.

Appropriation of funds to install displays at state fair. - Counties may make appropriations with which to install displays at the state fair which, presumably, will be of benefit to the counties. 1915-16 Op. Att'y Gen. 155, 248. See also 4-38-14 NMSA 1978.

Allowance of funds to city for service rendered in fighting fire outside of the city limits was within general powers of the board. 1915-16 Op. Att'y Gen. 64.

Cooperation with cities and federal government. - A county and a city can enter into an agreement to cooperate in sponsoring a flood control project, and counties and cities can cooperate with the federal government and seek aid under the Watershed

Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. § 1001 et seq.). 1963-64 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 63-82 (opinion rendered under former law).

Rewards for capture of criminals. - The board has no power to offer rewards for the capture and conviction of criminals. 1921-22 Op. Att'y Gen. 125.

Payment for services in detecting and prosecuting for unlawful death. - To detect and prosecute for unlawful death is certainly such a governmental purpose as is envisaged, and the county commissioners, under this section, can certainly pay for such services. 1957-58 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 58-83.

### **§ 4-38-19. County commissioners; employing deputies and employees; employing a county manager.**

A. A board of county commissioners may set the salaries of such employees and deputies as it feels necessary to discharge the functions of the county, except that elected county officials have the authority to hire and recommend the salaries of persons employed by them to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the offices to which they are elected.

B. A board of county commissioners may employ and set the salary of a county manager to conduct the business of the county, to serve as personnel officer, fiscal director, budget officer, property custodian and to act generally as the administrative assistant to the board, aiding and assisting it in the exercise of its duties and responsibilities.

C. All officials, officers, deputies and employees of the county or of an elected official of the county, shall receive their salaries or wages for services rendered on regular paydays, not more than sixteen days apart.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-37-16.1, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 219, § 1; Laws 1971, ch. 191, § 1; 1973, ch. 90, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to salaries of elected county officers, see 4-44-4 NMSA 1978 et seq.

The "except" clause of Subsection A does not transfer the salary-setting authority for deputies and the like from the board of county commissioners to elected officials. 1975 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 75-64.

Merit system for county employees. - The county commissioners may establish by ordinance a merit system to regulate the employment of county employees. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-29.



Employment contract between board of county commissioners and county manager, while not in violation of the Bateman Act (6-6-11 NMSA 1978 et seq.), which was enacted to require municipalities to live within their annual incomes, was nonetheless void because it created an unconstitutional debt of the county and was an illegal attempt to bind future boards. 1988 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 88-67.

#### **§ 4-38-20. Precinct boundaries; filing with the secretary of state.**

The county clerk shall have on file with the secretary of state a certified copy of the current description of the boundaries of each precinct in the county. A copy of the map showing the boundaries of the precincts shall accompany the descriptions.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-37-17, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 90, § 1; Laws 1975, ch. 255, § 127.

Cross-references. - As to districts for election of county commissioners, see 4-38-3 to 4-38-5 NMSA 1978. As to preparation and submission to secretary of state of boundary description and map upon organization of new precinct or alteration of boundaries of precinct, see 4-38-22, 4-38-23 NMSA 1978. As to precincts and polling places generally, see 1-3-1 to 1-3-9 NMSA 1978.

Repeals and reenactments. - Laws 1969, ch. 90, § 1, repealed former 15-37-17, 1953 Comp., relating to precinct and township boundaries, and enacted a new 15-37-17, 1953 Comp.

Powers of board of county commissioners as to creation or change of precincts. - The board of county commissioners of each county is empowered with the express authority to either create new precincts within the county, or to alter the boundaries of any precinct or demarcation in the county. 1961-62 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 62-17.

#### **§ 4-38-21. Creation of new precincts; petition necessary.**

The board of county commissioners shall not set off or organize any new precinct for any reason other than that provided for in the Election Code [Chapter 1 NMSA 1978] unless a petition be first presented to the board, signed by at least fifty voters resident within the boundaries of the proposed new precinct; and precincts so created shall be as compact in form and cover as small an area as practicable, and shall be so established and their boundaries so fixed, as to have boundaries that are visible on the ground as shown on the standard base map provided by the secretary of state and which serve the greatest convenience of the voters therein.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 15; C.L. 1884, § 346; C.L. 1897, § 665; Code 1915, § 1207; Laws 1921, ch. 15, § 1; 1927, ch. 95, § 1; C.S. 1929, § 33-4221; 1941 Comp., § 15-3516; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-18; Laws 1969, ch. 90, § 2; 1984 (1st S.S.), ch. 3, § 7.

Cross-references. - As to preparation and submission to secretary of state of boundary description and map upon organization of new precinct or alteration of boundaries of precinct, see 4-38-22, 4-38-23 NMSA 1978. As to precincts and polling places generally, see 1-3-1 to 1-3-9 NMSA 1978.

The 1984 amendment inserted "have boundaries that are visible on the ground as shown on the standard base map provided by the secretary of state and which" near the end of the section.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1984 (1st S.S.), ch. 3, § 10, makes the act effective immediately. Approved March 28, 1984.

Powers of board of county commissioners as to creation or change of precincts. - The board of county commissioners of each county is empowered with the express authority to either create new precincts within the county, or to alter the boundaries of any precinct or demarcation in the county. 1961-62 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 62-17.

This section, while it prescribes certain guides to be followed by the county commissioners in fixing the boundaries and areas of new precincts, nevertheless vests certain discretion in the board of county commissioners as to precinct boundaries and areas. Furthermore, whether such creation of new precincts shall be had at all is also a matter of discretion with the board of county commissioners, and although the petitions may be proper in all manner it is not mandatory for the board of county commissioners to act favorably upon such petitions. 1957-58 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 57-240.

### **§ 4-38-22. Change in precincts; map.**

Whenever any board of county commissioners organizes new precincts or alters the boundaries of any precinct in the county, they shall cause a map and record thereof to be made by the county clerk, specifying the names and boundaries of such precinct which map and record shall be kept in the office of the clerk.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 28; C.L. 1884, § 359; C.L. 1897, § 677; Code 1915, § 1208; C.S. 1929, § 33-4222; 1941 Comp., § 15-3517; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-19; Laws 1969, ch. 90, § 3; 1975, ch. 255, § 128.

Cross-references. - As to description of precinct boundaries and map generally, see 4-38-20 NMSA 1978. As to preparation and transmittal to secretary of state of boundary description and map, see 4-38-23 NMSA 1978. As to precincts and polling places generally, see 1-3-1 to 1-3-9 NMSA 1978.

Procedure for change in precincts. - This section and 4-38-23 NMSA 1978 provide for the preparation of a map and record of the new precinct or precincts created to be filed in the office of the county clerk and for a certified statement of the names and

boundaries of the precincts and demarcations so organized to be filed with the secretary of state. 1955-56 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 6114.

Necessity for survey. - While it is incumbent upon the board of county commissioners and the county clerk of each county to cause a map to be made specifying the boundaries of each precinct newly created or altered in its geographical area, it is not mandatory if the precinct boundaries can be accurately described and established by other means than actual survey upon the lands involved, that a survey be made over all the lands involved. It is permissive under the provisions of this section and 4-38-23 NMSA 1978 for a county to prepare a map complying with the requirements of these sections, without surveying the entire precinct if the means utilized describe and establish accurately the boundaries delineated. 1961-62 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 62-17.

### **§ 4-38-23. Change in precincts; certificates and map to secretary of state.**

The county clerk of each county shall, as often as a new precinct shall be organized in his county or the boundaries of any precinct shall be altered, within thirty days, make out and transmit to the secretary of state a certified statement of the names and boundaries of the precincts so organized, and of the boundaries of any precinct the boundaries of which shall have been altered, and a copy of a map showing such organizations or alterations.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 32; C.L. 1884, § 363; C.L. 1897, § 682; Code 1915, § 1239; C.S. 1929, § 33-4305; 1941 Comp., § 15-3518; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-20; Laws 1969, ch. 90, § 4; 1975, ch. 255, § 129.

Cross-references. - As to description of precinct boundaries and map generally, see 4-38-20 NMSA 1978. As to duty of board of county commissioners to cause preparation of boundary description and map, see 4-38-22 NMSA 1978. As to precincts and polling places generally, see 1-3-1 to 1-3-9 NMSA 1978.

Procedure for change in precinct. - Section 4-38-22 NMSA 1978 and this section provide for the preparation of a map and record of the new precinct or precincts created to be filed in the office of the county clerk and for a certified statement of the names and boundaries of the precincts and demarcations so organized to be filed with the secretary of state. 1955-56 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 6114.

Necessity for survey. - While it is incumbent upon the board of county commissioners and the county clerk of each county to cause a map to be made specifying the boundaries of each precinct newly created or altered in its geographical area, it is not mandatory if the precinct boundaries can be accurately described and established by other means than actual survey upon the lands involved, that a survey be made over all the lands involved. It is permissive under the provisions of 4-38-22 NMSA 1978 and this section for a county to prepare a map complying with the requirements of these

sections, without surveying the entire precinct if the means utilized describe and establish accurately the boundaries delineated. 1961-62 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 62-17.

#### **§ 4-38-24. [Roads; elections.]**

To lay out, alter or discontinue any road running through one or more precincts or townships in such county, also to perform such other duties respecting roads as may be required by law.

Said board of commissioners shall also appoint the board of registration, for the registration of the legal voters, and also the judges of election, for all the elections held in their respective counties. Also act as boards of canvassers of the elections within their respective counties; and shall count the votes cast in any election within their respective counties, and shall determine the result thereof from the returns of the judges of election of the various precincts, and shall declare the result of said election, and shall immediately issue a certificate of election under their hands to the person that may have received the highest number of votes for any office. That the judges of election shall make their returns to the commissioners of their respective counties, in the same manner as they are now required by law to make the same to the judges of probate and under the same penalties. The votes cast in any election shall be canvassed and counted within the time prescribed by law and the said boards of commissioners shall discharge all the duties and shall exercise all the powers exercised by the several probate judges prior to March 1, 1876, relative to elections, as required by law on that date, and shall be subject to the same penalties for any failure in the discharge of their duties, or abuse or usurpation of power.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 14(7); C.L. 1884, § 345(7); C.L. 1897, § 664(7); Code 1915, § 1203; C.S. 1929, § 33-4217; 1941 Comp., § 15-3520; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-22.

Cross-references. - As to application of moneys from United States forest reserves to road fund, see 6-11-3 NMSA 1978. As to funds for maintenance of secondary roads, see 6-11-6 NMSA 1978. As to cattleguards on school bus routes, see 22-16-8 NMSA 1978. As to snow removal on school bus routes, see 22-16-10 NMSA 1978. As to requirement of permission for utilities to use county roads, see 62-1-3 NMSA 1978. As to county highways, see 67-4-2 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to Scenic Highway Zoning Act, see 67-13-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to rights-of-way for oil and gas pipelines, see 70-3-7 to 70-3-9 NMSA 1978. As to Noxious Weed Control Act, see 76-7-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Compiler's notes. - Laws 1927, ch. 41, § 722, purports to repeal "So much of Section 1203 [this section] . . . as relates to elections . . ." The second paragraph of this section was therefore omitted from the 1929, 1941 and 1953 Comps. However, the paragraph is set out above since N.M. Const., art. IV, § 18 provides that "each section . . . as . . . amended . . . shall be set out in full," which was not done as to this section in Laws 1927, ch. 41.

When dedication of land by owner binding upon county. - Though dedication of land by the owner to public use may bind the dedicator, the county is not bound until there has been an acceptance by the board of county commissioners. State ex rel. Shelton v. Board of Comm'rs, 49 N.M. 218, 161 P.2d 212 (1945).

### **§ 4-38-25. [Bridges.]**

They may order and direct the construction of bridges and provide and appropriate funds therefor.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 14(11); C.L. 1884, § 345(11); C.L. 1897, § 664(11); Code 1915, § 1205; C.S. 1929, § 33-4219; 1941 Comp., § 15-3521; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-23.

Cross-references. - As to powers of commissioners with respect to county highways in general, see 67-4-2 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to vacation, alteration and establishment of county roads and bridges, see 67-5-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to county highway and bridge bonds, see 67-6-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to obstructions and injuries to highways and bridges, see Chapter 67, Article 7 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-38-26. [Streets in unincorporated county seats.]**

The boards of county commissioners in the unincorporated county seats of this state shall have the same powers that were possessed by the boards of trustees and city council in the incorporated towns and cities of New Mexico, on March 7, 1897, with reference to the care, opening, altering, changing and grading of roads and streets in their respective county seats, and with reference to the laying of sidewalks and taking care of the same in such county seat: provided, that the county shall not pay any of the expenses in making such improvements or changes.

History: Laws 1897, ch. 30, § 1; C.L. 1897, § 664(13); Code 1915, § 1206; C.S. 1929, § 33-4220; 1941 Comp., § 15-3522; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-24.

Compiler's notes. - The compilers of C.L. 1897 added this section to § 664 thereof, as though it were a subsection of Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 14. Except in content, it had no connection with that act, but was independent legislation.

Traffic in unincorporated village. - County commissioners have not the power to regulate traffic in an unincorporated village. 1929-30 Op. Att'y Gen. 29.

When dedication of land by owner binding upon county. - Though dedication of land by the owner to public use may bind the dedicator, the county is not bound until there has been an acceptance by the board of county commissioners. State ex rel. Shelton v. Board of Comm'rs, 49 N.M. 218, 161 P.2d 212 (1945).

## **§ 4-38-27. [Receipts and expenditures; publication of report.]**

The boards of county commissioners of their respective counties at their regular meeting in January in each year shall cause to be prepared a statement of the receipts and expenditures of such county during the year immediately preceding, setting forth the amount of money received from taxes, from licenses and all other sources; setting forth also the amount expended and the particular objects for which in each case every sum of money has been expended; and such statement signed by the chairman and county clerk shall be published.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 26; C.L. 1884, § 357; C.L. 1897, § 675; Code 1915, § 1211; C.S. 1929, § 33-4225; 1941 Comp., § 15-3524; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-26.

Cross-references. - As to publication of proceedings of board of county commissioners generally, see 4-38-9 NMSA 1978. As to preparation and disposition of monthly minutes of proceedings of board of county commissioners, see 10-17-1, 10-17-2 NMSA 1978. As to publication of list of monthly expenditures of board of county commissioners, see 10-17-3 NMSA 1978. As to filing of monthly statements of public moneys received and disbursed by county officers, see 10-17-4 NMSA 1978. As to language requirements for publication of proceedings of board of county commissioners, see 14-11-11 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - This section may be affected by 10-17-1 to 10-17-3 NMSA 1978 which provide for monthly summaries of minutes of the proceedings of the board of county commissioners to be prepared and filed with the clerk and mailed to county legal newspapers and made public, and for monthly statements of expenditures to be published.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 20 C.J.S. Counties § 232.

## **§ 4-38-28. [Payments without authority; liability of commissioners.]**

All moneys, county warrants or other indebtedness paid out or ordered to be paid out by any of the said county commissioners before mentioned, without authority of law, each and every county commissioner so doing shall be liable for and to the county for the amount so by them paid out without authority of law and all the costs and expenses incurred in the recovery of such money, which amount shall be collected and recovered in a suit before the district court, and upon the said bond, in the same manner as other actions.

History: Laws 1887, ch. 8, § 2; C.L. 1897, § 697; Code 1915, § 1215; C.S. 1929, § 33-4229; 1941 Comp., § 15-3525; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-27.

Cross-references. - As to use of certified copy in action on bond of public officer, see 10-2-10 NMSA 1978.

Returning portion of saloonkeepers license money. - Action of board of county commissioners in returning to saloonkeepers portions of license money because the saloons had been closed by injunction was without authority of law. 1909-12 Op. Att'y Gen. 31.

Sheriff's telephone bills. - Because the board of county commissioners may be liable for any payments they order made if the payments are not authorized by law, the board may require the county sheriff to itemize and verify telephone bills for his office in order for the board to protect itself. 1963-64 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 63-142.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions § 585.  
20 C.J.S. Counties § 234.

#### **§ 4-38-29. [Approving unauthorized account; penalty; recovery of money.]**

Any county commissioner who shall vote to approve any account, or order any money paid to any officer or individual, except as provided by law, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars [(\$500)], and the money so illegally ordered to be paid shall be recovered in a suit brought in the name of the county on his official bond.

History: Laws 1897, ch. 60, § 15 [14]; C.L. 1897, § 867(14); Code 1915, § 1216; C.S. 1929, § 33-4230; 1941 Comp., § 15-3526; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-28.

Cross-references. - As to use of certified copy in action on bond of public officer, see 10-2-10 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The 1915 Code compilers deleted "The county commissioners shall receive no mileage or additional compensation for attending special or called meetings and" from the beginning of the section.

County clerks not responsible for funds. - Legal responsibility for the disbursement of public funds, vested in the board of county commissioners, does not extend to county clerks. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-33.

#### **§ 4-38-30. [Neglect of duty; penalty.]**

If any one of the commissioners shall refuse or neglect to perform any of the duties which are or shall be required by law of him as a member of the board of county

commissioners without any just cause therefor, he shall for each offense be fined in a sum not less than twenty-five dollars [(\$25.00)] nor more than one hundred dollars [(\$100)] on conviction in the district court.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 27; C.L. 1884, § 358; C.L. 1897, § 676; Code 1915, § 1212; C.S. 1929, § 33-4226; 1941 Comp., § 15-3527; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-29.

Cross-references. - As to failure, neglect or refusal to perform duties as cause for removal of local public officers, see 10-4-2 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-38-31. [Establishment of airports.]**

The boards of county commissioners of the various counties of this state are hereby authorized and empowered to acquire by purchase, condemnation, gift or lease lands for use as an airport and to establish, construct, own, lease, control, equip, improve, maintain and operate an airport, and to lease or grant the use and privilege thereof to others. Such airports and the airstrips and landing fields thereof are hereby declared to be in the nature of public roads in their facilitation of public travel and transportation; and, the buildings and structures necessary to be used in connection therewith are hereby declared to be necessary public buildings, and the exclusive use of any such airport or airports shall not be granted to any person, persons, firm, corporation or association.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3528, enacted by Laws 1949, ch. 67, § 1; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-30.

Cross-references. - As to leasing of state lands by municipalities, see 19-7-54 NMSA 1978. As to joint airport zoning boards, see 64-2-1, 64-2-2 NMSA 1978.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 8 Am. Jur. 2d Aviation § 71.

### **§ 4-38-32. Eminent domain power for acquiring airports.**

Any property desired for use as an airport by counties under Section 4-38-31 NMSA 1978, may be acquired as for a public purpose and as a matter of public necessity under the power of eminent domain according to the procedure for condemnation provided by the Eminent Domain Code [42A-1-1 to 42A-1-33 NMSA 1978].

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3529, enacted by Laws 1949, ch. 67, § 2; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-31; 1981, ch. 125, § 43.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 125, § 64, makes the act effective on July 1, 1981.



Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - Right of owner of land not originally taken or purchased as part of adjacent project to recover, on enlargement of project to include adjacent land, enhanced value of property by reason of proximity to original land, 95 A.L.R.3d 752.

### **§ 4-38-33. [Eminent domain power over land contiguous and adjacent to airport.]**

The power of eminent domain and right of condemnation granted to counties under the provisions of this act [4-38-31 to 4-38-37 NMSA 1978] shall extend to such land contiguous and adjacent to any such airport or any other lands within one-half mile in any direction from the outer boundaries of said airport as may be necessary to render ingress to and egress from said airport efficient and free from hazard.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3530, enacted by Laws 1949, ch. 67, § 3; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-32.

Cross-references. - As to condemnation proceedings generally, see 42A-1-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - Right of owner of land not originally taken or purchased as part of adjacent project to recover, on enlargement of project to include adjacent land, enhanced value of property by reason of proximity to original land, 95 A.L.R.3d 752.

### **§ 4-38-34. [Joint county-municipal operation of airports.]**

The boards of county commissioners are hereby authorized and empowered to cooperate and join with any municipality located in such county, in the joint operation, financing, maintenance and control of publicly owned or operated airports, under such plan and provisions, as the board of county commissioners and the governing body of such municipality may mutually agree.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3531, enacted by Laws 1949, ch. 67, § 4; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-33.

Cross-references. - As to joint airport zoning boards, see 64-2-1, 64-2-2 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-38-35. [Federal aid for airports; gifts.]**

The respective boards of county commissioners are authorized and empowered to seek and obtain, if possible, from the United States government, or any department or

agency thereof, financial aid and assistance to carry into effect the purposes hereof. Such boards are also authorized and empowered in their discretion to accept gifts and donations of any kind or character from any source whatsoever, including, but not limited to a site for such airports.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3532, enacted by Laws 1949, ch. 67, § 5; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-34.

#### **§ 4-38-36. [Power to issue bonds for airports.]**

The boards of county commissioners of the various counties of this state are hereby authorized and empowered to issue and dispose of the negotiable bonds of such county, subject to the limitations and in accordance with Article 9 of the constitution, for the purpose of securing funds for the acquisition and construction of an airport, airplane landing strips and necessary public buildings to be used in connection therewith.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3533, enacted by Laws 1949, ch. 67, § 6; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-35.

Cross-references. - As to state, county and municipal indebtedness, see N.M. Const., art. IX, § 1 et seq.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 20 C.J.S. Counties § 261.

#### **§ 4-38-37. [Procedure for issuing bonds for airports.]**

The proceedings for calling, holding and canvassing the results of an election to determine whether such bonds are to be issued, the manner of issuance and the terms and provisions of such bonds, the sale thereof, the levy of taxes for the payment thereof and the manner and time of payment thereof shall all be the same as is now or may hereafter be provided by law with respect to bonds issued for the purpose of building courthouses and, in general, all of the provisions of law with respect to county courthouse bonds shall, so far as applicable, apply to the bonds herein authorized.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3534, enacted by Laws 1949, ch. 67, § 7; 1953 Comp., § 15-37-36.

Cross-references. - As to bonds for courthouses, jails, bridges, hospitals and libraries, see 4-49-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

#### **§ 4-38-38. Creation of county advisory boards.**

There is created a county advisory board in each county of the fourth and fifth class.

The board shall consist of the county commissioners, the county treasurer, county assessor, sheriff and county clerk.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-37-37, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 239, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to classification of counties for salary purposes, see 4-44-1 NMSA 1978. As to salaries of officers of counties of fourth and fifth class, see 4-44-11, 4-44-12 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-38-39. Duties of board.**

The board shall meet with the county commissioners and advise them on all matters concerning the offices of county officials and on all matters concerning administration of public matters of the county. Each member of the board shall familiarize himself with all matters of a public nature in his respective county, and each member of the advisory board shall make suggestions and recommendations for more efficient administration of county finances, county government or any other function of the county. The advisory board shall encourage cooperation between various county officials and bring about mediation when several county officials fail or neglect to cooperate in exercising their duties whenever the lack of cooperation becomes detrimental to the efficiency of county government.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-37-38, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 239, § 2.

### **§ 4-38-40. Executive committee.**

The county treasurer, county assessor and county clerk are ex officio the executive committee of the county advisory board.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-37-39, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 239, § 3.

### **§ 4-38-41. Terms of members.**

Terms of members of the county advisory boards in fourth and fifth class counties begin June 15, 1959, and expire with each member's term of elective county office. Terms of successors shall begin and expire with each member's term of elective county office.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-37-40, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 239, § 4.

### **§ 4-38-42. Salary [; members of advisory board].**

In addition to salaries received as elective county officers, each member of a county advisory board, except the county commissioners, shall receive six hundred dollars (\$600) a year, plus three hundred dollars (\$300) additional for deputies. Each county commissioner shall receive three hundred dollars (\$300) a year; provided, that only so much of the salaries of each member of the board shall be allowed as the county's valuation will raise for the salary funds within the twenty mill limitation.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-37-41, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 239, § 5.

Cross-references. - As to salaries of officers of counties of fourth and fifth classes, see 4-44-11, 4-44-12 NMSA 1978.

## **Article 39**

### **County Assessor**

#### **§ 4-39-1. [Election.]**

At each general election in this state there shall be elected a county assessor for each county whose duties, powers and compensation shall be such as prescribed by law.

History: Laws 1884, ch. 63, § 1; C.L. 1884, § 425; C.L. 1897, § 772; Code 1915, § 1284; C.S. 1929, § 33-4701; 1941 Comp., § 15-3601; 1953 Comp., § 15-38-1.

Cross-references. - As to restoration of abolished offices, see 4-44-44, 4-44-45 NMSA 1978. As to abolition of office in third, fourth, fifth and H class counties, see 4-44-36 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to director's supervisory power over county assessors, see 7-35-3 NMSA 1978. As to compliance by assessors with Property Tax Code, see 7-35-6 NMSA 1978. As to valuation of property for taxation, see 7-36-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to publication by assessor of notice of property tax reporting and exemption provisions, see 7-38-18 NMSA 1978. As to mailing by assessor of notice of valuation to property owner, see 7-38-20 NMSA 1978. As to certification of net taxable values, see 7-38-31 NMSA 1978. As to preparation by assessor of property tax schedule, see 7-38-35 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Prior to the 1915 Code, this section read: "At the next general election, and every two years thereafter, there shall be elected in the same manner as now provided by law for the election of other county officers, a county assessor for each county in this territory, whose duties, powers and compensation shall be such as are now or may hereafter be prescribed by law."

Constitutionality of section. - It would be presumed that this Act of 1884, and all other acts passed at that session, were submitted to congress for approval in obedience to

the fundamental law of the territory, and were approved. *Chavez v. Luna*, 5 N.M. 183, 21 P. 344 (1889).

The office of county assessor is a full-time, elective position with specified statutory duties to be carried out during normal working hours. 1969 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 69-35.

Effect of serving as delegate to constitutional convention. - In serving as a delegate to the constitutional convention, a county assessor would be holding incompatible positions, and would be subject to suspension or removal under the provisions of 10-3-1 NMSA 1978. 1969 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 69-35.

Residence qualifications. - Where there was no statutory provision for residence qualification applicable to the office of county assessor, court should not engraft upon the statute by construction a qualification which the legislature, with full power to act, had seen fit to omit. *Territory ex rel. Sandoval v. Albright*, 12 N.M. 293, 78 P. 204 (1904), *aff'd*, 13 N.M. 64, 79 P. 719 (1905), appeal dismissed, 200 U.S. 9, 26 S. Ct. 210, 50 L. Ed. 346 (1906).

Expenses. - The matter of providing for assessor's expenses is governed by the general powers of the county commissioners. 1923-24 Op. Att'y Gen. 118. See also 4-44-14 NMSA 1978.

Invalid appointment of deputy assessor. - Appointment of wife of assessor as deputy county assessor without approval by the board of county commissioners is void where the salary amounts to over \$600 a year. *State ex rel. Sanchez v. Stapleton*, 48 N.M. 463, 152 P.2d 877 (1944).

Compensation of deputy assessor. - A deputy assessor, a statutory officer, cannot claim compensation from the county in absence of a statute fixing his compensation and providing for its payment out of the county treasury. In such case he is to be paid by the officer who employed him, and such employing officer may not recover the amount so paid from the county. *State ex rel. Baca v. Montoya*, 20 N.M. 104, 146 P. 956 (1915).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 72 Am. Jur. 2d State and Local Taxation §§ 720 to 724.

Civil liability of tax assessor to taxpayer for excessive or improper assessment of real property, 82 A.L.R.2d 1148.

84 C.J.S. Taxation §§ 373 to 389.

#### **§ 4-39-2. Courses in property valuation and property tax administration authorized; issuance of certificates.**

The property tax division of the taxation and revenue department, in cooperation with the state institutions of higher learning, may establish four grades of courses in the field of property valuation and property tax administration. The courses shall be graded in

order of increasing difficulty and shall be administered by the institutions of higher learning. Persons completing a course and passing an examination on a particular grade of property valuation and property tax administration shall be issued an appraiser's certificate of an appropriate grade. No person shall be issued an appraiser's certificate of a particular grade unless he has been issued an appraiser's certificate for each one of the lesser grades. The appraisers' certificates shall be denominated "Appraiser 1," "Appraiser 2," "Appraiser 3" and "Appraiser 4" and shall be granted in order of difficulty of the course and examination completed. The "Appraiser 4" certificate shall be granted for completion of the most difficult course. County assessors or appraisers who have been granted an "Appraiser 4" certificate shall be designated "New Mexico certified appraiser" and shall be provided by the property tax division with a certificate granting this designation.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-38-1.1, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 47, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to qualifications for appraisers' certificates, see 4-39-3 NMSA 1978. As to property tax training programs, see 7-35-5 NMSA 1978.

Repeals and reenactments. - Laws 1978, ch. 47, § 1, repeals 15-38-1.1, 1953 Comp. (4-39-2 NMSA 1978), relating to the authorization of courses in property valuation and property tax administration and issuance of certificates, and enacts the above section.

Effective dates. - Laws 1978, ch. 47, § 2, makes the act effective on March 31, 1978.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1978, ch. 47, § 3, makes the act effective immediately. Approved February 24, 1978.

### **§ 4-39-3. Qualifications for appraisers' certificates.**

The property tax division of the taxation and revenue department, in cooperation with the representatives of the participating institutions and in keeping with the standards of the International Association of Assessing Officers, shall establish the qualifications that are prerequisite to the issuance of each grade of certificate.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-38-1.2, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 269, § 2; 1973, ch. 258, § 139; 1974, ch. 92, § 1; 1977, ch. 249, § 25.

Cross-references. - As to conduct of courses in property valuation and property tax administration and issuance of appraisers' certificates, see 4-39-2 NMSA 1978. As to property tax training programs, see 7-35-5 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-39-4. Additional compensation to assessors.**

In addition to the salaries provided for county assessors in Sections 4-44-4 through 4-

44-12 NMSA 1978, county assessors may receive:

- A. an additional five hundred dollars (\$500) a year for holding an "Appraiser 1" certificate;
- B. an additional one thousand dollars (\$1,000) a year for holding an "Appraiser 2" certificate;
- C. an additional one thousand dollars (\$1,000) a year for holding an "Appraiser 3" certificate; and
- D. an additional one thousand dollars (\$1,000) a year for holding an "Appraiser 4" certificate.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-38-1.3, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 269, § 3; 1977, ch. 138, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to certificates generally, see 4-39-2, 4-39-3 NMSA 1978. As to powers of board of county commissioners as to hiring and setting of salaries of county employees and deputies generally, see 4-38-19 NMSA 1978. As to salaries of assessors and other county officials generally, see 4-44-4 to 4-44-15 NMSA 1978.

Effective dates. - Laws 1969, ch. 269, § 4, makes the act effective on January 1, 1971.

#### **§ 4-39-5. Additional compensation to appraisers.**

A board of county commissioners may provide as qualification incentive pay the following additional cumulative increments to the salary of any qualifying appraiser employed in the office of the assessor:

- A. an additional five hundred dollars (\$500) a year for holding an "Appraiser 1" certificate;
- B. an additional one thousand dollars (\$1,000) a year for holding an "Appraiser 2" certificate;
- C. an additional one thousand dollars (\$1,000) a year for holding an "Appraiser 3" certificate; and
- D. an additional one thousand dollars (\$1,000) a year for holding an "Appraiser 4" certificate.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-38-1.4, enacted by Laws 1977, ch. 138, § 2.

Cross-references. - As to powers of board of county commissioners as to hiring and setting of salaries of county employees and deputies generally, see 4-38-19 NMSA 1978.

Effective dates. - Laws 1977, ch. 138, § 3, makes the act effective on July 1, 1977.

### **§ 4-39-6. Assessors; removal proceedings against; property tax division of the taxation and revenue department may cause to be instituted; district attorney; attorney general.**

A. The director of the property tax division of the taxation and revenue department may, if grounds appear therefor, cause removal proceedings to be instituted against any assessor by the district attorney for the county for which the assessor was elected, or by the attorney general, in the manner provided by law for the institution and prosecution of removal proceedings against public officers by district attorneys.

B. The director of the property tax division of the taxation and revenue department shall cause removal proceedings to be instituted under Subsection A of this section against any assessor whose functions have been suspended under Section 7-35-6 NMSA 1978 when any suspension under that section continues without interruption for a period of more than sixty days.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-38-7, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 176, § 5; 1973, ch. 258, § 140; 1977, ch. 249, § 26.

Cross-references. - As to removal of public officers, see 10-3-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to action against assessors for noncompliance with Property Tax Code, see 7-35-6 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-39-7. Extent of act.**

Nothing in this act [4-39-6, 4-39-7 NMSA 1978] shall be construed to repeal or limit any provisions of law relating to the liability of assessors as such or as public officers to fine, imprisonment or removal from office for failure, refusal or neglect to discharge any duty imposed upon them by law, but shall be in addition thereto.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-38-8, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 176, § 6.

Cross-references. - As to causes for removal of local public officers, see 10-4-2 NMSA 1978.

## **Article 40**



## **County Clerk**

### **§ 4-40-1. [Election.]**

At each general election in this state there shall be elected a county clerk and a treasurer for each county of the state, in the same manner as the other county officers are elected.

History: Laws 1868-1869, ch. 36, § 1; C.L. 1884, § 408; C.L. 1897, § 746; Code 1915, § 1277; C.S. 1929, § 33-4501; 1941 Comp., § 15-3701; 1953 Comp., § 15-39-1. Section also compiled as § 4-43-1 NMSA 1978.

Cross-references. - As to salaries of county clerks generally, see 4-44-4 to 4-44-15 NMSA 1978. As to additional compensation of county clerks acting as district court clerks, see 4-44-13 NMSA 1978. As to abolition of office in third, fourth, fifth and H class counties, see 4-44-36 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to restoration of abolished offices, see 4-44-44, 4-44-45 NMSA 1978. As to filing of copies of election certificates relating to change of name or reorganization of municipalities in office of county clerk, see 3-1-4 NMSA 1978. As to duties of county clerk relating to municipal petitions, see 3-1-5 NMSA 1978. As to final day for performing administrative duty, filing petition or declaration where final day falls on Saturday, Sunday or holiday, see 3-1-6 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - This section is also compiled as 4-43-1 NMSA 1978, since it relates to both county clerks and county treasurers.

The provisions of this section were compiled as one section in the 1915 Code and 1929 Comp., but in the 1941 and 1953 Comps., the provisions were compiled as two sections with the reference to "a treasurer" omitted from one and "a county clerk" omitted from the other.

### **§ 4-40-2. County clerk; bond.**

The county clerk of each county shall, before entering upon the duties of his office and within ten days after the first day of January following his election, execute a bond to the state of New Mexico, in the penal sum of ten thousand dollars [(\$10,000)], with sufficient sureties, to be approved by the judge of the district court of said county, conditioned that he will well and faithfully perform all of his duties as such county clerk during his term of office.

History: Laws 1901, ch. 35, §§ 1, 2; Code 1915, § 1441; Laws 1919, ch. 10, § 1; C.S. 1929, § 34-425; 1941 Comp., § 15-3702; 1953 Comp., § 15-39-2.

Cross-references. - As to oath and bonds of county officers, see 10-1-13 NMSA 1978. As to bonds of public officers generally, see 10-2-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

### **§ 4-40-3. [Duties; ex-officio clerk of board of county commissioners.]**

The county clerk shall be ex-officio clerk of the board of county commissioners, shall attend the sessions of the board in person or by deputy, keep the seals, records and papers of said board of county commissioners and keep a record of the proceedings of said board in a book as required by law, under the direction of the county commissioners.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 19; C.L. 1884, § 350; C.L. 1897, § 678; Code 1915, § 1235; C.S. 1929, § 33-4301; 1941 Comp., § 15-3704; 1953 Comp., § 15-39-4.

Cross-references. - As to duties pertaining to change of precinct boundaries, see 4-38-23 NMSA 1978. As to filing of surveys with county clerk, see 4-42-7 NMSA 1978. As to duties pertaining to accounts and claims against county, see 4-45-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to maintenance of record of vouchers filed by county flood commissioner, see 4-50-6 NMSA 1978. As to duties pertaining to recording of documents, see 14-8-1, 14-8-2, 14-8-6, 14-8-9 NMSA 1978. As to duties of probate clerks, see 34-7-14 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to deputy probate clerks, see 34-7-22 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to duties pertaining to filing and vacation of subdivision plats, see 47-6-6, 47-6-7 NMSA 1978. As to filing or recording with clerk of public utilities instruments, see 62-13-9, 62-13-11, 62-13-12 NMSA 1978. As to deposit of money received from sale of trespassing animal in irrigation district, see 77-14-22 NMSA 1978. As to filing with clerk of statements received by irrigation district poundkeeper, see 77-14-33 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Under N.M. Const., art. VI, § 22, the county clerk is designated as clerk of the district court and clerk of the probate court until otherwise provided by law. After July 1, 1969, judges of the district courts are authorized and empowered to appoint clerks. See 34-6-19 NMSA 1978.

Purpose of this section is not to confer validity on meetings of the county commissioners but to provide the board with a clerk to keep its records. 1973 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 73-56.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - Liability of clerk of court, county clerk or prothonotary, or surety on bond, for negligent or wrongful acts of deputies or assistants, 71 A.L.R.2d 1140.  
20 C.J.S. Counties § 141.

### **§ 4-40-4. [Duties as clerk of county commissioners.]**

It shall be the general duty of the clerk of the board of commissioners:

A. to record in a book to be provided for that purpose all proceedings of the board;

B. to make regular entries of all their resolutions and decisions in all questions concerning the raising of money;

C. to record the vote of each commissioner on any question submitted to the board if required by any member;

D. to sign all orders issued by the board for the payment of money, and to record in a book to be provided for that purpose, the receipts of the county treasurer of the receipts and expenditures of the county;

E. to preserve and file all accounts acted upon by the board with their action thereon, and he shall perform such special duties as are required by law.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 29; C.L. 1884, § 360; C.L. 1897, § 679; Code 1915, § 1236; C.S. 1929, § 33-4302; 1941 Comp., § 15-3705; 1953 Comp., § 15-39-5.

Cross-references. - As to service of clerk on county advisory board, see 4-38-38 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to duties of clerk as to accounts and claims against county, see 4-45-3 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Ministerial duties. - Statutory duties of county clerks are ministerial and are intended only to insure the regularity of county fiscal procedures. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-33.

#### **§ 4-40-5. [Duties as to accounts allowed by board; copies of records.]**

It shall be the duty of such clerk to designate upon every account, which shall be audited and approved and allowed by said board, the amount so allowed, and he shall also deliver to any person who may demand it a certified copy of any record in his office, or any accounts on file therein, on receiving from such person fifteen cents [(\$ .15)] for every page contained in such copy.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 30; C.L. 1884, § 361; C.L. 1897, § 680; Code 1915, § 1237; C.S. 1929, § 33-4303; 1941 Comp., § 15-3706; 1953 Comp., § 15-39-6.

Cross-references. - As to approval or disapproval of accounts by board, see 4-45-3 NMSA 1978. As to duties of clerk upon appeal from disapproval of claim against county, see 4-45-5 and 4-45-6 NMSA 1978.

Charging of fee for issuance of certified copies of military discharge papers. - In absence of statute authorizing free certified copies, a fee of \$.15 per page must be charged by the county clerk for issuing certified copies of soldiers' discharge papers. 1943-44 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 4337.

Death certificates. - County clerks may not issue copies of death certificates on file in their office unless the vital statistics bureau promulgates regulations authorizing it or unless the legislature amends the Vital Statistics Act (24-14-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.) to grant county clerks such authority. 1988 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 88-01.

County clerks could not issue certified copies of death certificates pursuant to 14-8-4 NMSA 1978 in order to avoid the higher fees charged for the issuance of certificates by the vital statistics bureau. 1988 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 88-01.

#### **§ 4-40-6. [Duties as to orders for money.]**

Such clerk shall not sign or issue any county order unless ordered by the board of commissioners authorizing the same; and every such order shall be numbered, and the date, amount and number of the same and the name of the person to whom it is issued shall be entered in a book kept by him in his office for that purpose.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 31; C.L. 1884, § 362; C.L. 1897, § 681; Code 1915, § 1238; C.S. 1929, § 33-4304; 1941 Comp., § 15-3707; 1953 Comp., § 15-39-7.

Cross-references. - As to attestation of county orders by clerk, see 4-45-4 NMSA 1978.

Ministerial duties. - Statutory duties of county clerk are ministerial and are intended only to insure the regularity of county fiscal procedures. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-33.

#### **§ 4-40-7. [Newspaper subscriptions.]**

The county clerks of the several counties of this state are hereby authorized and required to subscribe for such, one copy each of newspapers as are printed and published in their respective counties.

History: Laws 1889, ch. 49, § 1; C.L. 1897, § 768; Code 1915, § 1241; C.S. 1929, § 33-4307; 1941 Comp., § 15-3708; 1953 Comp., § 15-39-8.

Section imposes duty to subscribe to newspapers upon the county clerk only when such newspaper or newspapers are printed and published in the county. 1957-58 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 57-192.

Microfilming. - Newspapers maintained by county clerks may be microfilmed, so long as the microfilm is accessible to the public. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-16.

#### **§ 4-40-8. To keep file of newspapers.**

It shall be the duty of each county clerk to receive and preserve every copy of the paper or papers so subscribed for and from time to time cause the same to be properly arranged and bound in volumes of convenient size and in a substantial manner, and said volumes, when bound, shall be kept in his office for the use of the courts, when needed, of strangers and the inhabitants of the county all of whom shall have access to the same at all times during office hours, free of charge. Provided, that in order to more permanently preserve and to make easily accessible valuable historical source material of state and local history, county clerks may upon the approval of the county commissioners make indefinite loans of the files of newspapers not in current demand, to libraries of state educational institutions, or to public libraries situated within the county. For his services in this behalf the county clerk shall receive the sum of ten dollars [(\$10.00)] for each volume, and for the neglect of the duties hereby imposed shall forfeit the sum of fifty dollars [(\$50.00)], to be recovered with costs in a civil action before any court.

History: Laws 1889, ch. 49, § 2; C.L. 1897, § 769; Code 1915, § 1242; C.S. 1929, § 33-4308; Laws 1941, ch. 132, § 1; 1941 Comp., § 15-3709; 1953 Comp., § 15-39-9.

The \$10.00 fee provision of this section is unconstitutional, but other provisions of the section are fully effective. 1941-42 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 4199.

Newspapers maintained by county clerks may be microfilmed, so long as the microfilm is accessible to the public. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-16.

Microfilmed originals may be destroyed. - If microfilmed and certified pursuant to 14-3-15 NMSA 1978, originals of records, including newspapers kept by county clerks, may be destroyed without any action on the part of the records administrator. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-16.

#### **§ 4-40-9. [Newspapers; payment of expenses.]**

The subscription price of such paper or papers, and the binding of the several volumes thereof, shall be paid out of the general fund of the county in the same manner as other charges are audited and allowed from such fund by the respective boards of county commissioners.

History: Laws 1889, ch. 49, § 3; C.L. 1897, § 770; Code 1915, § 1243; C.S. 1929, § 33-4309; 1941 Comp., § 15-3710; 1953 Comp., § 15-39-10.

Cross-references. - As to duties of clerk pertaining to subscription to and preservation of newspapers, see 4-40-7, 4-40-8 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-40-10. [Newspapers; abstraction, mutilation or destruction; penalty.]**

Any person who shall willfully abstract, destroy, mutilate or deface any number or volume of such newspapers purchased in pursuance of Sections 4-40-7 and 4-40-8 NMSA 1978, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be fined in a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars [(\$500)], or imprisonment [imprisoned] in the county jail not more than six months, or [punished] both by such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

History: Laws 1889, ch. 49, § 4; C.L. 1897, § 771; Code 1915, § 1244; C.S. 1929, § 33-4310; 1941 Comp., § 15-3711; 1953 Comp., § 15-39-11.

## **Article 41**

### **County Sheriff**

#### **§ 4-41-1. [Election.]**

At each general election held in this state there shall be elected in each county a probate judge and a sheriff.

History: Laws 1851-1852, p. 198; C.L. 1865, ch. 63, § 4; Code 1915, § 1245; C.S. 1929, § 33-4401; 1941 Comp., § 15-3801; 1953 Comp., § 15-40-1. Section also compiled as § 34-7-2 NMSA 1978.

Cross-references. - As to salaries of county sheriffs generally, see 4-44-4 to 4-44-15 NMSA 1978. As to collection and disposition of fees by officers of H class counties, see 4-44-15 NMSA 1978. As to payment of expenses of sheriffs, deputies and guards for serving process and certain other official business, see 4-44-18 NMSA 1978. As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem generally, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978. As to mutual aid agreements with respect to law enforcement, see 29-8-1 to 29-8-3 NMSA 1978. As to Tort Claims Act, see 41-4-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Compiler's notes. - This section is also compiled as 34-7-2 NMSA 1978, since it relates to both probate judges and sheriffs.

The provisions of this section were compiled as one section in the 1915 Code and 1929 Comp., but in the 1941 and 1953 Comps. they were compiled as two sections with the reference to "a probate judge" omitted from one and "a sheriff" omitted from the other.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 70 Am. Jur. 2d Sheriffs, Police, and Constables § 12.

80 C.J.S. Sheriffs and Constables §§ 1, 4.

## **§ 4-41-2. [Duties.]**

The sheriff shall be conservator of the peace within his county; shall suppress assaults and batteries, and apprehend and commit to jail, all felons and traitors, and cause all offenders to keep the peace and to appear at the next term of the court and answer such charges as may be preferred against them.

History: Kearny Code, Sheriffs, § 4; C.L. 1865, ch. 99, § 3; C.L. 1884, § 398; C.L. 1897, § 734; Code 1915, § 1260; C.S. 1929, § 33-4416; 1941 Comp., § 15-3802; 1953 Comp., § 15-40-2.

Cross-references. - As to enforcement of county ordinances, see 4-37-4 NMSA 1978. As to collection and disposition of fees by sheriffs of H class counties, see 4-44-15 NMSA 1978. As to maintenance of records as to confinement and release of prisoners, see 4-44-19 NMSA 1978. As to allowances and reimbursement of expenses for feeding prisoners, see 4-44-19, 4-44-20 NMSA 1978. As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem generally, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978. As to enforcement of game laws generally, see 17-2-19 NMSA 1978. As to enforcement of trappers' and fur dealers' provisions, see 17-5-8 NMSA 1978. As to carrying of weapons, see 30-7-2 NMSA 1978. As to penalty for resisting or obstructing officer, see 30-22-1 NMSA 1978. As to penalty for refusing to aid officer, see 30-22-2 NMSA 1978. As to penalty for permitting prisoner to escape, see 30-22-11 NMSA 1978. As to duties pertaining to forest fire laws, see 30-32-3 NMSA 1978. As to control of jails, see 33-3-1 NMSA 1978. As to duties pertaining to Detoxification Act, see 43-2-16 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to collection of contributions under Unemployment Compensation Law, see 51-1-36 NMSA 1978. As to arrest procedure for violations of motor vehicle laws, see 66-8-122 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to arrest of persons obstructing or causing injury to highways, see 67-7-11 NMSA 1978. As to execution of orders of livestock board, see 77-3-2 to 77-3-10 NMSA 1978. As to power of officers to stop vehicles transporting livestock or carcasses, see 77-9-46 NMSA 1978.

County sheriff is conservator of peace within his county. 1955-56 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 6283.

County sheriff and state police have concurrent authority for enforcement of state laws independent of one another. 1943-44 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 4252.

Preventing breaches of the peace. - The power and duty to suppress breaches of the peace includes the right to take any reasonable steps to prevent such a breach from occurring when the officers have good reason to believe that a disturbance may take place. *State v. Hilliard*, 107 N.M. 506, 760 P.2d 799 (Ct. App. 1988).

Duties as to maintenance of roads and extinguishment of fires. - Sheriffs are conservators of the peace, law enforcement officers and arms of the courts and have no duties pertaining to the maintenance of roads or the extinguishment of fires. *Sanchez v.*

Board of County Comm'rs, 81 N.M. 644, 471 P.2d 678 (Ct. App.), cert. denied, 81 N.M. 668, 472 P.2d 382 (1970).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 70 Am. Jur. 2d Sheriffs, Police, and Constables §§ 46, 48, 49, 61.

Civil liability of sheriff or other officer charged with keeping jail or prison for act of deputy causing death or injury of prisoner, 14 A.L.R.2d 353.

Personal liability of sheriff, or his bond, for negligently causing personal injury or death, 60 A.L.R.2d 873.

Liability of prison authorities for injury to prisoner directly caused by assault by other prisoner, 41 A.L.R.3d 1021.

Sexual misconduct or irregularity as amounting to "conduct unbecoming an officer," justifying officer's demotion or removal or suspension from duty, 9 A.L.R.4th 614.

80 C.J.S. Sheriffs and Constables § 42.

### **§ 4-41-3. [Failure to execute bond and oath; performing duties; penalty.]**

Any person who shall enter upon or attempt to execute any official duty as sheriff or as ex-officio collector, without having first executed and filed his official bond and oath of office as above required, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction in the district court, shall be fined in any sum not exceeding three hundred dollars [(\$300)], in the discretion of the court.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 16, § 5; C.L. 1884, § 386; C.L. 1897, § 724; Code 1915, § 1250; C.S. 1929, § 33-4406; 1941 Comp., § 15-3806; 1953 Comp., § 15-40-6.

Cross-references. - As to oath required of officers, see N.M. Const., art. XX, § 1. As to oath and bond of county officers, see 10-1-13 NMSA 1978. As to bonds of public officers generally, see 10-2-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to fee for recording bond of public officers, see 14-8-12 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The words "or as ex-officio collector" appear to be obsolete in view of 4-43-3 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-41-4. [Exercising powers after removal; penalty.]**

If any such sheriff, after being removed as provided by law, shall attempt to exercise any of the rights or powers of said office, or shall fail or refuse to turn over the office to the person appointed to succeed him, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof in the district court, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding three hundred dollars [(\$300)], or by imprisonment not exceeding three months, in the discretion of the court before which the cause may be tried.



History: Laws 1876, ch. 16, § 9; C.L. 1884, § 390; C.L. 1897, § 727; Code 1915, § 1252; C.S. 1929, § 33-4408; 1941 Comp., § 15-3808; 1953 Comp., § 15-40-8.

Cross-references. - As to removal of local public officers, see 10-4-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

### **§ 4-41-5. Deputy sheriffs; appointment and term; merit system.**

The sheriffs in all the counties of this state shall have power to appoint deputies, who shall remain in office at the pleasure of such sheriffs; except that in counties which have established a merit system by ordinance, the provisions of the ordinance shall control the demotion and discharge of deputies and other employees of the sheriff's office, except for one under-sheriff and an executive secretary, both of whom shall hold exempt positions.

History: Laws 1855-1856, ch. 2, § 1; C.L. 1865, ch. 99, § 9; C.L. 1884, § 401; C.L. 1897, § 737; Code 1915, § 1255; C.S. 1929, § 33-4411; 1941 Comp., § 15-3809; 1953 Comp., § 15-40-9; Laws 1975, ch. 11, § 3.

Cross-references. - As to establishment of merit system and incorporation of provisions thereof in employment contracts of deputy sheriffs, see 4-41-6, 4-41-7 NMSA 1978. As to qualifications of deputy sheriffs generally, see 4-41-8 NMSA 1978. As to employment of part-time deputies in certain counties, see 4-44-17 NMSA 1978. As to payment of expenses of sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and guards for serving process and certain other official business, see 4-44-18 NMSA 1978. As to oaths and bonds of deputy county officers, see 4-44-35 NMSA 1978. As to requirement that deputies be citizens of New Mexico, see 29-1-9 NMSA 1978. As to requirement of certification by New Mexico law enforcement academy, see 29-7-8 and 29-7-10 NMSA 1978.

Effective dates. - Laws 1975, ch. 11, § 4, makes the act effective on January 1, 1977.

Deputy sheriffs' discharge upheld for disruption of office. - Where deputy sheriffs began tape recording their conversations with the sheriff following a quarrel and a subsequent request for the deputies' resignations and the activities of the deputy sheriffs caused animosities and disruption to develop within the sheriff's office, to the end that an air of suspicion and distrust prevailed which impaired the efficiency of the office, the discharge of the deputies was upheld. *Serna v. Manzano*, 616 F.2d 1165 (10th Cir. 1980).

Reimbursement of sheriff for salaries of deputies. - An account by a sheriff of a county of the fourth class for reimbursement for sums paid out on salary to deputies did not violate N.M. Const., art. X, § 1, prohibiting county officers from receiving to their own use any fees or emoluments other than the legal salary. *State ex rel. Garcia v. Board of Comm'rs*, 21 N.M. 632, 157 P. 656 (1916), *aff'd*, 22 N.M. 562, 166 P. 906 (1917).

Liability for acts of deputy. - County sheriff was not liable in damage suit for false return of service by deputy sheriff, either on the theory that deputy acted by virtue of the deputy's office, since plaintiffs had the burden of proving that service of civil process was within the authority of deputy, and they had failed to find any evidence that would meet that burden, or on the theory that deputy acted under color of the deputy's office, since representations which led plaintiffs to believe that they were dealing with sheriff's office did not occur during defendant-sheriff's term of office. *Karr v. Dow*, 84 N.M. 708, 507 P.2d 455 (Ct. App.), cert. denied, 84 N.M. 696, 507 P.2d 443 (1973).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 70 Am. Jur. 2d Sheriffs, Police, and Constables §§ 12, 16.

Liability of sheriff or his bond for the defaults and misfeasances of his assistants and deputies, 1 A.L.R. 236; 102 A.L.R. 174; 116 A.L.R. 1064.

Liability of sheriff for loss or injury of property levied upon, where it is in charge of agent or deputy, 138 A.L.R. 720.

Death or injury of prisoner, civil liability of sheriff or other officer charged with keeping jail or prison for act of deputy causing, 14 A.L.R.2d 353.

Liability of prison authorities for injury to prisoner directly caused by assault by other prisoner, 41 A.L.R.3d 1021.

Validity, construction and application of regulation regarding outside employment of governmental employees or officers, 94 A.L.R.3d 1230.

Sexual misconduct or irregularity as amounting to "conduct unbecoming an officer," justifying officer's demotion or removal or suspension from duty, 9 A.L.R.4th 614.

80 C.J.S. Sheriffs and Constables § 22.

#### **§ 4-41-6. Counties authorized to establish merit systems for deputies and personnel in the county sheriff's office.**

Each county is authorized and empowered to establish by ordinance a merit system for the hiring, promotion, discharge and general regulation of the deputies and the employees of the county sheriff's office. The ordinance may, in the discretion of the board of county commissioners, provide for the classification of deputies and other employees and their probationary periods, service ratings, pay scales and ranges, the number of hours of work per week and the methods of employment, promotion, demotion and discharge of such deputies and employees within the limits provided by law.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-40-9.1, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 11, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to effect of merit system upon demotion and discharge of deputies generally, see 4-41-5 NMSA 1978.

Deputies' exercise of rights not valid reason for discharge. - The fact that this section allows the sheriff to exercise a broad discretion in discharging deputies does not and

cannot justify his invasion of constitutional rights by firing deputies for exercising these rights. *Francia v. White*, 594 F.2d 778 (10th Cir. 1979).

#### **§ 4-41-7. Provisions of merit system constitute part of employment contract.**

In all cases of employment by county sheriffs of deputies, clerks and other personnel to positions covered by the merit system subsequent to the passage of an ordinance establishing a merit system, the contract of employment between the deputy or employee and the sheriff shall be considered to contain the provisions of the ordinance and all regulations issued pursuant thereto. The provisions of an ordinance and all regulations issued pursuant thereto shall become part of the contract of employment between the sheriff and all employees of the sheriff's office in positions covered by the merit system when the employment relationship exists at the time of the passage of the ordinance, unless the employee files with the county clerk, within ten days of the passage of the ordinance, a declaration stating that the employee does not desire to have the provisions of the ordinance, together with the regulations issued pursuant thereto, included as a part of his contract of employment.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-40-9.2, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 11, § 2.

Cross-references. - As to effect of merit system upon demotion and discharge of deputies generally, see 4-41-5 NMSA 1978.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - Sexual misconduct or irregularity as amounting to "conduct unbecoming an officer," justifying officer's demotion or removal or suspension from duty, 9 A.L.R.4th 614.

#### **§ 4-41-8. [Deputy sheriff; qualifications; character; revocation of commission.]**

No person who may be under indictment or may be generally known as a notorious bad character, or as a disturber of the peace shall be eligible to serve as a deputy sheriff, and sheriffs are hereby prohibited from issuing commissions to such persons as deputy sheriffs, and it is hereby made the duty of the judge of the district court upon complaint being made that the provisions of this section have been violated to investigate the same, and if found to be true, such judge of the district court is hereby given authority to revoke any such commission given by any sheriff contrary to the provisions of this section.

History: Laws 1905, ch. 120, § 1; Code 1915, § 1257; C.S. 1929, § 33-4413; 1941 Comp., § 15-3810; 1953 Comp., § 15-40-10.

Cross-references. - As to additional qualifications pertaining to deputy sheriffs, see 4-41-10 NMSA 1978. As to applicability of Criminal Offender Employment Act to law enforcement agencies, see 28-2-5 NMSA 1978.

Special deputy. - Sheriff can commission as special deputy sheriff a full-time law enforcement officer employed by a municipality, the Navajo tribe or the federal government. The applicants, of course, would have to secure the appointment from the sheriff of the county in which they wish to act and qualify in accordance with this section, 29-1-9 and 4-41-10 NMSA 1978, and any other statutes of the state of New Mexico pertaining to the qualification of deputy sheriffs. 1957-58 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 57-83.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 70 Am. Jur. 2d Sheriffs, Police, and Constables § 10.  
80 C.J.S. Sheriffs and Constables § 24.

### **§ 4-41-9. [Deputy sheriffs; powers and duties.]**

The said deputies are hereby authorized to discharge all the duties which belong to the office of sheriff, that may be placed under their charge by their principals, with the same effect as though they were executed by the respective sheriffs.

History: Laws 1855-1856, ch. 2, § 3; C.L. 1865, ch. 99, § 11; C.L. 1884, § 403; C.L. 1897, § 740; Code 1915, § 1259; C.S. 1929, § 33-4415; 1941 Comp., § 15-3811; 1953 Comp., § 15-40-11.

Deputy sheriffs may not exercise any power other than those delegated by the sheriff, and, therefore, the deputy sheriff does not exercise his powers and duties independently of a superior power, nor is he subject only to the general control of a power placed over him by the legislature. The detailed supervision and control exercised over deputy sheriffs by their sheriffs eliminate the office of deputy sheriff from the category of a public office and place it in the category of public employment. 1959-60 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 60-222.

A "special deputy" does not necessarily lack the authority to serve a writ of execution or make levy pursuant to writ. *Novak v. Dow*, 82 N.M. 30, 474 P.2d 712 (Ct. App. 1970).

Use of force in making arrest. - Large rocks, hurled by misdemeanor at deputy sheriff in resisting arrest, were dangerous weapons, justifying resort to extreme measures on part of deputy. *State v. Vargas*, 42 N.M. 1, 74 P.2d 62 (1937), distinguished in *State v. Gabaldon*, 43 N.M. 525, 96 P.2d 293 (1939).

In murder prosecution in which there was a question as to whether the defendant was a deputy sheriff acting to perfect or enforce an arrest when the killing occurred, instructions leaving question whether defendant was a deputy sheriff to the jury were

proper where there was no direct evidence that such was the case. Territory v. Kimmick, 15 N.M. 178, 106 P. 381 (1909).

Duties of public weighmasters. - Deputy sheriffs, in their official capacity, are required to perform the duties of public weighmasters when so designated by the sheriffs, and are not to receive for their own use any fees or other extra compensation for their services. 1931-32 Op. Att'y Gen. 78.

Disposition of fees recovered by deputies in connection with performance of duties. - Deputy sheriffs are entitled to no other compensation for the performance of their duties, which includes the service of civil and criminal papers as authorized by statute, than their salaries, and all fees recovered by them in connection with the performance of such duties must be remitted to the county treasurers of their respective counties. 1953-54 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 6033.

County sheriff was not liable in damage suit for false return of service by deputy sheriff, either on the theory that deputy acted by virtue of the deputy's office, since plaintiffs had the burden of proving that service of civil process was within the authority of deputy, and they had failed to find any evidence that would meet that burden, or on the theory that deputy acted under color of the deputy's office, since representations which led plaintiffs to believe that they were dealing with sheriff's office did not occur during defendant-sheriff's term of office. Karr v. Dow, 84 N.M. 708, 507 P.2d 455 (Ct. App.), cert. denied, 84 N.M. 696, 507 P.2d 443 (1973).

Law reviews. - For article, "Attachment in New Mexico - Part II," see 2 Nat. Resources J. 75 (1962).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 70 Am. Jur. 2d Sheriffs, Police, and Constables §§ 9, 50, 63.  
80 C.J.S. Sheriffs and Constables § 37.

#### **§ 4-41-10. Right to carry arms; deputies; appointment; qualifications.**

All sheriffs shall at all times be considered as in the discharge of their duties and be allowed to carry arms on their persons. On the appointment of any regular or permanent deputy sheriff, it shall be the duty of the sheriff to file one notice of the appointment in the office of the county clerk of his county and one notice of the appointment in the office of the clerk of the district court of his county, and each of his deputies shall file his oath of office in the office of the county clerk. Any sheriff is hereby authorized at any time to appoint respectable and orderly persons as special deputies to serve any particular order, writ or process or when in the opinion of any sheriff the appointment of special deputies is necessary and required for the purpose of preserving the peace, and it shall not be necessary to give or file any notice of such special appointment; however, the provision authorizing the carrying of concealed arms shall not apply to such

persons. Provided, no person shall be eligible to appointment as a deputy sheriff unless he is a legally qualified voter of the state of New Mexico, and further provided that there shall be no additional fees or per diem paid by the counties for any additional deputies other than as provided by law.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 63, § 4; C.L. 1897, § 738; Laws 1901, ch. 5, § 1; Code 1915, § 1258; C.S. 1929, § 33-4414; 1941 Comp., § 15-3812; 1953 Comp., § 15-40-12; Laws 1983, ch. 182, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to qualifications of deputy sheriffs generally, see 4-41-8 NMSA 1978. As to payment of expenses of sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and guards for serving process and certain other official business, see 4-44-18 NMSA 1978. As to oaths and bonds of deputy county officers, see 4-44-35 NMSA 1978. As to oath of public officers, see N.M. Const., art. XX, § 1. As to requirement that deputy sheriffs be citizens of New Mexico, see 29-1-9 NMSA 1978.

The 1983 amendment added the catchline, substituted "arms on their persons" for "on their persons arms not concealed" in the first sentence, divided the former third sentence into the present third and fourth sentences, added "however, the provision authorizing the carrying of concealed arms shall not apply to such persons" at the end of the third sentence and inserted "and further" in the fourth sentence.

Effective dates. - Laws 1983, ch. 182, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Common law. - At common law a sheriff could appoint an under-sheriff and as many general or special deputies as the public service may have required. 1957-58 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 57-83.

All sheriffs are on duty at all times and the same would be true of paid deputies even though their specific duties might be restricted. 1966 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 66-91.

Qualifications of deputy sheriffs. - This section, requiring deputy sheriffs to be qualified voters of the state, is valid and applicable, and furthermore, 10-1-5 NMSA 1978 (repealed, Laws 1979, ch. 54, § 1), requiring all public employees of the state of New Mexico and its political subdivisions to have one year's residence in the state prior to the commencement of their employment is applicable to the office of deputy sheriff. 1959-60 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 60-222.

Appointment of special deputy. - Sheriff can commission as special deputy sheriff a full-time law enforcement officer employed by a municipality, the Navajo tribe or the federal government. The applicants, of course, would have to secure the appointment from the sheriff of the county in which they wish to act and qualify in accordance with 29-1-9, 4-41-8 NMSA 1978 and this section, and any other statutes of the state of New Mexico pertaining to the qualification of deputy sheriffs. 1957-58 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 57-83.

There is no legal prohibition in this section against an appointment of a city policeman as a special deputy sheriff solely for the purpose of serving papers. 1957-58 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 58-38.

Notice of the appointment of special deputies need not be filed with the county clerk or district court clerk. *Eaton v. Bernalillo County*, 46 N.M. 318, 128 P.2d 738 (1942).

A special deputy does not necessarily lack the authority to serve a writ of execution or make levy pursuant to writ. *Novak v. Dow*, 82 N.M. 30, 474 P.2d 712 (Ct. App. 1970).

Payment of special deputy for services performed. - A city policeman appointed as a special deputy sheriff for purpose of serving papers may not be paid for such serving both as city policeman and special deputy sheriff. 1957-58 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 58-38.

Testimony of deputy, although not registered voter, admissible in criminal prosecution. - Trial court did not abuse its discretion in admitting the testimony of a deputy sheriff in his capacity as a deputy sheriff in a criminal prosecution, even though he was not a registered voter as required by this section. *State v. Martinez*, 104 N.M. 584, 725 P.2d 263 (Ct. App. 1986).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 80 C.J.S. Sheriffs and Constables § 29.

#### **§ 4-41-10.1. [Right to carry concealed arms.]**

Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, only fully certified sheriffs and full-time certified deputy sheriffs shall be allowed to carry concealed arms.

History: Laws 1983, ch. 182, § 2.

Effective dates. - Laws 1983, ch. 182, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

#### **§ 4-41-11. [Injuries to sheriff or deputy while making arrest; medical expenses; limitation.]**

Whenever any sheriff or deputy sheriff has been or may be hereafter wounded or injured while in pursuit of or attempting to arrest any person accused of any crime in this state, and shall make affidavit fully setting forth the facts of his said wounding or injury, and shall also make affidavit that he is a poor person and that he is unable to pay for proper medical or surgical attention, or that his family is unable to do so for him or furnish support for himself or family, and said affidavit shall be supported by the affidavit of two disinterested freeholders of the county, not more than one of whom shall be from

the same precinct, then upon the presenting of said affidavits to the board of county commissioners of the county wherein said sheriff or deputy sheriff was an officer at the time of his said injury or wounding, they may allow from the county treasury a sum of money, which to them shall seem reasonable, to be used for the benefit of said wounded or injured officer for medical or surgical attention or for the removal of said officer to some hospital or for the immediate relief of his family: provided, that no such sum or sums of money shall altogether exceed five hundred dollars [(\$500)].

History: Laws 1889, ch. 104, § 1; C.L. 1897, § 742; Code 1915, § 1261; C.S. 1929, § 33-4417; 1941 Comp., § 15-3813; 1953 Comp., § 15-40-13.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 80 C.J.S. Sheriffs and Constables § 247.

### **§ 4-41-11.1. Qualifications; waiver.**

A. Court security officers of county sheriff departments of class A counties shall meet all the prerequisites for permanent appointment as peace officers as stated in Section 29-7-8 NMSA 1978.

B. All court security officers provided for pursuant to Subsection A of this section shall be commissioned as peace officers with full powers and responsibilities while within the confines of the county courthouse or as otherwise specified by the court.

C. Court security officers employed by county sheriff departments of class A counties on January 1, 1977 shall be exempted from the provisions of Subsection A of this section.

History: Laws 1981, ch. 82, § 1.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 82, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

### **§ 4-41-12. [Entering other counties; powers.]**

The various sheriffs of the several counties of this state shall have the right to enter any county of this state, or any part of this state, for the purpose of arresting any person charged with crime, whether the county so entered be the same to which the sheriff so entering was elected or not; and the deputies of said sheriffs shall have the same power as is conferred on the sheriffs, and any sheriff entering any county as above mentioned, shall have the same power to call out the power of said county to aid him, as is conferred on sheriffs in their own counties.

History: Laws 1868-1869, ch. 33, § 1; C.L. 1884, § 395; C.L. 1897, § 731; Code 1915, § 1262; C.S. 1929, § 33-4418; 1941 Comp., § 15-3814; 1953 Comp., § 15-40-14.



Cross-references. - As to duties of enforcement officers in counties, see 4-37-4 NMSA 1978. As to refusal to assist officer, see 30-22-2 NMSA 1978.

Law reviews. - For article, "Attachment in New Mexico - Part II," see 2 Nat. Resources J. 75 (1962).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 70 Am. Jur. 2d Sheriffs, Police, and Constables § 57.  
80 C.J.S. Sheriffs and Constables § 36.

### **§ 4-41-13. [Execution of process of probate court; attendance.]**

It is hereby made the duty of the sheriffs of the several counties of this state to serve and execute all process directed to them by said judges of probate in their respective counties, and shall be subject to fine and amercement as provided by law for the neglect or refusal to discharge the duties required of them; and it is hereby made the duty of the sheriff of each county, or his deputy, to attend the probate court of his county, under the direction of the judge thereof.

History: Laws 1887, ch. 66, § 2; C.L. 1897, § 753; Code 1915, § 1264; C.S. 1929, § 33-4420; 1941 Comp., § 15-3815; 1953 Comp., § 15-40-15.

Cross-references. - As to reimbursement of peace officers for mileage traveled by privately owned conveyances in serving process, see 4-41-19 NMSA 1978. As to issuance of process by probate judges, see 34-7-13 NMSA 1978.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 70 Am. Jur. 2d Sheriffs, Police, and Constables §§ 61, 62.  
80 C.J.S. Sheriffs and Constables § 44.

### **§ 4-41-14. Sheriff to serve and execute process and orders of magistrate [and municipal] courts.**

The sheriff or his deputy shall serve and execute, according to law:

A. all process, writs and orders directed to him by the judges of the magistrate courts; and

B. criminal process directed to him by the municipal judge of any incorporated municipality in the state if the criminal process arises out of a charge of violation of a municipal ordinance prohibiting driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs and if the municipal judge from whose court the process has issued has made satisfactory arrangements with the sheriff for payment for the services to be rendered.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-40-15.1, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 242, § 1; 1988, ch. 88, § 2.

Cross-references. - As to attendance at trials or hearings before magistrates, see 4-41-16 NMSA 1978. As to reimbursement of peace officers for mileage traveled by privately owned conveyances in serving process, see 4-41-19 NMSA 1978. As to payment of per diem expenses of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs for serving process and other official business, see 4-44-18 NMSA 1978. As to service of summons, complaints, pleadings and other papers in civil actions in magistrate courts, see Rules 2-202 and 2-203 SCRA 1986. As to service of pleadings and summons in criminal actions in magistrate courts, see Rules 6-205 and 6-209 SCRA 1986. As to execution of arrest and search warrants in magistrate courts, see Rules 6-206 and 6-208 SCRA 1986.

The 1988 amendment, effective May 18, 1988, added the Subsection A designation, substituted "process" for "processes", and made a minor stylistic change in the Subsection; and added Subsection B.

Sheriffs may serve warrants in any county. - This section, along with 31-1-4E NMSA 1978, permits sheriffs to serve search warrants, which are included in the term "process," in any county of the state. *State v. Gutierrez*, 102 N.M. 726, 699 P.2d 1078 (Ct. App. 1985).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 70 Am. Jur. 2d Sheriffs, Police, and Constables §§ 61, 62.  
80 C.J.S. Sheriffs and Constables § 44.

### **§ 4-41-15. [Fees; payment in advance.]**

The party at whose application any civil writ, subpoena or process, except execution, is issued, shall pay in advance, if so demanded by the sheriff, the fees allowed by law for such services.

History: Laws 1895, ch. 35, § 3; C.L. 1897, § 1801; Code 1915, § 1268; C.S. 1929, § 33-4424; 1941 Comp., § 15-3817; 1953 Comp., § 15-40-17.

Cross-references. - As to requirement that county officers collect fees in advance, see 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

Advance payment required of state. - The state and its agencies need not use the sheriff to serve process, but if they do, they may also be required to pay in advance. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-29.

### **§ 4-41-16. Fees; attendance on courts, sessions of county commissioners; hearing before judges.**

A. The sheriffs of this state shall be allowed, except from the state or any state agency, the following fees and compensations:

(1) for serving every writ, citation, order, subpoena or summons, not more than fifteen dollars (\$15.00);

(2) for every writ of capias or attachment for each defendant, six dollars (\$6.00);

(3) for taking and returning every bond required by law, five dollars (\$5.00);

(4) for levying every execution and return of same, six dollars (\$6.00);

(5) for making, executing and delivering every sheriff's deed, to be paid by the purchaser, six dollars (\$6.00);

(6) for every return of non est inventus, fifty cents (\$.50); or

(7) for making every return of any process, order, summons, citation or decree of any court, two dollars (\$2.00).

No sheriff shall collect more than one of the fees listed in this subsection, regardless of how many documents may be served upon one or more individuals, when those documents are served at the same time and at the same location.

B. In the service of any subpoena or summons for witnesses, the sheriff shall be allowed compensation of one dollar (\$1.00) for each of the witnesses so summoned by the sheriff, notwithstanding that the name of such witness may appear in but one copy of the subpoena or summons.

C. It is the duty of the sheriffs of the state to attend:

(1) the sessions of every district court, which attendance shall be paid in the manner now provided by law;

(2) all sessions of the probate court and sessions of the boards of county commissioners, which attendance shall be paid sheriffs out of the general county funds of the county in which the services were rendered; and

(3) at the trial or hearing before magistrates in felony cases, where the arrest is made by the sheriff, either with or without a warrant, which attendance shall be paid as provided in this section out of the general county funds; but such sheriffs shall not be allowed any compensation for attending at the trial of any misdemeanor case before any magistrate unless a sheriff made the arrest in such misdemeanor case.

History: Laws 1895, ch. 35, § 1; C.L. 1897, § 1799; Laws 1907, ch. 19, § 1; 1909, ch. 16, § 1; Code 1915, § 1266; C.S. 1929, § 33-4422; 1941 Comp., § 15-3818; 1953 Comp., § 15-40-18; Laws 1959, ch. 270, § 1; 1976, ch. 51, § 1; 1977, ch. 94, § 1; 1980, ch. 42, § 1; 1985, ch. 120, § 1; 1987, ch. 300, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to attendance at probate court sessions generally, see 4-41-13 NMSA 1978. As to commissions and expenses on executions, see 4-41-17 NMSA 1978. As to reimbursement of peace officers for mileage traveled by privately owned conveyances in serving process, see 4-41-19 NMSA 1978. As to payment of per diem expenses of sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and guards for serving process and other official business, see 4-44-18 NMSA 1978. As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978. As to compensation for collection of unemployment compensation contributions, see 51-1-36 NMSA 1978.

The 1985 amendment substituted "not more than fifteen dollars (\$15.00)" for "six dollars (\$6.00)" at the end of Subsection A(1), substituted "return of any process" for "return of any processes" in Subsection (A)(7), and substituted "as provided in this section" for "as herein provided" near the middle of Subsection C(3).

The 1987 amendment, effective June 19, 1987, deleted former Subsections A(8) to (14), which enumerated additional fees and compensation allowed to sheriffs and, in Subsection C(2), made a minor stylistic change.

Effective dates. - Laws 1985, ch. 120 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on June 14, 1985.

Collection and disposition of fees generally. - The first seven items of this section, providing fees for the service and return of process, are to be collected by the sheriff from the litigants in all civil cases, and are to be paid to the treasurer under 4-44-21, 4-44-28 NMSA 1978. 1937-38 Op. Att'y Gen. 167.

Provision pertaining to taking, returning bond applies to both civil and criminal cases. 1945-46 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 4675.

The sheriff is chargeable with the fee paid for the execution of the death penalty, even though it does come from the state and not the county. 1917-18 Op. Att'y Gen. 67.

Fees assessable against person under arrest and in jail. - No cost may be assessed for the service of warrant of arrest on an individual who is already under arrest and held in jail. This cost is unnecessary and unreasonable and is not incidental to the prosecution. The transportation fee for carrying the defendant between the jail and the court for trial may be properly assessed against him, if convicted. There may be instances where the defendant is transported between the jail and the court for unnecessary and unreasonable purposes, and in that event, the defendant could not be forced to pay the costs. This is a matter of fact and not subject to an unalterable rule. The carrying out of

the order of the court, including a commitment order, is a fee which may properly be assessed against the convicted defendant. 1959-60 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 60-149.

Mileage fees may be imposed. - A sheriff and his deputies are required to collect certain fees under this section from private individuals for performing prescribed services, and in connection with the performance of such duties a mileage fee may be imposed. Mileage fees are required under 4-44-28 NMSA 1978 to be deposited into the county treasury, and pursuant to 4-44-31 NMSA 1978, they are credited to the county salary fund (now county general fund). 1963-64 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 63-111.

The state and its agencies are required to pay the statutory fees for service of process. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-29.

Sheriff not required to be courthouse security guard. - Subsection C only requires the sheriff's attendance at trials and hearings of the court and does not require his presence as a round-the-clock security guard for the entire courthouse. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-4.

Law reviews. - For article, "Attachment in New Mexico - Part II," see 2 Nat. Resources J. 75 (1962).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 70 Am. Jur. 2d Sheriffs, Police, and Constables §§ 68 to 75, 77 to 81, 83, 84, 86 to 89.  
80 C.J.S. Sheriffs and Constables § 218.

### **§ 4-41-17. [Executions; commissions and expenses.]**

For commissions for receiving or paying moneys on executions, where lands, goods or chattels have been levied upon, advertised and sold, four per centum on the first five hundred dollars [(\$500)], and two percent on all sums above that; also the actual expenses incurred in taking care of any such goods or chattels so levied upon, between the day of levy and sale; and one-half of said commission, when the money has been paid without making levy or sale.

History: Laws 1895, ch. 35, § 2; C.L. 1897, § 1800; Code 1915, § 1267; C.S. 1929, § 33-4423; 1941 Comp., § 15-3819; 1953 Comp., § 15-40-19.

Cross-references. - As to fee for levy and return of execution, see 4-41-16 NMSA 1978. As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

The defendant or debtor is chargeable with the sheriff's commission herein provided as one of the costs. 1943-44 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 4314.

Taxation of expenses of keeping and preserving attached property as costs. - The court properly taxed as costs the necessary expenses of the sheriff in keeping and preserving attached personal property in his possession and control. *Jones-Noland Drilling Co. v. Bixby*, 34 N.M. 413, 282 P. 382 (1929).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 30 Am. Jur. 2d Executions § 209; 70 Am. Jur. 2d Sheriffs, Police, and Constables §§ 68 to 75, 77 to 81, 83, 84, 86 to 89.

Personal liability of sheriff for negligence causing damage to property, 53 A.L.R. 41. Liability of sheriff executing process of execution or attachment for failure to seize sufficient property, 93 A.L.R. 316.

Right of sheriff or constable to demand indemnity bond as a condition of executing process or seizure of property in absence of claim by third person, 95 A.L.R. 943.

Duty of sheriff as to care of property levied upon, 138 A.L.R. 710.

80 C.J.S. Sheriffs and Constables §§ 234 to 239.

### **§ 4-41-18. [Fees; service of jury venire.]**

The sheriff shall receive ten dollars [(\$10.00)] for the service of any jury venire, and shall be paid the regular rates of mileage hereinafter provided, for each mile actually and necessarily traveled in serving said jury venire.

History: Laws 1895, ch. 35, § 4; C.L. 1897, § 1802; Code 1915, § 1269; C.S. 1929, § 33-4425; 1941 Comp., § 15-3820; 1953 Comp., § 15-40-20.

Cross-references. - As to fee for calling jury generally, see 4-41-16 NMSA 1978. As to charge for mileage traveled in providing service of jury venire, see 4-41-19 NMSA 1978. As to charge for service of more than one subpoena or summons, see 4-41-21 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The words "hereinafter provided" referred to the first sentence of Laws 1895, ch. 35, § 6, which was superseded by 15-40-21, 1953 Comp. (repealed by Laws 1961, ch. 253, § 9). This section may be superseded in its entirety by later provisions. See compiler's note under 4-41-21 NMSA 1978. See also 4-44-21, 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-41-19. County peace officers and constables; mileage; conditions.**

A. Peace officers and constables shall be allowed mileage or the distance actually and necessarily traveled by privately owned conveyance in serving any judicial process.

B. In serving any jury venire, a sheriff, deputy sheriff, constables [constable] or other county peace officer shall charge for the actual mileage traveled and necessary in providing service of jury venire.

C. If more than one peace officer or constable travels in one privately owned conveyance in the performance of official business, only the officer owning the conveyance used shall be reimbursed.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-40-21.1, enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 253, § 2; 1963, ch. 9, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to charge for service of more than one subpoena or summons, see 4-41-21 NMSA 1978. As to payment of per diem expenses of sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and guards for serving process and other official business, see 4-44-18 NMSA 1978. As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

Sheriff could not collect from the county service fees and mileage for the service of process issued on behalf of the county or state. State ex rel. Peck v. Velarde, 39 N.M. 179, 43 P.2d 377 (1935) (decision under former law).

The state and its agencies are required to pay the statutory fees for service of process. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-29.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 70 Am. Jur. 2d Sheriffs, Police, and Constables § 89.  
80 C.J.S. Sheriffs and Constables § 251.

#### **§ 4-41-20. Sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and other county peace officers; public transportation; reimbursement.**

Whenever a sheriff, deputy sheriff or other county peace officer utilizes public transportation in the performance of any official business within or without the state he shall be reimbursed for the actual cost of the fare and shall not be paid mileage. The mode of public transportation used shall be the most economical possible, considering all the expenses and circumstances.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-40-21.2, enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 253, § 3.

Cross-references. - As to payment of per diem expenses of sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and guards for serving process and other official business, see 4-44-18 NMSA 1978. As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-41-21. [More than one subpoena, summons or prisoner; no extra charge.]**

It is distinctly provided that when more than one subpoena or summons or service is made or performed upon more than one person in the same town or place, or when more than one prisoner is conducted from one place to another, the sheriff shall not charge more nor receive any mileage in excess of that which he would be entitled to for serving one subpoena in such place, or conducting one prisoner from one place to another: and provided, further, that in service of subpoena or summons in more than one town or place along the same route, the sheriff shall not be entitled to any greater mileage than that of the most distant point actually and necessarily traveled to in the discharge of his duties, with the additional mileage earned in actual and necessary travel from, and in returning to, the place of departure from any general route as aforesaid.

History: Laws 1895, ch. 35, § 6; C.L. 1897, § 1804; Code 1915, § 1272; C.S. 1929, § 33-4428; 1941 Comp., § 15-3822; 1953 Comp., § 15-40-22.

Cross-references. - As to reimbursement of county peace officers and constables for mileage traveled by private conveyances in serving judicial process, see 4-41-19 NMSA 1978. As to payment of per diem expenses of sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and guards for serving process and other official business, see 4-44-18 NMSA 1978. As to collection and disposition of fees, commission, mileage and per diem, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The 1915 Code compilers deleted provisions at the beginning of this section which provided "mileage at the rate of 121/2 cents per mile" for serving process and transporting prisoners and "one dollar per day for feeding prisoners while en route to the penitentiary." Apparently, the omitted provisions were superseded by Laws 1897, ch. 60, § 11(10), compiled as 15-40-21, 1953 Comp. (repealed by Laws 1961, ch. 253, § 9) and Laws 1897, ch. 60, § 12(11), compiled as 15-43-11, 1953 Comp. (repealed by Laws 1961, ch. 253, § 9). See now 4-41-19, 4-41-20, 4-44-18 NMSA 1978. See also 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-41-22. [Other fees.]**

For all other services and expenses, except those mentioned in this article, the sheriff shall receive the fees and compensation fixed by law for such services and expenses.

History: Laws 1895, ch. 35, § 8; C.L. 1897, § 1806; Code 1915, § 1273; C.S. 1929, § 33-4429; 1941 Comp., § 15-3823; 1953 Comp., § 15-40-23.

Cross-references. - As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The words "this article" were substituted for the words "this act" by the 1915 compilers and refer to art. 37 of ch. 24 of the 1915 Code. For disposition of art.



37 in this compilation, see the Table of Comparative Sections. The words "this act" would refer to Laws 1895, ch. 35, which is compiled herein as this section, 4-41-15 to 4-41-18 and 4-41-21 NMSA 1978.

## **Article 42**

### **County Surveyor**

#### **§ 4-42-1. County surveyor; election; qualifications.**

The office of county surveyor is created in the several counties. No person is eligible to hold the office who is not a practical land surveyor actually engaged in the business. A county surveyor shall be elected for each county in the same manner that other county officers are elected and he shall hold his office for the term of two years and until his successor is elected and qualified. His term of office shall commence on January 1 succeeding his election.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 33, § 1; C.L. 1897, § 785; Code 1915, § 1287; C.S. 1929, § 33-4901; 1941 Comp., § 15-3901; 1953 Comp., § 15-41-1; Laws 1967, ch. 238, § 4.

Cross-references. - As to salaries of county surveyors, see 4-44-4 to 4-44-15 NMSA 1978. As to abolition of office in certain counties, see 4-44-36 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to restoration of abolished offices, see 4-44-44, 4-44-45 NMSA 1978. As to oath and bond of county officers, see 10-1-13 NMSA 1978. As to adoption of coordinate system, see 47-1-49 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to registration of professional land surveyors, see 61-23-5 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Section does not violate N.M. Const., art. VII, § 2, by requiring county surveyors to be practical land surveyors. 1968 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 68-114.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - Mistake in, or misrepresentation as to accuracy of, survey of real property, surveyor's liability for, 35 A.L.R.3d 504. 80 C.J.S. Counties §§ 135, 144.

#### **§ 4-42-2. [Injuries by surveyors; suit on bond.]**

Any person who may be injured by the neglect, misconduct or inefficiency of any county surveyor, or any of his deputies, may institute suit on the bond executed by such county surveyor and his sureties; and in case the party for whose benefit such suit may be brought shall obtain a judgment for any damage or loss by him sustained, he may sue

out an execution on such judgment, as in other cases, and the bond may be sued on in like manner by each and every person aggrieved.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 33, § 3; C.L. 1897, § 787; Code 1915, § 1289; C.S. 1929, § 33-4903; 1941 Comp., § 15-3903; 1953 Comp., § 15-41-3.

Cross-references. - As to enforcement of collection on bond, see 6-10-38 NMSA 1978. As to use of certified copy in action on bond, see 10-2-10 NMSA 1978. As to Tort Claims Act, see 41-4-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to right of surveyors to enter private lands, see 61-23-30 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-42-3. [Surveys for use in court; authority to administer oaths; testimony.]**

When any county surveyor is called upon to make any survey or surveys which are to be used in any court, such county surveyor is hereby authorized and required, upon application of either party, to administer an oath or affirmation to any witness who may be brought to prove any corner or line of said survey or surveys, or of any natural or artificial object or mark which may be necessary to identify the same; which testimony shall be reduced to writing and subscribed by the witness or witnesses, and a return made thereof with the return of the surveyor.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 33, § 4; C.L. 1897, § 783; Code 1915, § 1290; C.S. 1929, § 33-4904; 1941 Comp., § 15-3904; 1953 Comp., § 15-41-4.

### **§ 4-42-4. [Office; books; records of surveys.]**

The county surveyor shall keep his office at the county seat, and shall keep two books of record, which shall be furnished him by the county commissioners for that purpose, which books he shall transmit to his successor in office. One book shall contain the calculations by latitudes and departures of all surveys made by him or his deputies, and each calculation shall have a corresponding number with the plat and field notes to which it refers in the book of records. The other book shall be a book of records and so constituted as to have the left page for diagrams and plats, and the right page for notes and remarks; and each diagram and plat shall be numbered progressively, and the field notes of the survey so recorded shall contain a full statement of such surveys, with the variations of the magnetic needle, length of lines, location of corners, with description of such corners, also description of all witness trees, and other marks used as witness marks for such corners, with size, distance and course.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 33, § 5; C.L. 1897, § 789; Code 1915, § 1291; C.S. 1929, § 33-4905; 1941 Comp., § 15-3905; 1953 Comp., § 15-41-5.

Cross-references. - As to furnishing of stationery, postage and office supplies by board of county commissioners generally, see 4-44-33 NMSA 1978. As to keeping of offices of county officers at county seat, see 4-44-34 NMSA 1978. As to delivery by public officers of law books, records and documents to successors, see 10-17-5 NMSA 1978.

The board of county commissioners may furnish quarters to county surveyor in its discretion if same are available, but the board is under no duty to provide him with telephone or stationery, although his necessary official telephone calls and stationery should be allowed by the board. 1933-34 Op. Att'y Gen. 25.

#### **§ 4-42-5. [Method of calculation; reestablishing corners in accordance with United States manual of instructions.]**

All calculations to ascertain the contents of a tract of land by the county surveyor shall be made by latitudes and departures, and on each plat shall be laid down the variations of the magnetic needle from the true meridian. In reestablishing missing corners the county surveyor shall establish said corners in strict accordance with the manual of instructions of the United States to the United States deputy surveyors.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 33, § 6; C.L. 1897, § 790; Code 1915, § 1292; C.S. 1929, § 33-4906; 1941 Comp., § 15-3906; 1953 Comp., § 15-41-6.

#### **§ 4-42-6. [Interference with surveyor; penalty; damages.]**

If any county surveyor shall be molested or prevented from doing or performing any of his official duties by means of threats or improper interference of any person or persons, such surveyor shall call on the sheriff, constable or other peace officer of the county, who shall accompany him and afford him all necessary protection against any person or persons thus threatening or improperly interfering with any county surveyor while performing his official duties; such person or persons so offending shall, on conviction thereof before any court of competent jurisdiction, be fined in a sum not less than five dollars (\$5.00) nor exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100), and moreover be liable for all damages caused to any person by the hindrance of the surveyor, and also for all the expenses that may accrue in consequence of the attendance of the sheriff or officer and the delay of the surveyor.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 33, § 7; C.L. 1897, § 791; Code 1915, § 1293; C.S. 1929, § 33-4907; 1941 Comp., § 15-3907; 1953 Comp., § 15-41-7.

Cross-references. - As to right of surveyor to enter private lands, see 61-23-30 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-42-7. Fees; purchase of plats of United States surveys; admissibility of certified copies of surveys as evidence; filing copy of surveys.**

The expense of the chain carriers and corner man shall be paid in advance, if required by the county surveyor or his deputy, by the party on whose application the survey may be made, and the money so advanced shall be accounted for by the surveyor, and the amount expended to be taxed on the bill of costs. However, each surveyor may retain the return of any survey by him made until he is paid the fee established by law and may collect fees by action. The county commissioners of each county in this state, at their discretion, may procure copies, duly certified by the surveyor general to be correct, of the field notes and plats of the original surveys by the United States of the lands of their county, and shall bind the plats and field notes each substantially in book form and keep them in the county surveyor's office for the benefit of the public. The certificate of the county surveyor or any of his deputies as to the correctness or accuracy of any survey, plat or field notes made by him or any certified copy of them shall be admitted as legal evidence in any court of the state, but only when the surveyor is dead or when it is impossible to obtain his evidence either by his personal attendance or by means of a deposition taken according to law. This evidence may be explained or rebutted by other evidence. The county surveyors of the different counties of this state may administer all oaths or affirmations necessary to be administered to road viewers, and for all other purposes necessary to the discharge of their official duties. A copy of all surveys shall be filed with the county clerk by the county surveyor.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 33, § 8; C.L. 1897, § 792; Code 1915, § 1294; C.S. 1929, § 33-4908; 1941 Comp., § 15-3908; Laws 1943, ch. 43, § 1; 1953 Comp., § 15-41-8; Laws 1969, ch. 219, § 2.

Cross-references. - As to authority of surveyor to administer oath or affirmation to witnesses brought to prove surveys for use in court, see 4-42-3 NMSA 1978. As to admissibility of survey books in evidence, see 4-42-12 NMSA 1978. As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-42-8. [Surveying of lands divided by county line.]**

Any person owning or claiming lands where the same are divided by a county line, and wishing to have such lands surveyed, may apply to the surveyor of any county in which any part of such land is situate, and on such application being made, the surveyor is authorized to make such survey, which shall be as valid as though such lands were situate entirely in one county.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 33, § 9; C.L. 1897, § 793; Code 1915, § 1295; C.S. 1929, § 33-4909; 1941 Comp., § 15-3909; 1953 Comp., § 15-41-9.

## **§ 4-42-9. [County boundaries; survey in accordance with United States manual of instructions.]**

Where a boundary line between two counties is to be established, the county surveyors or their deputies, of the two counties affected by such boundaries, shall together make the survey and establish the lines and erect monuments, and all corners set by the county surveyor or his deputies shall be made in strict conformity with the manual of instructions of the United States.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 33, § 10; C.L. 1897, § 794; Code 1915, § 1296; C.S. 1929, § 33-4910; 1941 Comp., § 15-3910; 1953 Comp., § 15-41-10.

Cross-references. - As to determination of boundary disputes, see 4-35-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to county surveys, see 4-42-15 NMSA 1978.

## **§ 4-42-10. [County surveying; surveys by county surveyor.]**

All county surveying, engineering on roads and bridges, shall be performed by the county surveyor and he shall by virtue of his office be one of the viewers in the establishing of new roads or the location of bridges.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 33, § 11; C.L. 1897, § 795; Code 1915, § 1297; C.S. 1929, § 33-4911; 1941 Comp., § 15-3911; 1953 Comp., § 15-41-11.

Cross-references. - As to county surveys, see 4-42-15 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The words "engineering on roads and bridges" are deemed repealed by 67-4-3 NMSA 1978. The words "and he shall by virtue of his office be one of the viewers in the establishing of new roads or the location of bridges" are deemed superseded by 67-5-9 to 67-5-16 NMSA 1978, which provide for the appointment of viewers to change or establish new roads and for a survey by the county surveyor after they decide that the road should be changed or a new road established.

Part of section requiring all engineering on roads and bridges to be performed by county surveyor was impliedly repealed by 67-4-3 NMSA 1978, authorizing board of county commissioners to employ county road superintendent. State ex rel. Bard v. Board of County Comm'rs, 39 N.M. 119, 41 P.2d 1105 (1935).

Employment of surveyor as county road superintendent. - Board of county commissioners was not obliged to employ county surveyor as county road superintendent. State ex rel. Bard v. Board of County Comm'rs, 39 N.M. 119, 41 P.2d 1105 (1935).

Employment of county clerk as surveyor. - County commissioners are not authorized to employ and pay a county clerk for services as a surveyor, which services the county surveyor is specifically enjoined by law to perform. 1915-16 Op. Att'y Gen. 331.

### **§ 4-42-11. County surveyor; contracting.**

Private individuals may contract for the work of county surveyors.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 33, § 12; C.L. 1897, § 796; Code 1915, § 1298; C.S. 1929, § 33-4912; 1941 Comp., § 15-3912; 1953 Comp., § 15-41-12; Laws 1981, ch. 14, § 1.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 14, contains no effective date provision applicable to this amendment, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

### **§ 4-42-12. [Survey books; admissibility in evidence.]**

All surveys made under and by virtue and in compliance with the provisions of this article [4-42-1 to 4-42-15 NMSA 1978] shall be deemed and taken to be in all counties of this state as prima facie correct, and the survey books in this article provided shall be received in evidence in all courts of this state only when the surveyor may be dead, or when it shall be impossible to obtain his evidence either by his personal attendance or by means of a deposition taken according to law.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 33, § 13; C.L. 1897, § 797; Code 1915, § 1299; C.S. 1929, § 33-4913; 1941 Comp., § 15-3913; 1953 Comp., § 15-41-13.

Cross-references. - As to admissibility in evidence of certified copies of surveys, see 4-42-7 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-42-13. [Surveys to be numbered; tax assessment by reference to number.]**

All surveys made by the county surveyors of the several counties in accordance with this article [4-42-1 to 4-42-15 NMSA 1978], which are not government subdivisions, shall be numbered with a consecutive series of numbers, commencing with thirty-seven, and it shall be the duty of the assessor in each county to enter for taxation in his book all lands liable for taxation, referring to them by the proper number as designated by the county surveyor in his records.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 33, § 15; C.L. 1897, § 799; Code 1915, § 1300; C.S. 1929, § 33-4914; 1941 Comp., § 15-3914; 1953 Comp., § 15-41-14.

Cross-references. - As to county assessor generally, see 4-39-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

#### **§ 4-42-14. [Lines and corners not to be changed; private lands not to be surveyed without consent.]**

Nothing in this article [4-42-1 to 4-42-15 NMSA 1978] shall be construed to empower any county surveyor to change the established lines or corners of any land owned or possessed by any person or persons, and no private lands shall be surveyed except by the consent of the owner of said land.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 33, § 16; C.L. 1897, § 800; Code 1915, § 1301; C.S. 1929, § 33-4915; 1941 Comp., § 15-3915; 1953 Comp., § 15-41-15.

A county surveyor has no right to ignore a government corner because he fails to find it where he thinks it should be, but may correct that location and reestablish the corner at its proper place. 1915-16 Op. Att'y Gen. 245.

#### **§ 4-42-15. County surveys.**

The board of county commissioners is authorized to have the lands of the county, or any portion thereof, surveyed by the county surveyor, another surveyor deputized by him or any licensed land surveyor under the direction and in accordance with the instructions of the board of county commissioners. The board of county commissioners is authorized to purchase from any surveyor who may have made, under the supervision of the county surveyor, any survey and the plats, maps and field notes thereof, payment to be made from the county general fund.

History: Laws 1912, ch. 34, § 1; Code 1915, § 1172; C.S. 1929, § 33-4001; 1941 Comp., § 15-3916; 1953 Comp., § 15-41-16; Laws 1973, ch. 4, § 11; 1973, ch. 258, § 141; 1981, ch. 14, § 2.

Cross-references. - As to determination of boundary disputes, see 4-35-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 14, contains no effective date provision applicable to this section, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

## **Article 43**

### **County Treasurer**

#### **§ 4-43-1. [Election.]**

At each general election in this state there shall be elected a county clerk and a treasurer for each county of the state, in the same manner as the other county officers are elected.

History: Laws 1868-1869, ch. 36, § 1; C.L. 1884, § 408; C.L. 1897, § 746; Code 1915, § 1277; C.S. 1929, § 33-4501; 1941 Comp., § 15-4001; 1953 Comp., § 15-42-1. Section also compiled as § 4-40-1 NMSA 1978.

Cross-references. - As to salaries of county treasurers, see 4-44-4 to 4-44-15 NMSA 1978. As to abolition of office in certain counties, see 4-44-36 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to restoration of abolished offices, see 4-44-44, 4-44-45 NMSA 1978. As to oath and bond of county officers, see 10-1-13 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - This section is also compiled as 4-40-1 NMSA 1978, since it relates to both county clerks and county treasurers.

The provisions of this section were compiled as one section in the 1915 Code and 1929 Comp., but in the 1941 and 1953 Comps. the provisions were compiled as two sections with the reference to "a treasurer" omitted from one and "a county clerk" omitted from the other.

## **§ 4-43-2. Duties.**

The treasurer shall keep:

- A. account of all moneys received and disbursed;
- B. regular accounts of all warrants drawn on the treasury and paid; and
- C. the books, papers and moneys pertaining to his office ready for inspection by the county commissioners at all times.

History: Kearny Code, Treas. Dept., §§ 10, 11; Laws 1851-1852, p. 170; C.L. 1865, ch. 21, §§ 6, 7; 1865, ch. 102, §§ 17, 18; C.L. 1884, §§ 408A, 408B; C.L. 1897, § 746; Code 1915, § 1279; C.S. 1929, § 33-4503; 1941 Comp., § 15-4003; 1953 Comp., § 15-42-3; Laws 1967, ch. 238, § 5.

Cross-references. - As to financial affairs of local public bodies, see 6-6-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to provisions relating to management and control of public money generally, see 6-10-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to penalty for receiving consideration for placing deposit, misusing funds or failure to deposit, see 6-10-40 NMSA 1978. As to Warrant Cancellation Act, see 6-10-55 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to penalty for misapplication of forest reserve funds, see 6-11-4 NMSA 1978. As to suspension of treasurer's functions, see 7-35-7 NMSA 1978. As to property tax collection responsibilities, see 7-38-42



NMSA 1978. As to sale of personalty for delinquent taxes, see 7-38-57 to 7-38-59  
NMSA 1978. As to duties with respect to bi-state fair in Curry county, see 16-6-27, 16-6-30  
NMSA 1978. As to custody of bonds of Las Vegas land grant by treasurer of San Miguel county, see 49-6-12  
NMSA 1978. As to duties and bond as ex-officio district treasurer of conservancy district, see 73-16-25, 73-16-26  
NMSA 1978.

Special bailee. - A county treasurer is not a mere bailee or trustee, but is a special bailee, subject to special obligations, to fulfill the obligations of his bond, and the law of bailment is not the proper measure of his responsibility. *Maloy v. Board of County Comm'rs*, 10 N.M. 638, 62 P. 1106 (1900).

Liability for acts of deputy treasurer. - No statute requires that deputy treasurers be bonded, and while it is good business for bonding companies liable on a county treasurer's bond, and also good business for the county treasurer to require that deputy treasurers be bonded for their protection, the county should not pay for the premium on such deputy's bond, since the state and county are protected on the treasurer's bond for any defalcation, even by a deputy under 6-10-38 NMSA 1978. 1939-40 Op. Att'y Gen. 137. See also 4-44-35 NMSA 1978.

Keeping money at hand. - This section would seem to indicate that the money must be kept at hand ready for inspection at any time. 1912-13 Op. Att'y Gen. 9.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - Power of county treasurer to compromise claim, 15 A.L.R.2d 1391.  
20 C.J.S. Counties §§ 136, 143.

### **§ 4-43-3. Ex-officio collectors.**

The treasurers of the several counties are ex-officio collectors for their respective counties and have all the powers and duties provided by law for county collectors.

History: Laws 1897, ch. 60, § 7; C.L. 1897, § 867(7); Code 1915, § 1280; C.S. 1929, § 33-4504; 1941 Comp., § 15-4004; 1953 Comp., § 15-42-4; Laws 1967, ch. 238, § 6.

Cross-references. - As to suspension of treasurer's functions, see 7-35-7 NMSA 1978. As to property tax collection responsibilities, see 7-38-42 NMSA 1978. As to sale of personalty for delinquent taxes, see 7-38-57 to 7-38-59 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-43-4. [Settlement of accounts upon turning over office to successor; duty of county commissioners.]**

When a county collector goes out of office he shall make a full and complete settlement with the board of county commissioners, and deliver up in the presence of the county clerk all books, papers, money and all other property appertaining to the office, to his

successor, taking his receipt therefor. The board of county commissioners shall make a statement, so far as state revenue is concerned, to the state auditor, showing all charges for whatsoever purposes which have been created against the collector during his term of office, and all credits that have been made, and other unfinished business charged over to his successor, and the amount of money paid over to his successor, showing to what year and to what accounts the amount so paid over belongs. They shall also see that the books of the collector are correctly balanced before passing into the possession of the collector-elect.

History: Laws 1882, ch. 62, § 95; C.L. 1884, § 2900; C.L. 1897, § 4108; Code 1915, § 1283; C.S. 1929, § 33-4506; 1941 Comp., § 15-4005; 1953 Comp., § 15-42-5.

Cross-references. - As to delivery of law books, records and documents to successors, see 10-17-5 NMSA 1978.

The substance of the act required is the payment over by the outgoing to the incoming treasurer, and the board in the presence of the county clerk; the obligation so defined is a continuing one which survives until fully performed, and implies the authority of the incoming treasurer to demand what he alone has the right to receive. State v. Davisson, 28 N.M. 653, 217 P. 240 (1923).

Settlement looks to security of county finances. - The manner in which settlement is directed to be made under this section looks only to the security of county finances. State v. Davisson, 28 N.M. 653, 217 P. 240 (1923).

## **Article 44**

### **Salaries and Provisions Applicable to More Than One Office**

#### **§ 4-44-1. Classification for salary purposes.**

For the purpose of fixing salaries of county officers, the several counties of the state except "H" class counties are hereby classified as follows:

Those having a final, full assessed valuation of over seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000) and having a population of one hundred thousand persons or more as determined by the last official United States census, as class "A" counties.

Those having a final, full assessed valuation in excess of seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000) with a population less than one hundred thousand persons as determined by the last official United States census, as class "B" counties.

Those having a final, full assessed valuation in excess of forty-five million dollars (\$45,000,000) with a population less than one hundred thousand persons as determined by the last official United States census, as class "C" counties.

Those having a final, full assessed valuation of over fourteen million dollars (\$14,000,000) as counties of the first class.

Those having a final, full assessed valuation of eight and one-fourth million dollars (\$8,250,000), and under fourteen million dollars (\$14,000,000), as counties of the second class.

Those having a final, full assessed valuation of six and one-half million dollars (\$6,500,000), and under eight and one-fourth million dollars (\$8,250,000), as counties of the third class.

Those having a final, full assessed valuation of four and three-fourths million dollars (\$4,750,000), and under six and one-half million dollars (\$6,500,000), as counties of the fourth class.

Those having a final, full assessed valuation of less than four and three-fourths million dollars (\$4,750,000), as counties of the fifth class.

The assessed valuation for each year shall be the full valuation as finally fixed for said year.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-1, enacted by Laws 1957, ch. 196, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to salaries, expenses, fees and powers and duties of officers of H class counties, see 4-44-14 to 4-44-16 NMSA 1978.

Repeals and reenactments. - Laws 1957, ch. 196, § 1, repeals 15-43-1, 1953 Comp. relating to classification of counties for salary purposes, and enacts the above section.

Effect of creation of new county. - Classification was not reduced by fact that a part of the county became a part of a new county. *Baca v. Board of Comm'rs*, 30 N.M. 163, 231 P. 637 (1924).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d *Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions* §§ 258 to 268.  
20 C.J.S. *Counties* § 110.

## **§ 4-44-2. Biennial determination of classification.**

From and after January 1, 1962, the classification of counties shall be fixed and governed by the assessed valuation as finally fixed for the preceding year. Provided, one hundred twenty days after January 1, 1962 and one hundred twenty days from January 1 of each second year thereafter, the classification shall be determined by the secretary of finance and administration from the assessed valuation of each county as

finally fixed for the preceding year, and the secretary of finance and administration upon making the determination shall notify the board of county commissioners of each county of the class within which each of the counties of this state falls according to the classification, and the classification as so fixed and determined by the secretary of finance and administration shall govern the salaries of the county officers for the two years beginning January 1, 1963 and each two years thereafter.

History: Laws 1915, ch. 12, § 19; 1923, ch. 49, § 1; C.S. 1929, § 33-3219; 1941 Comp., § 15-4102; Laws 1953, ch. 83, § 1; 1953, ch. 117, § 2; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-2; Laws 1961, ch. 184, § 1; 1977, ch. 247, § 143.

Constitutionality of 1923 amendment. - Laws of 1923, ch. 49, § 2, providing for classification of counties on basis of assessed valuation in 1922 and determination of county salaries for 1923 and 1924 on the basis of such classification, was void insofar as it increased or diminished an officer's compensation during his term of office; the remaining portions of the act were unaffected. *State ex rel. Gilbert v. Board of Comm'rs*, 29 N.M. 209, 222 P. 654, 31 A.L.R. 1310 (1924).

The compensation of a county officer may not be diminished during his term of office; both this article and N.M. Const., art. IV, § 27 prohibit such a reduction in compensation. *State ex rel. Gilbert v. Board of Comm'rs*, 29 N.M. 209, 222 P. 654 (1924).

The tax commission (now secretary of finance and administration) has not the power to reduce salaries of county officers by the reclassification of counties. 1923-24 Op. Att'y Gen. 10.

Classification of counties is fixed by assessed valuation for prior year which does not include exempted property. 1937-38 Op. Att'y Gen. 137.

Effect of reducing assessment. - When classification of county has been fixed by assessed valuation, a reduction of any assessment does not upset such classification. 1937-38 Op. Att'y Gen. 50.

Erroneous valuation. - Where the valuation of property of a county, which determines its classification, was erroneous because of an omission in assessment which has been corrected by petition filed in district court of such county, it would seem that as a matter of right and justice the true valuation as shown by such court should be used to fix such classification, but the tax commission (now secretary of finance and administration) has no power or authority to revise the budget in order to increase salary fund to pay county officers. 1921-22 Op. Att'y Gen. 181; 1937-38 Op. Att'y Gen. 52.

Official determination of a change in classification by the state auditor (now secretary of finance and administration) is necessary before it can be made effective. 1947-48 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 5136; 1949-50 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 5285.

### **§ 4-44-3. Establishment of H class counties.**

There is hereby created and established a further and additional classification of counties in New Mexico, which shall be and are hereby declared to be and are described as H class counties. Any county which covers an area of not more than 200 square miles shall be a county of the H class.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-3.1, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 4, § 1; 1985, ch. 62, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to salaries, expenses, fees and powers and duties of officers of H class counties, see 4-44-14 to 4-44-16 NMSA 1978. As to inclusion of H class counties in definition of municipality, see 3-1-2 NMSA 1978.

The 1985 amendment added the catchline and substituted "200 square miles" for "144 square miles" in the last sentence.

Effective dates. - Laws 1985, ch. 62 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on June 14, 1985.

#### **§ 4-44-4. Class "A" counties; salaries.**

The annual salaries of elected officers of class "A" counties shall not exceed:

- A. county commissioners, fifteen thousand eight hundred dollars (\$15,800) each;
- B. treasurer, thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000);
- C. assessor, thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000);
- D. sheriff, thirty-six thousand five hundred dollars (\$36,500);
- E. county clerk, thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000);
- F. probate judge, fifteen thousand four hundred dollars (\$15,400); and
- G. county surveyor, fifteen thousand eight hundred dollars (\$15,800).

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-4, enacted by Laws 1957, ch. 196, § 2; 1959, ch. 262, § 1; 1961, ch. 247, § 1; 1965, ch. 236; § 1; 1969, ch. 219, § 3; 1970, ch. 83, § 1; 1973, ch. 380, § 1; 1974, ch. 70, § 1; 1976 (S.S.), ch. 14, § 1; 1978, ch. 191, § 1; 1980, ch. 135, § 1; 1982, ch. 39, § 1; 1986, ch. 67, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

Repeals and reenactments. - Laws 1957, ch. 196, § 2, repealed 15-43-4, 1953 Comp., relating to salaries of officers in various classes of counties, and enacted a new 4-44-4 NMSA 1978.

The 1986 amendment increased the salaries for all of the officers from those provided in Laws 1982.

Effective dates. - Laws 1974, ch. 70, § 2, makes the act effective on January 1, 1975.

Laws 1982, ch. 39, § 11, makes the act effective on January 1, 1983.

Laws 1986, ch. 67 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on May 21, 1986.

Salaries of county officers elected in November begin with beginning of the following January. 1915-16 Op. Att'y Gen. 354.

1982 amendment unconstitutional. - Because the 1982 amendment of this section would allow the compensation of elected county officers to increase during the term for which they were elected, this section violates N.M. Const., art. IV, § 27, and is unconstitutional; that revives this section as it read prior to the 1982 amendment. 1983 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 83-1.

A new appointee to the office of probate judge may receive the increased salary designated for that office by legislation enacted by the last legislature. 1959-60 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 60-60.

County commissioners are not authorized to pay a county assessor extra for work his predecessor should have done. 1921-22 Op. Att'y Gen. 18.

#### **§ 4-44-4.1. Class "B" counties; over three hundred million dollars (\$300,000,000) valuation; salaries.**

The annual salaries of elected officers of class "B" counties with an assessed valuation of over three hundred million dollars (\$300,000,000) shall not exceed:

- A. county commissioners, twelve thousand two hundred dollars (\$12,200) each;
- B. treasurer, thirty thousand six hundred dollars (\$30,600);
- C. assessor, thirty thousand six hundred dollars (\$30,600);
- D. sheriff, thirty-one thousand nine hundred dollars (\$31,900);
- E. county clerk, thirty thousand six hundred dollars (\$30,600);

F. probate judge, ten thousand seven hundred dollars (\$10,700); and

G. county surveyor, a reasonable rate of compensation as determined by the board of county commissioners.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-44-4.1, enacted by Laws 1986, ch. 67, § 2.

Effective dates. - Laws 1986, ch. 67 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on May 21, 1986.

### **§ 4-44-5. Class "B" counties; salaries.**

The annual salaries of elected officers of class "B" counties with an assessed valuation of over seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000) but under three hundred million dollars (\$300,000,000) shall not exceed:

A. county commissioners, eight thousand seven hundred dollars (\$8,700) each;

B. treasurer, twenty-six thousand two hundred dollars (\$26,200);

C. county assessor, twenty-six thousand two hundred dollars (\$26,200);

D. county sheriff, twenty-seven thousand four hundred dollars (\$27,400);

E. county clerk, twenty-six thousand two hundred dollars (\$26,200);

F. probate judge, six thousand one hundred dollars (\$6,100); and

G. county surveyor, a reasonable rate of compensation as determined by the board of county commissioners.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-4.1, enacted by Laws 1957, ch. 196, § 3; 1959, ch. 262, § 2; 1961, ch. 116, § 1; 1965, ch. 236, § 2; 1969, ch. 219, § 4; 1970, ch. 83, § 2; 1973, ch. 380, § 2; 1976 (S.S.), ch. 14, § 2; 1978, ch. 191, § 2; 1980, ch. 135, § 2; 1981, ch. 14, § 3; 1982, ch. 39, § 2; 1986, ch. 67, § 3.

Cross-references. - As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

The 1986 amendment inserted "with an assessed valuation of over seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000) but under three hundred million dollars (\$300,000,000)" in the introductory paragraph, and in Subsection A through F, increased the salaries of the officers.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 14, § 11, makes §§ 3 to 10 of the act effective on July 1, 1981.

Laws 1982, ch. 39, § 11, makes the act effective on January 1, 1983.

Laws 1986, ch. 67 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on May 21, 1986.

1982 amendment unconstitutional. - Because the 1982 amendment of this section would allow the compensation of elected county officers to increase during the term for which they were elected, this section violates N.M. Const., art. IV, § 27, and is unconstitutional; that revives this section as it read prior to the 1982 amendment. 1983 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 83-1.

#### **§ 4-44-6. Class "C" counties; salaries.**

The annual salaries of elected officers of class "C" counties shall not exceed:

A. county commissioners, eight thousand seven hundred dollars (\$8,700) each;

B. county treasurer, twenty-six thousand two hundred dollars (\$26,200);

C. county assessor, twenty-six thousand two hundred dollars (\$26,200);

D. county sheriff, twenty-seven thousand four hundred dollars (\$27,400);

E. county clerk, twenty-six thousand two hundred dollars (\$26,200);

F. probate judge, six thousand one hundred dollars (\$6,100); and

G. county surveyor, a reasonable rate of compensation as determined by the board of county commissioners.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-4.2, enacted by Laws 1957, ch. 196, § 4; 1959, ch. 262, § 3; 1961, ch. 116, § 2; 1965, ch. 236, § 3; 1969, ch. 219, § 5; 1970, ch. 83, § 3; 1973, ch. 380, § 3; 1976 (S.S.), ch. 14, § 3; 1978, ch. 191, § 3; 1980, ch. 135, § 3; 1981, ch. 14, § 4; 1982, ch. 39, § 3; 1986, ch. 67, § 4.

Cross-references. - As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

The 1986 amendment, in Subsections A through F, increased the salaries of the officers.



Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 14, § 11, makes §§ 3 to 10 of the act effective on July 1, 1981.

Laws 1982, ch. 39, § 11, makes the act effective on January 1, 1983.

Laws 1986, ch. 67 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on May 21, 1986.

1982 amendment unconstitutional. - Because the 1982 amendment of this section would allow the compensation of elected county officers to increase during the term for which they were elected, this section violates N.M. Const., art. IV, § 27, and is unconstitutional; that revives this section as it read prior to the 1982 amendment. 1983 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 83-1.

#### **§ 4-44-7. First class counties; over twenty-seven million valuation; salaries.**

The annual salaries of elected officers of counties of the first class with an assessed valuation of over twenty-seven million dollars (\$27,000,000) but under forty-five million dollars (\$45,000,000) shall not exceed:

A. county commissioners, seven thousand nine hundred dollars (\$7,900) each;

B. treasurer, nineteen thousand two hundred dollars (\$19,200);

C. assessor, nineteen thousand two hundred dollars (\$19,200);

D. sheriff, twenty thousand seven hundred dollars (\$20,700);

E. county clerk, nineteen thousand two hundred dollars (\$19,200);

F. probate judge, five thousand one hundred dollars (\$5,100); and

G. county surveyor, a reasonable rate of compensation as determined by the board of county commissioners.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-4.3, enacted by Laws 1957, ch. 196, § 5; 1959, ch. 262, § 4; 1961, ch. 246, § 1; 1965, ch. 236, § 4; 1969, ch. 219, § 6; 1970, ch. 83, § 4; 1973, ch. 380, § 4; 1976 (S.S.), ch. 14, § 4; 1978, ch. 191, § 4; 1980, ch. 135, § 4; 1981, ch. 14, § 5; 1982, ch. 39, § 4; 1986, ch. 67, § 5.

Cross-references. - As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

The 1986 amendment, in Subsections A through F, increased the salaries of the officers.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 14, § 11, makes §§ 3 to 10 of the act effective on July 1, 1981.

Laws 1982, ch. 39, § 11, makes the act effective on January 1, 1983.

Laws 1986, ch. 67 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on May 21, 1986.

1982 amendment unconstitutional. - Because the 1982 amendment of this section would allow the compensation of elected county officers to increase during the term for which they were elected, this section violates N.M. Const., art. IV, § 27, and is unconstitutional; that revives this section as it read prior to the 1982 amendment. 1983 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 83-1.

#### **§ 4-44-8. First class counties; under twenty-seven million valuation; salaries.**

The annual salaries of elected officers of counties of the first class with an assessed valuation of over fourteen million dollars (\$14,000,000) but under twenty seven million dollars (\$27,000,000) shall not exceed:

- A. county commissioners, five thousand three hundred dollars (\$5,300) each;
- B. treasurer, sixteen thousand three hundred dollars (\$16,300);
- C. assessor, sixteen thousand three hundred dollars (\$16,300);
- D. sheriff, twenty thousand seven hundred dollars (\$20,700);
- E. county clerk, sixteen thousand three hundred dollars (\$16,300);
- F. probate judge, four thousand seven hundred dollars (\$4,700); and
- G. county surveyor, a reasonable rate of compensation as determined by the board of county commissioners.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-4.4, enacted by Laws 1957, ch. 196, § 6; 1959, ch. 262, § 5; 1961, ch. 249, § 1; 1965, ch. 236, § 5; 1969, ch. 219, § 7; 1970, ch. 83, § 5; 1973, ch. 380, § 5; 1976 (S.S.), ch. 14, § 5; 1978, ch. 191, § 5; 1980, ch. 135, § 5; 1981, ch. 14, § 6; 1982, ch. 39, § 5; 1986, ch. 67, § 6.

Cross-references. - As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

The 1986 amendment, in Subsections A through F, increased the salaries of the officers.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 14, § 11, makes §§ 3 to 10 of the act effective on July 1, 1981.

Laws 1982, ch. 39, § 11, makes the act effective on January 1, 1983.

Laws 1986, ch. 67 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on May 21, 1986.

1982 amendment unconstitutional. - Because the 1982 amendment of this section would allow the compensation of elected county officers to increase during the term for which they were elected, this section violates N.M. Const., art. IV, § 27, and is unconstitutional; that revives this section as it read prior to the 1982 amendment. 1983 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 83-1.

Services rendered over and beyond the legislative purview are not included in the statutory compensation. 1957-58 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 58-14.

#### **§ 4-44-9. Second class counties; salaries.**

The annual salaries of elected officers of counties of the second class shall not exceed:

A. county commissioners, four thousand dollars (\$4,000) each;

B. treasurer, thirteen thousand nine hundred dollars (\$13,900);

C. assessor, thirteen thousand nine hundred dollars (\$13,900);

D. sheriff, fourteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$14,500); provided, however, the salary of sheriffs of counties of the second class which border on foreign countries shall be fourteen thousand eight hundred dollars (\$14,800);

E. county clerk, thirteen thousand nine hundred dollars (\$13,900);

F. probate judge, three thousand two hundred dollars (\$3,200); and

G. county surveyor, a reasonable rate of compensation as determined by the board of county commissioners.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-4.5, enacted by Laws 1957, ch. 196, § 7; 1959, ch. 262, § 6; 1965, ch. 236, § 6; 1969, ch. 219, § 8; 1970, ch. 83, § 6; 1973, ch. 380, § 6; 1976 (S.S.), ch. 14, § 6; 1978, ch. 191, § 6; 1980, ch. 135, § 6; 1981, ch. 14, § 7; 1982, ch. 39, § 6; 1986, ch. 67, § 7.

Cross-references. - As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

The 1986 amendment, in Subsections A through F, increased the salaries of the officers.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 14, § 11, makes §§ 3 to 10 of the act effective on July 1, 1981.

Laws 1982, ch. 39, § 11, makes the act effective on January 1, 1983.

Laws 1986, ch. 67 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on May 21, 1986.

1982 amendment unconstitutional. - Because the 1982 amendment of this section would allow the compensation of elected county officers to increase during the term for which they were elected, this section violates N.M. Const., art. IV, § 27, and is unconstitutional; that revives this section as it read prior to the 1982 amendment. 1983 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 83-1.

The salary of commissioners of a second class county cannot be increased or diminished during their respective terms of office. 1959-60 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 59-100.

#### **§ 4-44-10. Third class counties; salaries.**

The annual salaries of elected officers of counties of the third class shall not exceed:

- A. county commissioners, two thousand seven hundred dollars (\$2,700) each;
- B. treasurer, eleven thousand seven hundred dollars (\$11,700);
- C. assessor, eleven thousand seven hundred dollars (\$11,700);
- D. sheriff, twelve thousand two hundred dollars (\$12,200);
- E. county clerk, eleven thousand seven hundred dollars (\$11,700);
- F. probate judge, one thousand eight hundred dollars (\$1,800);
- G. county surveyor, a reasonable rate of compensation as determined by the board of

county commissioners; and

H. in those counties of the third class wherein funds are not available within the budget after making the full five-mill levy sufficient to pay the salaries provided in this section, all of such salaries shall be proportionately reduced in amounts sufficient to stay within the available funds.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-4.6, enacted by Laws 1957, ch. 196, § 8; 1959, ch. 262, § 7; 1961, ch. 36, § 1; 1965, ch. 236, § 7; 1969, ch. 219, § 9; 1970, ch. 83, § 7; 1973, ch. 380, § 7; 1976 (S.S.), ch. 14, § 7; 1978, ch. 191, § 7; 1980, ch. 135, § 7; 1981, ch. 14, § 8; 1982, ch. 39, § 7.

Cross-references. - As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 14, § 11, makes §§ 3 to 10 of the act effective on July 1, 1981.

Laws 1982, ch. 39, § 11, makes the act effective on January 1, 1983.

1982 amendment unconstitutional. - Because the 1982 amendment of this section would allow the compensation of elected county officers to increase during the term for which they were elected, this section violates N.M. Const., art. IV, § 27, and is unconstitutional; that revives this section as it read prior to the 1982 amendment. 1983 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 83-1.

#### **§ 4-44-11. Fourth class counties; salaries.**

The annual salaries of elected officers of counties of the fourth class shall not exceed:

- A. county commissioners, two thousand three hundred dollars (\$2,300) each;
- B. treasurer, eight thousand nine hundred dollars (\$8,900);
- C. assessor, eight thousand nine hundred dollars (\$8,900);
- D. sheriff, nine thousand three hundred dollars (\$9,300);
- E. county clerk, eight thousand nine hundred dollars (\$8,900);
- F. probate judge, one thousand four hundred dollars (\$1,400); and
- G. county surveyor, a reasonable rate of compensation as determined by the board of county commissioners.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-4.7, enacted by Laws 1957, ch. 196, § 9; 1959, ch. 262, § 8; 1965, ch. 236, § 8; 1969, ch. 219, § 10; 1970, ch. 83, § 8; 1973, ch. 380, § 8; 1976 (S.S.), ch. 14, § 8; 1978, ch. 191, § 8; 1980, ch. 135, § 8; 1981, ch. 14, § 9; 1982, ch. 39, § 8.

Cross-references. - As to salaries of members of county advisory boards, see 4-38-42 NMSA 1978. As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 14, § 11, makes §§ 3 to 10 of the act effective on July 1, 1981.

Laws 1982, ch. 39, § 11, makes the act effective on January 1, 1983.

1982 amendment unconstitutional. - Because the 1982 amendment of this section would allow the compensation of elected county officers to increase during the term for which they were elected, this section violates N.M. Const., art. IV, § 27, and is unconstitutional; that revives this section as it read prior to the 1982 amendment. 1983 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 83-1.

#### **§ 4-44-12. Fifth class counties; salaries.**

The annual salaries of elected officers of counties of the fifth class shall not exceed:

- A. county commissioners, two thousand three hundred dollars (\$2,300) each;
- B. treasurer, seven thousand six hundred dollars (\$7,600);
- C. assessor, seven thousand six hundred dollars (\$7,600);
- D. sheriff, seven thousand nine hundred dollars (\$7,900);
- E. county clerk, seven thousand six hundred dollars (\$7,600);
- F. probate judge, one thousand four hundred dollars (\$1,400); and
- G. county surveyor, a reasonable rate of compensation as determined by the board of county commissioners.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-4.8, enacted by Laws 1957, ch. 196, § 10; 1959, ch. 262, § 9; 1965, ch. 236, § 9; 1969, ch. 219, § 11; 1970, ch. 83, § 9; 1973, ch. 380, § 9; 1976 (S.S.), ch. 14, § 9; 1978, ch. 191, § 9; 1980, ch. 135, § 9; 1981, ch. 14, § 10; 1982, ch. 39, § 9.

Cross-references. - As to salaries of members of county advisory boards, see 4-38-42 NMSA 1978. As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978.

Effective dates. - Laws 1973, ch. 380, § 10, makes the act effective on July 1, 1973.

Laws 1976, ch. 14, § 10, makes the act effective on July 1, 1976.

Laws 1978, ch. 191, § 10, makes the act effective on January 1, 1979.

Laws 1980, ch. 135, § 10, makes the act effective on July 1, 1980.

Laws 1981, ch. 14, § 11, makes §§ 3 to 10 of the act effective on July 1, 1981.

Laws 1982, ch. 39, § 11, makes the act effective on January 1, 1983.

1982 amendment unconstitutional. - Because the 1982 amendment of this section would allow the compensation of elected county officers to increase during the term for which they were elected, this section violates N.M. Const., art. IV, § 27, and is unconstitutional; that revives this section as it read prior to the 1982 amendment. 1983 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 83-1.

### **§ 4-44-12.1. Equity.**

If any officer of a county receives a salary increase as permitted under this act [4-44-4 to 4-44-12.2], all other officers in that county shall receive a salary increase of an equal percentage.

History: Laws 1982, ch. 39, § 10.

Effective dates. - Laws 1982, ch. 39, § 11, makes the act effective on January 1, 1983.

### **§ 4-44-12.2. Legislative intent; purpose.**

It is the legislative intent that the salaries of county officials be raised by this 1986 act and be effective on January 1, 1987. It is further intended that a county shall make a budget which includes either the maximum salary raise allowed herein or a percentage thereof, and, when the local government division of the department of finance and administration certifies that a county has done so, no further ministerial action need be taken to effectuate the purposes of this 1986 act.

History: Laws 1982, ch. 39, § 12; 1983, ch. 7, § 1; 1986, ch. 67, § 8.

The 1986 amendment substituted "1986 act" for "1982 act" and "1987" for "1983" in the first sentence, and substituted "this 1986 act" for "Laws 1982, Chapter 39" at the end of the second sentence.

Effective dates. - Laws 1986, ch. 67 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on May 21, 1986.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1983, ch. 7, § 2, makes the act effective immediately. Approved March 9, 1983.

Meaning of "this 1986 act". - The term "this 1986 act" referred to in this section refers to Laws 1986, ch. 67 which is presently compiled as 4-44-4 to 4-44-9 and 4-44-12.2 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-44-13. County clerks acting as court clerks; additional compensation.**

Until relieved by law from the duties of clerks of district court, the county clerks of the several counties in the state shall receive additional compensation as follows:

A. in class "A" counties, county clerks shall receive two thousand eight hundred dollars (\$2,800); and

B. in counties of the first class, county clerks shall receive one thousand eight hundred fifteen dollars (\$1,815).

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-4.10, enacted by Laws 1957, ch. 196, § 12; 1959, ch. 262, § 11; 1965, ch. 236, § 11.

Cross-references. - As to compensation of clerks in class A and B counties, see 4-44-4, 4-44-5 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Under N.M. Const., art. VI, § 22, the county clerk was designated as clerk of the district court and clerk of the probate court until otherwise provided by law. After July 1, 1969 district court judges were authorized and empowered to appoint clerks. See 34-6-19 NMSA 1978 et seq.

### **§ 4-44-14. H class counties; salaries and expenses.**

A. Officers elected or appointed in the counties of the H class shall receive the following annual salaries:

(1) county commissioners, one dollar (\$1.00);



- (2) treasurer, one dollar (\$1.00);
- (3) assessor, one dollar (\$1.00);
- (4) sheriff, one dollar (\$1.00);
- (5) county clerk, one dollar (\$1.00);
- (6) probate judge, two thousand three hundred four dollars (\$2,304); and
- (7) county surveyor, not to exceed ten dollars (\$10.00) per day for each day actually employed under orders by the board of county commissioners, such employment not to exceed fifty days in any one year.

B. The elected H class county officials listed in Subsection A of this section, except probate judge, in addition to the salaries therein prescribed shall be entitled to receive as per diem expense the sum of not more than fifteen dollars (\$15.00) while in actual attendance at county commission meetings or while engaged in the performance of their official duties for the county. However, the total per diem expense allowance for each elected H class county official listed in Subsection A of this section shall not exceed three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) in any fiscal year. Such per diem expense shall be in addition to any allowance for sheriff's mileage or for other out-of-county expenses allowed for all officials by law and shall be budgeted, paid and audited as provided by laws governing expenditures of county funds.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-5.1, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 4, § 2; 1959, ch. 47, § 1; 1969, ch. 219, § 12; 1974, ch. 24, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to disposition of fees collected by officers of H class counties, see 4-44-15 NMSA 1978. As to payment of expenses of sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and guards for serving process and certain other official business, see 4-44-18 NMSA 1978.

Elective "H" class county officials are entitled to receive the \$15.00 per diem expense for each day, or fraction thereof, spent in commission meetings or in the performance of their official duties for the county. 1959-60 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 59-91.

#### **§ 4-44-15. [Fees collected by officers of H class counties; disposition.]**

Any and all fees now or hereafter allowed by statute or collected or received by any of the officers enumerated shall be covered into the general fund of such county and shall be disbursed for public purposes under the supervision and authority of the county commissioners of said county.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-7.1, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 4, § 4.

Cross-references. - As to salaries and expenses of officers of H class counties, see 4-44-14 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-44-16. [Powers and duties of officers of H class counties.]**

All officers elected or appointed under the provisions of this act [4-44-3, 4-44-14 to 4-44-16 NMSA 1978] shall have the same duties, rights, authority and obligations now or hereafter provided by the laws of New Mexico.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-8.1, enacted by Laws 1955, ch. 4, § 5.

Cross-references. - As to creation of H class counties, see 4-44-3 NMSA 1978. As to salaries and expenses of officers of H class counties, see 4-44-14 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-44-17. [Insufficient funds for hire of full-time deputies in fifth class counties.]**

In those counties of the fifth (5th) class wherein funds are not available within the budget after making the full five-mill levy sufficient to hire full-time deputies for the offices of the county treasurer, county assessor, county sheriff and county clerk, the county commissioners, by resolution duly adopted, may dispense with deputies in the above-mentioned county offices, or may provide for part-time deputies; in such event the action of the county commissioners shall be final.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-4103a, enacted by Laws 1953, ch. 59, § 1; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-10.

#### **§ 4-44-18. Sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and guards; expenses incurred in serving process and certain other official business; per diem.**

A. Sheriffs, their deputies and guards shall be paid per diem expenses at the rate authorized in the Per Diem and Mileage Act [10-8-1 to 10-8-8 NMSA 1978] by the counties on behalf of which expenses are incurred in:

- (1) service of criminal process issued out of the supreme court or district court;
- (2) service of criminal process issued out of a magistrate court when the issuance is approved in writing by the district attorney or his assistants;
- (3) service of civil process issued by the district court; and
- (4) attempting to discover or arrest a person charged with a felony if written

authorization is obtained from the district judge.

B. Expenses authorized under this section shall be paid on the rendition of sworn accounts filed in the county clerk's office and approved by the county commissioners and the district judge.

C. Sheriffs, their deputies and guards shall be paid per diem and mileage expenses at the rate authorized in the Per Diem and Mileage Act for extraditing prisoners from without the state and for transporting persons committed by a court to any state institution or required to be returned by order of the court from any state institution to the county of commitment. The county may be reimbursed by the state for the per diem and mileage expenses incurred under this subsection by submitting claims for reimbursement to the department of finance and administration in accordance with the department's regulations.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-11.1, enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 253, § 4; 1973, ch. 364, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to reimbursement of peace officers and constables for mileage traveled by privately owned conveyances in serving judicial process, see 4-41-19 NMSA 1978. As to reimbursement of sheriffs, deputy sheriffs or other county peace officers utilizing public transportation in performance of official business, see 4-41-20 NMSA 1978. As to charges for service of more than one subpoena or summons, see 4-41-21 NMSA 1978. As to collection and disposition of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem, see 4-44-28, 4-44-29 NMSA 1978. As to per diem and mileage generally, see 10-8-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Effective dates. - Laws 1973, ch. 364, § 2, makes the act effective on July 1, 1973.

Order of the district court directing the sheriff to bring back a person from the penitentiary so that he can be a witness cannot be classified as the service of criminal or civil process for purposes of this section. 1969 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 69-34.

County commission may force a county sheriff to use a county car to transport a person charged with a crime or with escaping from confinement from another state back to New Mexico. 1957-58 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 58-244.

If the sheriff has expended his own money in payment for the guard's authorized expenses, those expenses would therefore be legal expenses of the sheriff for which he could properly be reimbursed. 1961-62 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 61-9.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 70 Am. Jur. 2d Sheriffs, Police, and Constables § 89.  
80 C.J.S. Sheriffs and Constables §§ 248, 251.

## **§ 4-44-19. [Prisoners; operating allowance; records and maintenance.]**

A. Each county sheriff, jail administrator or independent contractor shall keep a written record showing the exact time of confinement and release of each prisoner incarcerated in the jail under his jurisdiction. As used in this act, "jail administrator" means the person hired by a county, municipality or a combination of these who supervises the entire operation of the jail and reports directly to the administrative head of the local governmental entity or local governing body.

B. The governing body of a jail shall, from appropriate funds, provide the necessary funding to maintain and operate the facility.

C. All fees remitted to the sheriff or jail administrator for federal or other prisoners in his custody shall be promptly deposited in their entirety by the sheriff or jail administrator with the appropriate depository entity. As used in this section, "depository entity" means the treasurer of the particular local governmental entity responsible for management of the jail.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-14.1, enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 253, § 7; 1969, ch. 187, § 1; 1975, ch. 118, § 1; 1977, ch. 107, § 1; 1983, ch. 181, § 1; 1984, ch. 22, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to reimbursement of sheriff for feeding prisoners in transit, see 4-44-20 NMSA 1978. As to contracts for operation of jail by independent contractor not constituting creation of debt, see 6-6-12 NMSA 1978.

The 1983 amendment added "records and maintenance" at the end of the catchline, and, in Subsection A, inserted "and jail administrator" and substituted "jail under his jurisdiction" for "county jail" in the first sentence, deleted the last two sentences as set out in the 1980 replacement pamphlet and added the last sentence. The 1983 amendment also rewrote Subsection B to the extent that a detailed comparison is impracticable, deleted former Subsection C, relating to purchases and accounts, redesignated former Subsection D as present Subsection C and, in that same subsection, inserted "or jail administrator" twice and substituted "appropriate depository entity" for "county treasurer" in the first sentence and added the second sentence.

The 1984 amendment deleted "or" preceding, and inserted "or independent contractor" following, "jail administrator" in the first sentence in Subsection A, substituted "hired by a county, municipality or a combination of these" for "by a multicounty, joint powers agreement" in the second sentence in Subsection A, deleted the former first sentence in Subsection B, which read "Charges for feeding shall be established by resolution of the local governing body at the beginning of each fiscal year," and deleted "the feeding and care of" preceding "federal or other prisoners" in the first sentence in Subsection C.

Effective dates. - Laws 1983, ch. 181, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Laws 1984, ch. 22, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on February 16, 1984. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Meaning of "this act". - The term "this act," referred to in the second sentence in Subsection A, means Laws 1983, Chapter 181, which appears as 4-44-19, 4-44-20, 33-3-1, 33-3-2, 33-3-4 to 33-3-9, 33-3-11 to 33-3-13, 33-3-18, 33-3-19 and 33-3-21 to 33-3-23 NMSA 1978.

The following opinions were rendered prior to the 1983 and 1984 amendments. This section no longer refers specifically to "feeding" or "care" of prisoners and contains no specific maximum amount for expenditures.

Itemized statement required. - Before sheriff is paid for feeding prisoners and guards, he must furnish itemized statement of actual costs so that account may be examined and its correctness tested. 1931-32 Op. Att'y Gen. 79.

Authority to contract with city for feeding of prisoners. - See 1959-60 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 59-56.

Care and feeding of federal prisoners. - The keeping of prisoners for the federal government should be fixed by agreement between the county commissioners and the government to fairly compensate the county for such services. 1937-38 Op. Att'y Gen. 265.

Although an allowance of \$.75 per day was made by the United States for the care, guarding, housing and maintenance of federal prisoners, it was not for food alone, and should have been paid into the county treasury, and feeding of all prisoners should have been under this section. 1929-30 Op. Att'y Gen. 46.

Money received by sheriff under contract with federal government for feeding and maintaining federal prisoners must be paid to county treasurer and the sheriff is entitled to collect reimbursement from the general county fund for the actual cost, not to exceed the maximum legal rate. 1947-48 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 5069.

Law reviews. - For article, "Prisoners Are People," see 10 Nat. Resources J. 869 (1970).

#### **§ 4-44-20. Prisoners; feeding in transit.**

The county sheriffs shall be reimbursed for the actual expense incurred for the care and feeding of prisoners in transit. No reimbursement shall be made under this section

without proof of actual expenses incurred by a sheriff or his delegate. In no event shall the reimbursement for any prisoner exceed the rate set by the Per Diem and Mileage Act [10-8-1 to 10-8-8 NMSA 1978].

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-14.2, enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 253, § 8; 1977, ch. 107, § 2; 1983, ch. 181, § 2.

Cross-references. - As to allowance for feeding prisoners generally, see 4-44-19 NMSA 1978.

The 1983 amendment substituted "for the actual expense incurred for the care and feeding of" for "at a rate not to exceed six dollars (\$6.00) per day per prisoner for expenses of feeding" in the first sentence and added the last sentence.

Effective dates. - Laws 1983, ch. 181, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

#### **§ 4-44-21. No compensation except as provided by law.**

No county officer shall accept or receive to his own use, or for or on account of any deputy or deputies, clerk or clerks appointed by him or employed in his office, or for or on account of expenses incurred by him of [or] by any such deputy or deputies, clerk or clerks, or for or on account of his office, any salary, compensation, allowance, fees or emoluments in any form whatsoever, other than [as] authorized by law.

History: Laws 1915, ch. 12, § 6; C.S. 1929, § 33-3206; Laws 1939, ch. 58, § 1; 1941 Comp., § 15-4112; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-15.

Cross-references. - For prohibition from use by county officials of fees or emoluments other than annual salary provided by law, see N.M. Const., art. X, § 1. As to demanding or receiving illegal fees as grounds for removal of local public officer, see 10-4-2 NMSA 1978. As to demanding illegal fees by public officers or employees generally, see 30-23-1 NMSA 1978.

Employment of purchasing agents by county. - If purchasing agents could be employed by county commissioners prior to the 1939 amendment, they can be so employed now, and if the legislature had intended to prohibit the practice of employing purchasing agents or other employees, it would have used language clearly indicating that intention, and the change of wording from "as by this act allowed" to "authorized by law" is not sufficient for that purpose. 1939-40 Op. Att'y Gen. 97.

Fee for issuing marriage license. - County clerk can only charge and accept the statutory fee for issuing a marriage license, regardless of the hour so issued, for the

performance of such official act, and no sums in the form of an additional charge or gratuity can be accepted by such public official. 1953-54 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 5665.

Pay for teaching in summer school. - County superintendent may not receive pay for teaching in summer schools. 1921-22 Op. Att'y Gen. 28.

Retention of fees by weighmaster and deputies. - Neither a weighmaster nor any of his deputies are authorized to retain any of the fees collected by them in the performance of their duties. 1919-20 Op. Att'y Gen. 153.

Sheriff's fee for transporting prisoners. - Sheriff was not entitled to more than the statutory \$.06 per mile for transporting prisoners, notwithstanding earlier statutes provided for \$.125 per mile. State ex rel. Peck v. Velarde, 39 N.M. 179, 43 P.2d 377 (1935) (decision under prior law).

Fees collected by sheriffs do not accrue to them personally but are deposited with the county treasurer. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-29.

Money received by sheriff under contract with federal government for feeding and maintaining federal prisoners had to be paid to county treasurer and the sheriff was entitled to collect reimbursement from the general county fund for the actual cost, not to exceed the maximum legal rate. 1947-48 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 5069 (rendered prior to 1983 and 1984 amendments to 4-41-19 NMSA 1978).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions § 263.  
80 C.J.S. Counties § 114.

## **§ 4-44-22. Disqualification for financial interest.**

A. Any elected county official or county employee shall disqualify himself from any official act directly affecting a business in which he has a financial interest.

B. No county official or employee shall acquire a financial interest in any business venture or business property of any kind when he believes or has reason to believe that it will be directly affected by his official act.

C. No elected county official shall contract in any manner with the county or any agency thereof, without public notice and competitive bidding and full disclosure of his financial or other interest in the business which is party to such contract.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-15.1, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 244, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to unlawful interest in public contract, see 30-23-6 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-44-23. Confidential information.**

No elected county official or employee shall use confidential information acquired by virtue of his county office or employment for his or another's gain.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-15.2, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 244, § 2.

#### **§ 4-44-24. Contracts with former officials or employees.**

A county or any of its officers shall not enter into a contract with, nor take any action favorably affecting, any person or business, which is:

A. represented personally in the matter by a person who has been an officer or employee of the county within the preceding year, if the value of the contract or action is in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and the contract is a direct result of an official act by the officer or employee; or

B. assisted in the transaction by a former county officer or employee whose official act, while in county employment, directly resulted in the county's making such contract or taking such action.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-15.3, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 244, § 3.

Cross-references. - As to unlawful interest in public contract, see 30-23-6 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-44-25. Disclosure of financial interest.**

A. Every employee of the county who has a financial interest which he believes or has reason to believe may be affected by the actions of the county by which he is employed shall disclose the precise nature and value of such interest. The disclosures shall be made in writing to the county clerk before entering county employment, and during the month of January each year.

B. Every elected county official, who has a controlling interest, or a financial interest exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in a business which is regulated by official acts of the county, or does business with the county exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per year, shall disclose the precise nature and value of such interest. Disclosure shall be made to the county clerk during the month of January each year he holds office.

C. The information on the disclosures, except for the valuations attributed to the reported interests, shall be made available by the county clerk for inspection to any citizen of this state. The valuation shall be confidential except for official removal



proceedings.

D. The filing of disclosures under this section is a condition of entering upon and continuing county employment.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-15.4, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 244, § 4.

Cross-references. - As to unlawful interest in public contract, see 30-23-6 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-44-26. Disclosure for persons on retainer or contract.**

Any individual, not a county officer or employee who, directly or through a business in which such individual has a financial interest, or any business which receives more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), in any year from a county, shall disclose such fact in writing to the county clerk, together with a description of the type of services rendered and the total amounts paid for each service rendered.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-15.5, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 244, § 5.

Cross-references. - As to unlawful interest in public contract, see 30-23-6 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-44-27. Enforcement procedures.**

A. The district attorney of the district in which the county is located shall investigate and prosecute any complaint brought to his attention involving a violation of Sections 15-43-15.1 through 15-43-15.7 NMSA 1953 [4-44-22 to 4-44-27 NMSA 1978].

B. Violation of the provisions of Sections 15-43-15.1 through 15-43-15.7 NMSA 1953 [4-44-22 through 4-44-27 NMSA 1978] by any county officer or employee is grounds for dismissal, demotion or suspension.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-15.6, enacted by Laws 1969, ch. 244, § 6.

Cross-references. - As to unlawful interest in public contract, see 30-23-6 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Laws 1969, ch. 244, did not enact a section 15-43-15.7, 1953 Comp., as referred to in this section.

#### **§ 4-44-28. [Collection of fees, commissions, mileage and per diem; accounts; payment to county treasurer.]**

All county officers shall respectively charge and collect all fees, commissions, mileage

and per diem heretofore and now, or which hereafter may be authorized by law to be charged and collected for official services rendered by them, and shall keep an accurate and itemized account thereof, and on or before the tenth day of each month pay the same over to the county treasurer of their respective counties, accompanying each remittance by a verified copy of the itemized account covered thereby, which verified copy shall be retained on file by said treasurer. All such county officers shall in like manner account for and pay over to the county treasurer of their respective counties, all such fees, commissions, mileage and per diem heretofore earned and hereafter collected for official services rendered by them from the respective dates when they qualified as such officers.

History: Laws 1915, ch. 12, § 8; C.S. 1929, § 33-3208; 1941 Comp., § 15-4113; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-16.

Cross-references. - As to disposition of fees collected by officers of H class counties, see 4-44-15 NMSA 1978. As to issuance of receipts for and maintenance of accounts as to moneys paid over by county officers, see 4-44-30 NMSA 1978. As to filing with county clerk of monthly statements of public moneys received and disbursed by county and precinct officers, see 10-17-4 NMSA 1978.

Mileage fees collected by sheriffs and deputies. - By law a sheriff and his deputies are required to collect certain fees under 4-41-16 NMSA 1978 from private individuals for performing prescribed services, and in connection with the performance of such duties a mileage fee may be imposed. These mileage fees are required under this section to be deposited into the county treasury. 1963-64 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 63-111.

Section prohibits a county from collecting less than the prescribed fees. To hold otherwise would be to permit the county clerks, if they so desired, to charge nothing for service. The power to charge less than the prescribed fees, or not to charge at all, would be giving a county clerk the power to impair a source of county income. 1955-56 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 6242.

Fees collected by sheriffs do not accrue to them personally but are deposited with the county treasurer. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-29.

Retention of fees by deputy sheriff. - Where a deputy sheriff receives a salary and even though he is appointed constable, he may not retain fees for services performed within his jurisdiction. 1945-46 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 4781.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 20 C.J.S. Counties §§ 127, 147.

#### **§ 4-44-29. [Fees to be collected in advance.]**

Every county officer shall collect every fee as prescribed by law for services performed by him in advance, if the amount of the same can be ascertained, and when any officer shall negligently or willfully fail to collect any such fee, double the amount shall be charged to him on account of his salary.

History: Laws 1893, ch. 71, § 25; C.L. 1897, § 866; Code 1915, § 1183; C.S. 1929, § 33-4106; Laws 1939, ch. 132, § 2; 1941 Comp., § 15-4114; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-17.

Cross-references. - For right of sheriff to demand payment of fees in advance, see 4-41-15 NMSA 1978. For provision requiring recording fees to be paid in advance, see 14-8-15 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-44-30. [County treasurer; receipts; accounts of officers.]**

The county treasurer shall issue proper receipts for all monies paid over to him under the requirements of this act, and shall keep an accurate account thereof in proper books of entry to be kept in his office. The official accounts of all county officers shall be subject to inspection and audit, and shall be inspected and audited, by the officer authorized by law to audit the accounts of such officer.

History: Laws 1915, ch. 12, § 11; C.S. 1929, § 33-3211; 1941 Comp., § 15-4116; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-19.

Cross-references. - As to filing by county and precinct officers and audit by board of county commissioners of monthly statements of public moneys received and disbursed, see 10-17-4 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The phrase "this act" refers to Laws 1915, ch. 12, which is compiled as this section and 4-44-2, 4-44-21, 4-44-28, 4-44-32, 4-44-33 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-44-31. County general fund created.**

There is created in each county a county general fund to which the county treasurer shall credit all revenues not otherwise allocated by law. Expenditures from this fund shall be made only in accordance with budgets approved as provided by law.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-43-20, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 4, § 12.

Cross-references. - As to finances of counties, municipalities and school districts, see 6-6-7 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Mileage fees collected by sheriffs and deputies. - By law a sheriff and his deputies are required to collect certain fees under 4-41-16 NMSA 1978 from private individuals for

performing prescribed services, and in connection with the performance of such duties a mileage fee may be imposed. These mileage fees are required under 4-44-28 NMSA 1978 to be deposited into the county treasury, and pursuant to this section they are credited to the county salary fund (now county general fund). 1963-64 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 63-111.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions § 582.  
80 C.J.S. Counties § 230.

### **§ 4-44-32. [Embezzlement; negligence; perjury; penalties.]**

Any county officer who shall willfully fail to account for or pay over as required by law any and all fees, commissions, mileage, per diem or moneys earned by him, which heretofore have, or hereafter may, come into his hands by virtue of his office, shall be deemed guilty of embezzlement, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars [(\$5,000)], or by imprisonment for not more than five years, or both, and in addition thereto shall be summarily removed from office by the court imposing sentence.

And any officer who shall willfully fail or neglect to discharge the duties of his office, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars [(\$1,000)], or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both, and in addition thereto shall be summarily removed from office by the court imposing sentence.

Any such officer who shall willfully swear falsely as to any itemized account required by this act to be rendered under oath shall be deemed guilty of perjury, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than two nor more than five years, and shall be summarily removed from office by the court imposing sentence.

History: Laws 1915, ch. 12, § 17; C.S. 1929, § 33-3217; Laws 1939, ch. 107, § 1; 1941 Comp., § 15-4124; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-27.

Cross-references. - As to failure, neglect or refusal to perform duties of office as cause for removal of local public officers, see 10-4-2 NMSA 1978. As to embezzlement generally, see 30-16-8 NMSA 1978. As to perjury generally, see 30-25-1 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The phrase "this act" refers to Laws 1915, ch. 12, which is compiled as this section and 4-44-2, 4-44-21, 4-44-28, 4-44-30, 4-44-33 NMSA 1978.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 26 Am. Jur. 2d Embezzlement §§ 34, 35.

### **§ 4-44-33. Stationery, postage and office supplies.**

The boards of county commissioners shall purchase and provide county officers with all necessary stationery, postage and office supplies, the actual cost thereof to be paid out of the county general fund.

History: Laws 1915, ch. 12, § 7; C.S. 1929, § 33-3207; Laws 1939, ch. 97, § 1; 1941 Comp., § 15-4125; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-28; Laws 1973, ch. 4, § 13.

Cross-references. - As to furnishing of surveyor's books by board of county commissioners, see 4-42-4 NMSA 1978. As to county general fund, see 4-44-31 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-44-34. Officers to keep office at county seat.**

That all county officers of the various counties in New Mexico shall establish and maintain their offices and headquarters for the transaction of the business of their respective offices at the county seat of their respective counties and shall there keep all the books, papers and official records pertaining to their respective offices; provided, that such offices shall be provided for such officers at the expense of the respective counties.

History: Laws 1903, ch. 38, § 1; 1907, ch. 87, § 1; Code 1915, § 1129; C.S. 1929, § 33-3401; Laws 1939, ch. 59, § 1; 1941 Comp., § 15-4126; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-29.

Cross-references. - As to duty of county officers pertaining to removal of offices to new county seat, see 4-34-4 NMSA 1978. As to requirement that county surveyor keep office at county seat, see 4-42-4 NMSA 1978. As to requirement that clerk for probate court have office at county seat, see 34-7-4 NMSA 1978.

The 1907 amendment of this section did not have the effect of repealing 4-34-4 NMSA 1978 relating to duties of officers on removal to new county seat. Territory ex rel. White v. Riggle, 16 N.M. 713, 120 P. 318 (1911).

Courthouse must be built on property within the county seat. 1967 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 67-61.

When removal of offices and books to new county seat required. - In case of removal to a new county seat, officers are not required to remove offices and books before a courthouse and jail are completed. Territory ex rel. White v. Riggle, 16 N.M. 713, 120 P. 318 (1911).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 20 C.J.S. Counties § 139.

### **§ 4-44-35. Deputy county officers; oaths; bonds.**

Before assuming the duties of his office, each deputy county officer shall take and subscribe the oath of office prescribed by the constitution for county officers. The board of county commissioners may cause to be bonded the deputy or deputies of the various county officials who are not otherwise required to be bonded. These bonds shall be in amounts fixed by the board of county commissioners in a sum equal to twenty percent of the public money handled during the preceding fiscal year and conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties, but in no event shall the amount be greater than the maximum prescribed by law for the appropriate elected officer. The bonds shall be executed by corporate surety companies authorized to do business in this state and the premiums shall be paid from the county general fund. Deputy county officers may be individually bonded or included within the coverage under any schedule or blanket corporate surety bond procured by the board of county commissioners.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-4127, enacted by Laws 1945, ch. 68, § 1; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-30; Laws 1967, ch. 238, § 7.

Cross-references. - As to oath and bond of county officers and deputies generally, see 10-1-13 NMSA 1978. As to bonds of county officers, see 10-2-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

The bond provided for under this section should be made to run to the state of New Mexico or the county official, and this section authorizes the payment of the premium for such bond from county funds. 1945-46 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 4743.

Payment of premium on bond. - The provisions of this section being mandatory in form, the board of county commissioners cannot refuse to approve payment of the premium on the bond from county funds. 1947-48 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 4975.

### **§ 4-44-36. Abolishment of certain county offices.**

Any county of the third, fourth and fifth class, and H class counties, may abolish the offices of county assessor, county clerk, county surveyor and county treasurer and transfer the powers and duties of those offices to the board of county commissioners in the manner hereinafter prescribed. Any county may abolish the office of county surveyor and transfer the powers and duties of that office to the board of county commissioners in the manner hereinafter prescribed.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3535, enacted by Laws 1953, ch. 167, § 1; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-31; Laws 1957, ch. 189, § 10; 1963, ch. 164, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to classification of counties generally, see 4-44-1 NMSA 1978. As to H class counties, see 4-44-3 NMSA 1978. As to restoration of abolished offices, see 4-44-44, 4-44-45 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-44-37. [Petition for election on question of abolition.]**

A petition may be filed with the board of county commissioners of the county requesting that an election be held to determine whether the county offices named in Section 1 [4-44-36 NMSA 1978] are to be abolished and the powers and duties of such offices transferred to the board of county commissioners of the county. Such petition shall be signed by at least ten (10) percent of the registered electors of the county.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3536, enacted by Laws 1953, ch. 167, § 2; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-32.

Cross-references. - As to limitation upon holding of elections, see 4-44-45 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-44-38. [Notice of petition; challenging sufficiency of petition.]**

Immediately upon the filing of such petition, the board of county commissioners with whom the petition was filed shall cause notice that such petition has been filed to be published in some newspaper of general circulation in the county for two (2) consecutive weeks. Within thirty (30) days after the first publication of such notice, but not thereafter, any registered elector of the county may bring an action in the district court of the county, against any one or more signers of the petition, alleging that the petition does not bear the names of the required percentage of registered electors of the county. Such case shall be given a preference on the docket and heard as soon as possible. No jury shall be allowed. The judge, after hearing, shall make determination either that the petition bears the requisite number of signers or does not bear the requisite number of signers. No appeal shall be had from such determination.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3537, enacted by Laws 1953, ch. 167, § 3; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-33.

Cross-references. - As to publication of notice generally, see 14-11-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

### **§ 4-44-39. [Calling of election; notice.]**

The board of county commissioners shall call an election within thirty (30) days after the determination of the judge that the petition bears the requisite number of signatures, or within thirty (30) days after the time for filing an action has elapsed if no action was brought. In calling such election the board of county commissioners shall set a date on which the election shall be held, which date shall be not less than one month nor more than two months from the date on which the board called such election.

The board shall cause a notice of election to be published for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, the last publication thereof to be at least seven (7) days before the date set for the election. Such notice shall specify the

voting districts and polling places, which voting districts and polling places shall be designated in accordance with the provisions of Laws 1949, Chapter 20 relating to the calling and conduct of special elections. At such election all registered electors who reside within the county shall be eligible to vote.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3538, enacted by Laws 1953, ch. 167, § 4; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-34.

Cross-references. - As to publication of notice generally, see 14-11-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Compiler's notes. - Laws 1949, ch. 20, was repealed by Laws 1955, ch. 260, § 4, which, in turn, was repealed by Laws 1969, ch. 240, § 451. For present provision relating to elections, see Articles 11 and 12 of Chapter 1.

**§ 4-44-40. [Election judges and clerks; form for ballot.]**

At such election held hereunder there shall be three (3) election judges and two (2) election clerks for each polling place. Ballots shall be printed and furnished by the county commissioners, which ballots shall read as follows:

Shall the offices of county assessor, county clerk, county surveyor and county treasurer be abolished and the powers and duties of such officers be transferred to the board of county commissioners?

USE THE ZOOM COMMAND TO VIEW THE FOLLOWING FORM:

YES .....  
NO .....

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3539, enacted by Laws 1953, ch. 167, § 5; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-35.

**§ 4-44-41. [Counting and canvassing of returns.]**

The ballots shall be counted by the election officials and the results thereof certified to the county commissioners. Within three days after the election held as herein provided, the county commissioners shall meet and canvass the vote cast and if a majority of those voting shall have voted "Yes," the offices named in Section 5 [4-44-40 NMSA 1978] shall be abolished upon the expiration of the terms of the persons holding such offices at the time of such election, and the powers and duties of such offices shall be transferred to the board of county commissioners upon such expiration.



History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3540, enacted by Laws 1953, ch. 167, § 6; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-36.

#### **§ 4-44-42. [Recount of votes.]**

Any one hundred (100) registered electors of the county in which such election was held may apply for a recount of the votes cast at such election in accordance with the provisions of Sections 56-618 and 56-619 of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated, 1941 Compilation. Such recount shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Section 56-620 of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated, 1941 Compilation, provided, however, that when the district court shall order a recount the judge thereof shall have power to determine at such recount, whether or not any fraudulent, illegal or void ballots have been counted, and if he so determines, he shall have power to order such ballots thrown out and enter judgment in the proceedings accordingly.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3541, enacted by Laws 1953, ch. 167, § 7; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-37.

Compiler's notes. - The election law provisions cited in this section were repealed by Laws 1969, ch. 240, § 451. For present provisions relating to county recounts, see 1-14-17 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-44-43. [Results of canvass and any recount to be published.]**

The board of county commissioners shall cause the results of their canvass and the results of any recount proceedings to be published one time in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3542, enacted by Laws 1953, ch. 167, § 8; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-38.

Cross-references. - As to canvassing of returns, see 4-44-41 NMSA 1978. As to recount of votes, see 4-44-42 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-44-44. [Petition for restoration of abolished offices; election; ballots.]**

A. Whenever any county has abolished the offices of county assessor, county clerk, county surveyor and county treasurer and transferred the powers and duties of such offices to the board of county commissioners as herein provided, a petition may be filed with the board of county commissioners of such county requesting that an election be held to determine whether the county offices previously abolished are to be

reestablished and the powers and duties previously transferred to the board of county commissioners are to be returned to the offices from which they were transferred. Such petition shall be signed by at least ten (10) percent of the registered electors of the county.

B. Except as provided in this Paragraph B upon the filing of the petition provided for in this section, the provisions of Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 [4-44-38 to 4-44-43 NMSA 1978] of this act shall be applicable. Ballots for an election to reestablish county offices [offices] previously abolished and to return to such offices the powers and duties previously transferred from such offices shall read as follows:

Shall the offices of county assessor, county clerk, county surveyor and county treasurer be reestablished and the powers and duties of such offices previously transferred to the board of county commissioners be returned to the offices from which they [were] transferred?

USE THE ZOOM COMMAND TO VIEW THE FOLLOWING FORM:

YES .....

NO .....

If a majority of those voting on the above question have voted "Yes," such offices shall be reestablished as of January 1st of the next odd-numbered year, and upon such date all powers and duties previously transferred from such offices shall be returned to the office from which they had been previously transferred.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3545, enacted by Laws 1953, ch. 167, § 11; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-41.

Cross-references. - As to payment of election costs and limitation upon holding of elections, see 4-44-45 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-44-45. Elections; costs; limitations.**

The costs of all elections authorized herein shall be paid from the county general fund. Elections authorized under the provisions of Sections 4-44-36 to 4-44-45 NMSA 1978 shall not be held more frequently than once in any four-year period and shall not be held after February 1 of any even-numbered year.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-3546, enacted by Laws 1953, ch. 167, § 12; 1953 Comp., § 15-43-42; Laws 1973, ch. 4, § 14.

## **Article 45**

## **Accounts and Claims Against Counties**

§§ 4-45-1, 4-45-2. Repealed.

Repeals. - Laws 1980, ch. 96, § 1, repeals 4-45-1 and 4-45-2 NMSA 1978, relating to verification of accounts and claims against counties by an affidavit and the penalty for a commissioner or clerk failing to perform his duty in conjunction therewith.

### **§ 4-45-3. [Accounts to be itemized; board may disapprove.]**

No account shall be approved by the board of county commissioners unless the same shall be made out in separate items, and the nature of each item stated, and where no fees are allowed by law, the time actually and necessarily devoted to the performance of any services, charged in such account so made out shall be verified by affidavit: provided, that nothing in this section shall prevent any board from disapproving any account in whole or in part when so rendered and verified, nor from requiring any other or further evidence of the truth and propriety thereof as they may think proper.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 20; C.L. 1884, § 351; C.L. 1897, § 669; Code 1915, § 1222; C.S. 1929, § 33-4236; 1941 Comp., § 15-4203; 1953 Comp., § 15-44-3.

Cross-references. - As to duty of board of county commissioners as to accounts generally, see 4-38-16 NMSA 1978. As to approval of unauthorized accounts, see 4-38-29 NMSA 1978. As to duties of county clerk as to accounts, see 4-40-4, 4-40-5 NMSA 1978.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions § 739.

Amount of damages stated in notice of claim against municipality or county as limiting amount of recovery, 24 A.L.R.3d 965.

20 C.J.S. Counties § 300.

### **§ 4-45-4. [County orders; form.]**

County orders shall be signed by the chairman and attested by the county clerk, and shall specify the nature of the claim of service for which they were issued, and the money shall be paid from the county treasury on such orders and not otherwise.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 21; C.L. 1884, § 352; C.L. 1897, § 670; Code 1915, § 1223; C.S. 1929, § 33-4237; 1941 Comp., § 15-4204; 1953 Comp., § 15-44-4.

Cross-references. - As to unauthorized issuance by county commissioners of order for payment of money, see 4-38-29 NMSA 1978. As to duties of county clerk as to orders for payment of money, see 4-40-4, 4-40-6 NMSA 1978.

County funds may be distributed only on the order of the county commissioners, and may not be granted to the county health department to be distributed by warrants of the county health officer (now district health officer). 1921-22 Op. Att'y Gen. 49.

Statutory duties of county clerk are ministerial and are intended only to insure the regularity of county fiscal procedures. 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-33.

#### **§ 4-45-5. [Disapproval of claim; appeal to district court.]**

When any claim of any person against a county shall be disapproved in whole or in part by the board of commissioners, such person may appeal from the decision of such board to the district court for the same county, by causing written notice of such appeal to be served on the clerk of such board within thirty days after such decision, and executing bond to such county with sufficient security, to be approved by the clerk of said board, conditioned for the faithful prosecution of such appeal and payment of all costs that may be adjudged against such appellant.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 22; C.L. 1884, § 353; C.L. 1897, § 671; Code 1915, § 1224; C.S. 1929, § 33-4238; 1941 Comp., § 15-4205; 1953 Comp., § 15-44-5.

Cross-references. - As to additional duties of county clerk pertaining to appeals, see 4-45-6 NMSA 1978. As to payment of appealed claims, see 6-6-16 NMSA 1978.

Appeal from disallowance of claim by board. - The board of county commissioners is the body which approves or disapproves the reports of the treasurers in their several counties, and an appeal lies to the district court, and may be taken by any person whose claim is disallowed in whole or in part by that board. *Territory v. Newhall*, 15 N.M. 141, 103 P. 982 (1909).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d *Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions* § 829.  
20 C.J.S. *Counties* §§ 308 to 312.

#### **§ 4-45-6. [Appeal; duties of clerk; notice to district attorney.]**

The clerk of the board, upon such appeal being taken, shall immediately give notice to the district attorney of the district in which said county is situate, and shall make out a brief return of the proceedings in the case before the board with their decision thereon, and shall file [the return], together with the bond and all the papers in the case in his possession, with the clerk of the district court, and such appeal shall be entered, tried and determined the same as appeals from justices of the peace [magistrates] and costs awarded in like manner.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 23; C.L. 1884, § 354; C.L. 1897, § 672; Code 1915, § 1225; C.S. 1929, § 33-4239; 1941 Comp., § 15-4206; 1953 Comp., § 15-44-6.

Cross-references. - As to duties of county clerk pertaining to appeals to district court generally, see 4-45-5 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The office of justice of the peace has been abolished and all jurisdiction, powers and duties conferred by law upon justices of the peace have been transferred to the magistrate courts. See N.M. Const., art. VI, § 31 and 35-1-38 NMSA 1978. For provisions pertaining to appeals from magistrate courts, see 35-13-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

### **§ 4-45-7. [Examination of canceled orders.]**

The board of county commissioners at their annual January session of each year, or oftener if they deem it necessary, shall carefully examine the county orders returned by the county treasurer, by comparing each order with the record of orders in the clerk's office. They shall cause to be entered on said record opposite to the entry of each order issued the date [upon] which the same was canceled. They shall also make a list of such orders so canceled, specifying the number, date, amount and the person to whom the same is payable, and enter the same on the journal of the board.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 25; C.L. 1884, § 356; C.L. 1897, § 674; Code 1915, § 1226; C.S. 1929, § 33-4240; 1941 Comp., § 15-4207; 1953 Comp., § 15-44-7.

Cross-references. - As to duties of board of county commissioners as to accounts generally, see 4-38-16 NMSA 1978.

## **Article 46**

### **Suits By and Against Counties**

#### **§ 4-46-1. [Name for purpose of suit.]**

In all suits or proceedings by or against a county, the name in which the county shall sue or be sued shall be the board of county commissioners of the county of . . . . .  
., but this provision shall not prohibit county officers, when authorized by law, from suing in their name of office for the benefit of the county.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 4; C.L. 1884, § 335; C.L. 1897, § 654; Code 1915, § 1152; C.S. 1929, § 33-3701; 1941 Comp., § 15-4301; 1953 Comp., § 15-45-1.

Cross-references. - As to Tort Claims Act, see 41-4-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions § 848.

Abrogation of state's immunity from liability of suit as affecting immunity of county, 161 A.L.R. 367.

Power of county or its officials to compromise claim, 15 A.L.R.2d 1359.

Liability of county for torts in connection with activities which pertain, or are claimed to pertain, to private or proprietary function, 16 A.L.R.2d 1079.

Liability of county for damages in tort in operating hospital as affected by capacity to be sued, 25 A.L.R.2d 224.

Insurance: liability or indemnity insurance carried by governmental unit as affecting immunity from tort liability, 68 A.L.R.2d 1437.

20 C.J.S. Counties §§ 319 to 338.

### **§ 4-46-2. [Service of process; duties of county clerk.]**

In all legal proceedings against the county, process shall be served on the county clerk, and whenever such suit or proceeding shall be commenced it shall be the duty of the clerk forthwith to notify the district attorney of the judicial district in which the county so sued is situate, and to lay before the board of county commissioners at their next meeting all the information he may have in regard to such suit or proceeding.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 5; C.L. 1884, § 336; C.L. 1897, § 655; Code 1915, § 1153; C.S. 1929, § 33-3702; 1941 Comp., § 15-4302; 1953 Comp., § 15-45-2.

Cross-references. - As to venue of actions against counties, see 38-3-2, 41-4-18 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The supreme court has adopted this section as part of its rules for procedure in district courts. See Rule 1-1004 F(4).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions § 854.

Waiver of, or estoppel to assert, failure to give notice of claim of injury as condition of liability of county for injury from defects in street, road or other public place, 153 A.L.R. 329; 65 A.L.R.2d 1278.

Deposit in mail of notice of claim required as condition of action against or liability of county as giving of notice within required period, 175 A.L.R. 299.

Persons upon whom notice of injury or claims against county may or must be served, 23 A.L.R.2d 969.

20 C.J.S. Counties § 329.

### **§ 4-46-3. [Inhabitants competent as witnesses and jurors.]**

On the trial of any suit in which a county may be interested, the inhabitants of such

county shall be competent witnesses and jurors, if otherwise competent and qualified according to law.

History: Laws 1876, ch. 1, § 6; C.L. 1884, § 337; C.L. 1897, § 656; Code 1915, § 1154; C.S. 1929, § 33-3703; 1941 Comp., § 15-4303; 1953 Comp., § 15-45-3.

Cross-references. - As to witnesses generally, see Rule 601, N.M.R. Evid. et seq.

### **§ 4-46-4. Repealed.**

Repeals. - Laws 1981, ch. 37, § 95, repeals 4-46-4 NMSA 1978, relating to judgments rendered against board of county commissioners or county officers and the payment thereof, effective July 1, 1981.

## **Article 47**

### **Public Buildings and Works**

#### **§ 4-47-1. Repealed.**

Repeals. - Laws 1984, ch. 65, § 175, as amended by Laws 1984 (1st S.S.), ch. 2, § 1, repeals 4-47-1 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1887, ch. 8, § 3, relating to advertising for public works to be paid for by county funds, effective November 1, 1984. For comparable provisions in effect after November 1, 1984, see 13-1-28 to 13-1-199 NMSA 1978.

Laws 1984 (1st S.S.), ch. 2, § 2, provides that the act take effect immediately. Approved March 28, 1984.

#### **§ 4-47-2. Sale of county buildings or lands to municipalities and state agencies.**

Boards of county commissioners within the state of New Mexico are hereby authorized to sell, transfer and convey to any city, town or village located within such county, or to any agency or department or commission of the state of New Mexico, operating facilities within such county, such public buildings and lands on which such buildings are located, or such other lands, lots and additions belonging to the said county, whenever the same are no longer deemed necessary for county purposes, without appraisal, at private sale, for such sum as the said county commissioners may in their judgment determine.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-4405, enacted by Laws 1947, ch. 179, § 1; 1953 Comp., § 15-46-2; Laws 1961, ch. 85, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to joint city-county building, see 5-5-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1961, ch. 85, § 2, makes the act effective immediately. Approved March 21, 1961.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 56 Am. Jur. 2d Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions § 549.  
20 C.J.S. Counties § 172.

### **§ 4-47-3. [Sale; public auction.]**

That the boards of county commissioners within the state of New Mexico are hereby authorized after having made application therefor to the district court of their respective judicial districts, to sell at public auction all those public buildings, lots or additions belonging to the same, whenever such public buildings, lots or additions have been substituted by other public buildings, lots or additions.

History: Laws 1909, ch. 59, § 1; Code 1915, § 1348; C.S. 1929, § 33-5701; 1941 Comp., § 15-4402; 1953 Comp., § 15-46-3.

Mineral lease. - Since the New Mexico supreme court has decided that an oil and gas lease conveys "real property," a mineral lease should be executed under the provisions of this section and 4-47-4 NMSA 1978, which provide means of sale of property by a county at public auction, under the supervision of a district court. Following these provisions would provide protection to the county commissioners. 1955-56 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 6194.

### **§ 4-47-4. [Sale; appraisers; notice; payment.]**

The judge of the district court shall appoint three appraisers to appraise such property proposed to be sold as specified in the preceding section and such appraisers shall make and return under oath an appraisal of the actual cash value of such property, and upon return of such appraisal to the district court, the board of commissioners shall proceed to advertise such property for public sale, giving at least three weeks' notice of the hour, time and place of such sale, which notice shall be inserted in some daily or weekly newspaper published in the city or town where such property is located, if one be published therein; if not, in some paper of general circulation therein, and shall cause such property to be offered for sale at the time stated in such notice; and such property shall not be sold for less than two-thirds of the appraised value, and it shall be the duty of such board to require the payment in cash of at least one-half of the



purchase price of said property, and they shall require the purchaser in lieu of the remainder of the purchase price, to execute proper security for the amount of the same.

History: Laws 1909, ch. 59, § 2; Code 1915, § 1349; C.S. 1929, § 33-5702; 1941 Comp., § 15-4403; 1953 Comp., § 15-46-4.

Cross-references. - As to publication of notice generally, see 14-11-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Mineral lease. - Since the New Mexico supreme court has decided that an oil and gas lease conveys "real property," a mineral lease should be executed under the provisions of 4-47-3 NMSA 1978 and this section, which provide means of sale of property by a county at public auction, under the supervision of a district court. Following these provisions would provide protection to the county commissioners. 1955-56 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 6194.

## **Article 48**

### **Hospitals**

(Repealed by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 28; 1982, ch. 11, § 4; Recompiled by Laws 1981, ch. 83, §§ 2, 5 to 9, 11, 13 to 15, 17.)

Sec.

- 4-48-1.                   Recompiled.
- 4-48-2.                   Repealed.
- 4-48-3 to 4-48-6. Recompiled.
- 4-48-7, 4-48-8. Repealed.
- 4-48-9, 4-48-9.1. Repealed.
- 4-48-10.                Recompiled.
- 4-48-11.                Repealed.
- 4-48-11.1, 4-48-11.2. Recompiled.
- 4-48-12.                Repealed.
- 4-48-13, 4-48-14. Recompiled.
- 4-48-15.                Repealed.
- 4-48-16.                Recompiled.

### **§ 4-48-1. Recompiled.**

Recompilations. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 5, recompiles 4-48-1 NMSA 1978, relating to the powers of counties to construct, purchase and operate hospitals, as 4-48B-5 NMSA 1978.

## **§ 4-48-2. Repealed.**

Repeals. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 28, repeals 4-48-2 NMSA 1978, relating to the power of counties to issue bonds for hospitals, effective April 1, 1981.

§§ 4-48-3 to 4-48-6. Recompiled.

Recompilations. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, §§ 6 to 9, recompiles 4-48-3 through 4-48-6 NMSA 1978, relating to elections on the question of constructing or purchasing hospitals, the power of counties to lease hospitals, the care of sick and indigent persons and the joint construction and operation of hospitals by counties, as 4-48B-6 through 4-48B-9 NMSA 1978, respectively, effective April 1, 1981.

§§ 4-48-7, 4-48-8. Repealed.

Repeals. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 28, repeals 4-48-7 and 4-48-8 NMSA 1978, relating to the designation of boards of county commissioners as governing bodies of hospitals and the authority of counties to make regulations relating to hospitals, effective April 1, 1981.

§§ 4-48-9, 4-48-9.1. Repealed.

Repeals. - Laws 1982, ch. 11, § 4, repeals 4-48-9 and 4-48-9.1 NMSA 1978, relating to boards of trustees for county hospitals and the terms of such trustees, respectively, effective March 1, 1982. For present provisions, see 4-48B-10 NMSA 1978.

## **§ 4-48-10. Recompiled.**

Recompilations. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 11, recompiles 4-48-10 NMSA 1978, relating to federal aid for the construction, maintenance and operation of county hospitals, as 4-48B-11 NMSA 1978, effective April 1, 1981.

## **§ 4-48-11. Repealed.**

Repeals. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 28, repeals 4-48-11 NMSA 1978, relating to the authorization of tax levies to operate hospitals, effective April 1, 1981.

§§ 4-48-11.1, 4-48-11.2. Recompiled.

Recompilations. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, §§ 2, 13, recompiles 4-48-11.1 and 4-48-11.2 NMSA 1978, relating to the operation and maintenance of a hospital facility pursuant to a lease and the purpose of the act to encourage the construction and operation of joint medical facilities, as 4-48B-13 and 4-48B-2 NMSA 1978, respectively, effective April 1, 1981.

### **§ 4-48-12. Repealed.**

Repeals. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 28, repeals 4-48-12 NMSA 1978, relating to levies made under provisions of the Indigent Hospital Claims Act, effective April 1, 1981. See 27-5-1 NMSA and notes thereto.

§§ 4-48-13, 4-48-14. Recompiled.

Recompilations. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, §§ 14, 15, recompiles 4-48-13 and 4-48-14 NMSA 1978, relating to the payment of charges for the care of persons committed by the district court and to elections on the questions of levying taxes above the constitutional limitation of 20 mills, as 4-48B-14 and 4-48B-15 NMSA 1978, respectively, effective April 1, 1981.

Compiler's notes. - Laws 1981, ch. 37, § 57, approved March 12, 1981, purported to amend 4-48-14 NMSA 1978, but was not given effect in light of the recompilation of that section by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 15, approved April 1, 1981. See 12-1-8 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-48-15. Repealed.**

Repeals. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 28, repeals 4-48-15 NMSA 1978, relating to the purpose of the act to revive levies for hospitals, effective April 1, 1981.

### **§ 4-48-16. Recompiled.**

Recompilations. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 17, recompiles 4-48-16 NMSA 1978, relating to authority to establish retirement plans and programs for employees of county hospitals, as 4-48B-17 NMSA 1978, effective April 1, 1981.

## **Article 48A**

### **Special Hospital Districts**

## **§ 4-48A-1. Short title.**

This act may be cited as the "Special Hospital District Act."

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-1, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 1.

Meaning of "this act". - The phrase "this act" as used in this section refers to 4-48A-1 to 4-48A-3, 4-48A-4 to 4-48A-18 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, §§ 1 to 18 and 4-48A-29 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1987, ch. 49, § 10.

Proposed residential care unit would not be "hospital facility". - Proposed residential care unit, which probably would not have a professional staff or provide medical services but would offer room, board and other nonmedical assistance to those who qualify, would not be a "hospital facility" qualified to receive district funds under the Special Hospital District Act. 1989 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 89-31.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 40 Am. Jur. 2d Hospitals and Asylums § 23. Opposition to construction of new hospital or expansion of existing hospital's facilities as violation of Sherman Act (15 USCS § 1 et seq.), 88 A.L.R. Fed. 478.

## **§ 4-48A-2. Definitions.**

As used in the Special Hospital District Act:

A. "board of trustees" means the governing board of the special hospital district;

B. "qualified elector" means a natural person resident in a proposed or existing special hospital district who is registered to vote in state general elections;

C. "special hospital district" means a district wherein a public hospital is located or is proposed to be created and which:

(1) is composed of contiguous and compact territory lying wholly within a single county;  
or

(2) is composed of contiguous and compact territory which includes all or a portion of two or more counties or any combination thereof; and

(3) contains within its boundaries one or more incorporated municipalities; or whose boundaries coincide and are concurrent with the territorial areas of one or more political subdivisions within such county or counties;

D. "hospital facility" includes a medical facility or an outpatient clinic or both; and

E. "subdistrict" means, in the case of a special hospital district composed of all or a portion of two or more counties, the portion of the special hospital district which is located in one county.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-2, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 2; 1979, ch. 134, § 1; 1981, ch. 84, § 1; 1987, ch. 273, § 1.

The 1987 amendment, effective June 19, 1987, in Subsection D inserted "or outpatient clinic or both".

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Special Hospital District Act. - See 4-48A-1 NMSA 1978 and notes thereto.

### **§ 4-48A-3. Creation of special hospital district; power of counties to agree to create special hospital districts.**

A. There may be created special hospital districts within any county of this state for the purpose of constructing, acquiring, operating and maintaining one or more public hospital facilities for the benefit of the inhabitants of the district.

B. All counties shall have the power to enter into agreements with one or more other counties to create special hospital districts composed of all or a portion of each county which is a party to the agreement, but no district so created shall include within its territory any territory already included in another special hospital district. In any case, no county shall include the same territory in more than one special hospital district. Such agreement shall provide for generation of funds necessary for establishment and operation of a public hospital facility and for a plan of dissolution. Plans for the dissolution of the special hospital district must provide for the payment of all district debts and liabilities and for the distributing of all remaining assets to the county or counties in which the special hospital district lies.

C. A county may enter into an agreement with the board of trustees of an existing special hospital district to permit all or a portion of the county to become a subdistrict of the special hospital district, after certification of a petition and election as required in Sections 4-48A-4 and 4-48A-5 NMSA 1978. A member of the board of trustees shall be elected from the new subdistrict in the manner provided by law and shall be added to the board of trustees until the next regularly scheduled election, at which time a board member shall be elected as provided in Section 4-48A-6 NMSA 1978.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-3, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 3; 1981, ch. 84, § 2; 1983, ch. 84, § 1.

The 1983 amendment substituted "the same" for "within its territory any" in the second sentence in Subsection B and "4-48A-5" for "4-48-5" in the first sentence in Subsection C.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Laws 1983, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

### **§ 4-48A-3.1. Artesia special hospital district.**

The Artesia special hospital district is hereby created by act of the legislature. The district shall consist of all land lying within the Artesia public school district 16 lying within Eddy county. All previous acts and proceedings of the Artesia special hospital district created pursuant to Sections 4-48A-4 and 4-48A-5 NMSA 1978 heretofore had or taken, or purportedly had or taken, are hereby validated, ratified, approved and confirmed.

History: Laws 1989, ch. 7, § 1.

Effective dates. - Laws 1989, ch. 7 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on June 16, 1989.

### **§ 4-48A-3.2. Nor-Lea special hospital district.**

The Nor-Lea special hospital district is hereby created by act of the legislature. The district shall consist of all land lying within the Lovington and Tatum school districts lying within Lea county. All previous acts and proceedings of the Nor-Lea special hospital district created pursuant to Sections 4-48A-4 and 4-48A-5 NMSA 1978 heretofore had or taken, or purportedly had or taken, are hereby validated, ratified, approved and confirmed.

History: Laws 1989, ch. 7, § 2.

Effective dates. - Laws 1989, ch. 7 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on June 16, 1989.

### **§ 4-48A-3.3. Jal special hospital district.**

The Jal special hospital district is hereby created by act of the legislature. The district shall consist of all land lying within the Jal school district lying within Lea county. All

previous acts and proceedings of the Jal special hospital district created pursuant to Sections 4-48A-4 and 4-48A-5 NMSA 1978 heretofore had or taken, or purportedly had or taken, are hereby validated, ratified, approved and confirmed.

History: Laws 1989, ch. 7, § 3.

Effective dates. - Laws 1989, ch. 7 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on June 16, 1989.

#### **§ 4-48A-4. Formation of special hospital district; petition.**

A. If creation of a special hospital district is proposed, there shall be a petition circulated in the county for the creation of a special hospital district in the county or in each subdistrict of a special hospital district composed of all or portions of two or more counties. Petitions for the creation of a special hospital district shall designate the name of the proposed district and the territorial area within and outside the county to be included within the district. Each petition shall be signed only by qualified electors of the proposed special hospital district. The name and post-office address of each signer shall be indicated on the petition.

B. In the case of a special hospital district lying wholly within a county, the petition shall contain signatures in a number equal to or in excess of ten percent of the votes cast for governor in the territory of the proposed special hospital district in the last preceding general election at which a governor of the state was elected. In the case of a special hospital district composed of all or a portion of two or more counties, the petition for each subdistrict shall contain signatures in a number equal to or greater than ten percent of the votes cast for governor in the territory of the subdistrict in the last preceding general election at which a governor of the state was elected. For the purpose of determining the vote cast for governor in the territory of the proposed special hospital district or subdistrict, any portion of a precinct within the proposed district or subdistrict shall be construed as if the entire precinct were wholly within the territory of the proposed special hospital district.

C. The petition calling for the creation of the special hospital district shall be filed with the county clerk of the county in which the district or subdistrict is proposed. The county clerk shall verify that the petition complies with all the requirements of the Special Hospital District Act. Upon such verification, the county clerk shall certify that fact, along with the petition, to the board of county commissioners. In the case of a special hospital district composed of all or portions of two or more counties, the board of county commissioners shall notify the boards of county commissioners of the other county or counties which are party to the agreement that a petition for the subdistrict within that county complying with all the requirements of the Special Hospital District Act has been certified and filed.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-4, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 4; 1981, ch. 84, § 3.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Special Hospital District Act. - See 4-48A-1 NMSA 1978 and notes thereto.

#### **§ 4-48A-5. Formation of special hospital district; election.**

A. Upon receipt of the county clerk's certification and the petition, and, in the case of a special hospital district composed of all or portions of two or more counties, the notification provided for in Section 4-48A-4 NMSA 1978, the board of county commissioners shall issue a proclamation calling for an election to be held not less than sixty nor more than one hundred twenty days from the date of receipt of the county clerk's certification and the petition. The election shall be for the purpose of determining whether such hospital district shall be created and for the selection of members of the board of trustees.

B. Persons desiring to be a candidate in an election for a position on the board of trustees shall file a declaration of candidacy for one of the positions on the board of trustees with the county clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on the thirtieth day after the issuance of the proclamation by the board of county commissioners. The declaration of candidacy shall be an affidavit as to the qualifications required by law of the declarant for such office. The declaration of candidacy shall be on a form prescribed and furnished by the county clerk.

C. Only qualified electors who reside in the territory of the proposed special hospital district shall vote in such election, and in the case of a special hospital district composed of all or portions of more than one county, only qualified electors who reside in the subdistrict shall vote in such election.

D. The proclamation of the election shall be published by the county clerk once each week for four consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the territory of the proposed special hospital district or subdistrict, the last of such notice being published not more than one week from the date of the election.

E. The election shall be conducted, counted and canvassed in substantially the same manner as general elections are conducted, counted and canvassed in that county.

F. In the event a majority of the qualified electors of the proposed special hospital district voting in the election vote in favor of creating the special hospital district, or in the event a majority of the qualified electors who reside in each subdistrict of a special hospital district composed of all or a portion of two or more counties voting in the election vote in favor of creating a special hospital district, and upon certification of that fact by the county canvassing board or boards, the board of county commissioners of each county shall by resolution declare the district to be created and that each of those



candidates for a position on the board of trustees who received the vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting on such positions shall be certified as elected.

G. In the event a majority of the qualified electors of a county voting on the question reject the creation of the special hospital district, such question shall not again be submitted in the county for a period of two years. In the case of a special hospital district composed of all or a portion of two or more counties, if a majority of the qualified electors of any subdistrict voting on the question reject the creation of the special hospital district, such question shall not again be submitted in the subdistrict or any part thereof for a period of two years.

H. The expenses of calling and conducting the election shall be borne by each county in which an election is held; provided, if the election results in the creation of a special hospital district, such special hospital district shall reimburse each county for all expenditures made in the course of calling and conducting the election.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-5, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 5; 1981, ch. 84, § 4.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

#### **§ 4-48A-6. Board of trustees; terms; vacancies; removal.**

A. Subject to the requirements of Section 4-48A-3 NMSA 1978, the board of trustees of a special hospital district shall consist of the greater of five members or a number of members equal to the number of counties which agree to form a special hospital district:

(1) in the case of a special hospital district included wholly within a county, the members shall be elected at large as provided in the Special Hospital District Act; or

(2) in the case of a special hospital district which includes all or a portion of two or more counties, one member of the board shall be elected from each subdistrict by the qualified electors who reside in that subdistrict and the remainder shall be elected at large by the qualified electors who reside in the special hospital district.

B. Members shall be elected as follows:

(1) for the purposes of the first election of a board of trustees, the board of county commissioners shall designate in its proclamation five positions to be filled so that:

(a) two members shall be elected for an initial term of two years;

(b) two members shall be elected for an initial term of four years; and

(c) one member shall be elected for an initial term of five years.

Thereafter, all members shall be elected for five-year terms; and

(2) for the purposes of staggering the terms of any nonstaggered terms of a board of trustees elected under the provisions of the Special Hospital District Act, the board of county commissioners may designate in its proclamation an election to be held no later than January 1, 1990 and that:

(a) two members shall be elected for an initial term of two years;

(b) two members shall be elected for an initial term of four years; and

(c) one member shall be elected for an initial term of five years.

Thereafter, all members shall be elected for five-year terms.

C. Vacancies on the board of trustees created by a member elected from a subdistrict shall be filled by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the subdistrict is located, and vacancies created by a member elected at large shall be filled by the remaining members of the board of trustees for the remainder of the unexpired term of the member creating the vacancy.

D. Members of the board of trustees shall be suspended or removed from office only as provided in Sections 10-4-1 through 10-4-29 NMSA 1978 or as provided in Section 4-48A-7 NMSA 1978.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-6, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 6; 1979, ch. 134, § 2; 1981, ch. 84, § 5; 1989, ch. 155, § 1.

The 1989 amendment, effective June 16, 1989, substituted the present provisions of Subsection B for "Members shall be elected for terms of five years".

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Special Hospital District Act. - See 4-48A-1 NMSA 1978 and notes thereto.

#### **§ 4-48A-7. Board of trustees; qualifications; automatic removal.**

Each member of the board of trustees shall be a qualified elector, and each member of the board of trustees elected from a subdistrict shall be a resident of the subdistrict of the special hospital district. The office of any member of the board of trustees who does not continue to reside in the special hospital district, and in the case of a member who is

elected from a subdistrict, who does not continue to reside in the subdistrict, is automatically declared vacant.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-7, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 7; 1981, ch. 84, § 6.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provisions, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

#### **§ 4-48A-8. Board of trustees; organization; bond.**

A. The board of trustees shall elect from its membership a chairman and secretary-treasurer.

B. Each member of the board of trustees shall receive no compensation for the performance of his duties, but shall be paid per diem and mileage for attendance at meetings of the board as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act [10-8-1 to 10-8-8 NMSA 1978].

C. Each member of the board of trustees shall furnish a corporate surety bond in the penal sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the faithful performance of his duties and the accounting for all funds which shall come into his possession. Such bond shall run to the benefit of the special hospital district.

D. All authorizations for the payment or expenditure of money in the possession of the special hospital district shall be signed by the chairman and the secretary-treasurer.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-8, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 8.

#### **§ 4-48A-9. Board of trustees; powers.**

The board of trustees may:

A. acquire, construct, operate or maintain one or more hospital facilities in the special hospital district for the purposes for which the special hospital district was created;

B. receive and expend all funds accruing to the special hospital district pursuant to any provision of the Special Hospital District Act through the sale of bonds or the levy of taxes; paid from any source on account of patients accommodated at the hospital; from any gift or bequest; or from any federal, state or private grant;

C. enter into contracts, including contracts with the federal government and the departments and agencies thereof or the state government and the departments, institutions and agencies thereof, for the treatment of or the hospitalization of patients

under the jurisdiction of such entities;

D. adopt and use a seal to authenticate its official transactions;

E. sue and be sued;

F. adopt rules and regulations for the governing of the special hospital district;

G. employ and fix the compensation of an executive director of the special hospital district and such other staff and clerical personnel it deems necessary;

H. employ a hospital administrator for hospital facilities under its control and approve or disapprove the recommendations of such administrator pertaining to compensation and employment benefits for hospital employees;

I. exercise all powers necessary and requisite for the accomplishment of the purposes for which the special hospital district is created;

J. issue bonds in the manner provided by law for the issuance of special hospital district revenue bonds for the construction, purchase, renovation, remodeling, equipping or re-equipping of hospital facilities under its control, and purchasing the necessary land therefor;

K. charge for hospital services rendered;

L. lease a hospital to any person, corporation or association for the operation and maintenance of the hospital upon such terms and conditions as the board of trustees may determine;

M. enter into an agreement with another county or counties, another county or counties and another political subdivision or any other person, corporation or association which provides that the parties to the agreement shall join together for the purpose of making some or all purchases necessary for the operation of hospitals owned or operated by the parties; and to designate one of the parties as the central purchasing office, as defined in the Public Purchases Act, for the others, to make purchases for the parties to the agreement as they shall deem necessary and to comply with the provisions of the Public Purchases Act; and

N. expend public money to recruit health care personnel to serve the sick of the special hospital district.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-9, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 9; 1981, ch. 84, § 7.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Public Purchases Act. - The Public Purchases Act, referred to in Subsection M, appeared as 13-1-1 to 13-1-27, before being repealed in 1984.

Special Hospital District Act. - See 4-48A-1 NMSA 1978 and notes thereto.

#### **§ 4-48A-10. Board of trustees; duties.**

The board of trustees shall:

- A. be the governing authority of the special hospital district;
- B. comply with the provisions of law for local governments pertaining to the preparation and approval of budgets by the local government division of the department of finance and administration;
- C. comply with the provisions of law pertaining to the audit of local governments by the state auditor; and
- D. adopt rules and regulations for the management and operation of hospital facilities of the special hospital district.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-10, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 10.

#### **§ 4-48A-11. Board of trustees; acquisition of existing hospital facilities; agreements.**

- A. The board of trustees may acquire by purchase, lease-purchase or lease for the use of the special hospital district, any existing hospital facility (including buildings, property, furniture and equipment).
- B. The governing body of a political subdivision situated within the territorial boundaries of a special hospital district and owning a hospital facility already constructed and situated within such territorial boundaries of a special hospital district may, with the approval of the state board of finance, enter into agreement with the board of trustees of the special hospital district for the sale, operation or maintenance of such hospital facility by the special hospital district.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-11, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 11.

#### **§ 4-48A-12. Board of trustees; issue of bonds.**

- A. Upon approval of a majority of the qualified electors voting upon the question, the

board of trustees may issue general obligation bonds of the special hospital district for the purposes of:

- (1) constructing, acquiring or purchasing a hospital facility for the special hospital district;
- (2) equipping, furnishing, remodeling or renovating a hospital facility owned or operated by the special hospital district;
- (3) purchasing or acquiring real property deemed necessary to the construction, operation or maintenance of a hospital facility owned or operated by the special hospital district; or
- (4) refunding outstanding general obligation bonded indebtedness.

B. No general obligation bonds of the special hospital district shall be issued which creates a total bonded indebtedness of the special hospital district in excess of three percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property within the special hospital district as shown by the most recent general assessment. The debt limitation specified in this section shall be in excess of other existing debt limitations provided by law.

C. The board of trustees shall comply with the requirements and procedures set forth in Section 6-15-1 NMSA 1978 with respect to the proposed issuance of general obligation bonds. The local government division of the department of finance and administration shall apply the procedures set forth in Section 6-15-2 NMSA 1978 to the proposed issuance of general obligation bonds by the special hospital district.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-12, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 12.

### **§ 4-48A-13. Bonds; form; interest; maturities.**

A. General obligation bonds issued by a special hospital district shall mature not more than twenty years from their date and be numbered from one upwards consecutively. Interest on all such bonds shall be payable either annually or semiannually, as provided by resolution of the board of trustees; provided, that the first installment of interest coming due may be for any period of time which shall not exceed one year from the date of the bonds.

B. The resolution authorizing the bonds may provide for the creation of a sinking fund to secure payment of principal and interest on the bonds and may provide for mandatory annual payments to be made to the sinking fund from the taxes levied and collected pursuant to Section 14 [4-48A-14 NMSA 1978] of the Special Hospital District Act.

C. The board of trustees shall designate the maximum coupon rate of interest the general obligation bonds shall bear, which shall not be in excess of the maximum

coupon rate which is permitted by the Public Securities Act [6-14-1 to 6-14-3 NMSA 1978] as hereafter amended, and shall designate the maximum net effective interest rate which shall not exceed the maximum permitted by the Public Securities Act as hereafter amended.

D. The procedure which shall be followed by the board of trustees for the sale of general obligation bonds shall be the same as that set forth in Section 6-15-5 NMSA 1978 for other political subdivisions.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-13, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 13.

#### **§ 4-48A-14. Imposition of tax for payment of bonds.**

A. The officials now or hereafter charged by law with the duty of levying ad valorem taxes for the payment of bonds and interest shall, in the manner provided by law, make an annual levy sufficient to meet the annual or semiannual payments of principal and interest on the maturing general obligation bonds or the refunding bonds or the mandatory sinking fund payments, if such fund is created by the board of trustees.

B. The provisions of Subsection A of this section shall not be construed as to prevent the special hospital district from applying any other funds that it may have or investment income actually received from sinking fund investments and available for that purpose to the payment of the interest on or the principal of, or any prior redemption premium in connection with, such bonds as the same become due; and upon such payments, the levy or levies provided in this section may thereupon to that extent be diminished.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-14, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 14.

#### **§ 4-48A-15. Refunding bonds.**

A. The board of trustees may issue bonds in such form as the board of trustees may determine for the purpose of refunding any of the general obligation bonded indebtedness of the special hospital district which has or may hereafter become due and payable, or which has or may hereafter become payable at the option of the special hospital district or by consent of the bondholder, or by any lawful means.

B. The procedures set forth in Sections 6-15-12 through 6-15-22 NMSA 1978 shall govern the board of trustees with respect to the issuance, sale and payment of principal and interest on refunding bonds of the special hospital district.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-15, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 15; 1983, ch. 265, § 16.

The 1983 amendment substituted "bonds in such form as the board of trustees may determine" for "negotiable coupon bonds" in Subsection A.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1983, ch. 265, § 64, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 7, 1983.

#### **§ 4-48A-16. Special tax imposed for special hospital district.**

A. In each special hospital district, the board of trustees may adopt a resolution calling for an election for the purpose of authorizing the imposition of an ad valorem tax on all taxable property within the special hospital district. The revenue from such tax shall be used for current operations and maintenance of hospitals, including hospital facilities owned and operated by the special hospital district or for hospitals operated and maintained by the special hospital district pursuant to an agreement with a political subdivision as provided in Subsection B of Section 4-48A-11 NMSA 1978, and to pay the operational costs of the special hospital district.

B. In the case of a special hospital district located wholly within one county, if authorized by a majority of the qualified electors of the special hospital district voting on the question, the board of county commissioners of the county in which the special hospital district is located shall levy such tax at the same time and in the same manner as levies for ad valorem taxes for school districts are made and in the amount certified by the board of trustees as necessary to meet its approved annual budget, but in no event shall the tax levied exceed the rate limitation approved by the voters or the rate limitations provided in Subsection D of this section.

C. In the case of a special hospital district which is composed of all or a portion of two or more counties, if a majority of the qualified electors of each subdistrict voting on the question authorize a tax levy, the boards of county commissioners of the counties which agreed to form the special hospital district shall levy such tax in the manner provided in Subsection B of this section.

D. The tax authorized in this section shall not exceed four dollars twenty-five cents (\$4.25), or any lower maximum amount required by operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978 upon any tax imposed under this section, on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value, as that term is defined in the Property Tax Code [Articles 35 to 38 of Chapter 7 NMSA 1978], of all taxable property of the county within the hospital district for a period of time greater than four years. An election upon the question of continuing the levy may be called by the board of trustees immediately prior to the expiration of the period of assessment previously approved by the qualified electors.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-16, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 16; 1981, ch. 84, § 8; 1986, ch. 32, § 3; 1987, ch. 273, § 2.



The 1986 amendment, in the second sentence in Subsection A, substituted "Section 4-48A-11" for "Section 4-48-11"; near the end of Subsection B, substituted "rate limitation" for "mill limitation" and "rate limitations" for "mill limitation"; in Subsection C, substituted "authorize a tax levy" for "authorizes a mill levy"; and, in the first sentence in Subsection D, substituted "or any lower maximum amount required by operation of the rate limitation provision of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978 upon any tax imposed under this section, on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value, as that term is defined in the Property Tax Code" for "per thousand dollars (\$1,000) of assessed valuation".

The 1987 amendment, effective June 19, 1987, in the second sentence in Subsection A, inserted "including hospital facilities".

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Laws 1986, ch. 32 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on May 21, 1986.

#### **§ 4-48A-17. Election procedures.**

A. In all elections held pursuant to the provisions of the Special Hospital District Act, except as otherwise provided in that act, the board of trustees shall give notice of the election in a newspaper of general circulation in the special hospital district and, in the case of a special hospital district composed of all or portions of two or more counties, in the subdistrict [subdistricts], at least once a week for three consecutive weeks, the last insertion to be not less than two weeks prior to the proposed election.

B. All elections of the special hospital district, unless otherwise provided in the Special Hospital District Act, shall be called, conducted and canvassed in substantially the same manner as school district elections are called, conducted and canvassed. The board of trustees shall be the canvassing board for such elections.

C. The expenses of elections conducted by the special hospital district shall be budgeted for and paid from the operating funds of the special hospital district.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-17, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 17; 1981, ch. 84, § 9.

Cross-references. - As to manner of conducting school district elections, see 1-22-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Special Hospital District Act. - See 4-48A-1 NMSA 1978 and notes thereto.

### **§ 4-48A-18. Dissolution of the special hospital district.**

A special hospital district shall be dissolved in the following manner:

A. there shall be submitted a petition for dissolution to the board of county commissioners signed by at least ten percent of the qualified electors residing within the district or, in the case of a special hospital district composed of all or portions of two or more counties, at least ten percent of the qualified electors residing in any subdistrict of the special hospital district. Upon receipt of a proper petition, the board of county commissioners shall call a special election for the purpose of referring to the qualified electors residing in the district or subdistrict the question of dissolution;

B. if the board of county commissioners finds that a majority of the qualified electors voting on the issue at the special election have authorized the dissolution, the board of trustees shall proceed with the approved plan. Upon completion of the plan, the board of trustees shall submit a full report to the board of county commissioners of each county in which the special hospital district is located; and

C. upon receipt of the final report of the board of trustees, the board or boards of county commissioners shall examine the report to determine whether or not any outstanding obligations still exist and whether the terms of the approved plan have been accomplished. If, upon determination by the board or boards of county commissioners, no obligations are yet outstanding and the provisions of the plan have been fulfilled, they shall formally declare the special hospital district dissolved.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-18, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 29, § 18; 1981, ch. 84, § 10.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

### **§ 4-48A-19. Reserved.**

### **§ 4-48A-20. Hospital revenue bonds; authority to issue; pledge of revenues.**

A. A special hospital district may issue revenue bonds pursuant to the Special Hospital District Act for the purposes of:

(1) constructing, acquiring or purchasing a hospital facility for the special hospital district;

(2) equipping, furnishing, remodeling or renovating a hospital facility owned or operated by the special hospital district; or

(3) purchasing or acquiring real property deemed necessary to the construction, operation or maintenance of a hospital facility owned or operated by the special hospital district.

B. The special hospital district may pledge irrevocably all or a portion of the revenues derived from the ownership and operation of a hospital facility and revenues derived from the leasing of or other contractual arrangement for the operation of a hospital facility for the payment of principal of and interest on such revenue bonds.

C. For the purpose of the Special Hospital District Act, "equipping" or "re-equipping" means the purchase or lease of property of a character subject to the allowance for depreciation under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 § 167 and regulations promulgated thereunder, as amended.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-20, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 84, § 11.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Internal Revenue Code. - The Internal Revenue Code of 1954, § 167, referred to in Subsection C, appears as 26 U.S.C. § 167.

Special Hospital District Act. - See 4-48A-1 NMSA 1978 and notes thereto.

### **§ 4-48A-21. Use of proceeds of bond issue.**

It is unlawful to divert, use or expend any money received from the issuance of bonds for any purpose other than the purpose for which the bonds were issued; provided, however, that bond proceeds may be used for reserves and to pay the costs of issuance.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-21, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 84, § 12.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

## **§ 4-48A-22. Revenue bonds; terms.**

Special hospital district revenue bonds:

A. shall bear interest payable annually or semiannually and may or may not be evidenced by coupons; provided, the first interest payment date may be for interest accruing for any period not exceeding one year;

B. may be subject to a prior redemption at the option of the special hospital district at such time or times, and upon such terms and conditions, with or without the payment of such premium or premiums, as may be provided by resolution;

C. may mature at any time or times not exceeding thirty years after the date of issuance;

D. may be serial in form and maturity or may consist of one bond payable at one time or in installments or may be in any other form as may be provided in the resolution authorizing the bonds;

E. shall be sold for cash at, above or below par and at a price which results in a net effective interest rate which does not exceed the maximum permitted by the Public Securities Act [6-14-1 to 6-14-3 NMSA 1978]; and

F. may be sold at public or private sale.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-22, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 84, § 13; 1983, ch. 265, § 17.

The 1983 amendment deleted "at a coupon rate or coupon rates not exceeding the maximum rate which is permitted by the Public Securities Act as hereafter amended and" following "interest" near the beginning of Subsection A and added "or may be in any other form as may be provided in the resolution authorizing the bonds" at the end of Subsection D.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1983, ch. 265, § 64, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 7, 1983.

## **§ 4-48A-23. Resolution authorizing revenue bonds.**

At a regular or special meeting called for the purpose of issuing revenue bonds as authorized pursuant to the Special Hospital District Act, the board of trustees may adopt a resolution that:

- A. declares the necessity for issuing revenue bonds;
- B. authorizes the issuance of revenue bonds by an affirmative vote of a majority of all the members of the board of trustees of the special hospital district; or
- C. designates the source of the pledge [pledged] revenues.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-23, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 84, § 14.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Special Hospital District Act. - See 4-48A-1 NMSA 1978 and notes thereto.

## **§ 4-48A-24. Revenue bonds not general obligations of special hospital district.**

Revenue bonds issued by a special hospital district under the authority of the Special Hospital District Act shall not be construed or held to be general obligations of such special hospital district or the counties in which the special hospital district is located and shall be collectible only out of all or a portion of the revenues derived from the ownership and operation of a hospital facility and the revenues derived from the leasing of or other contractual arrangement for the operation of a hospital facility which revenue is so pledged, and each of the bonds of any issue or revenue bonds so issued shall recite on its face that it is payable and collectible solely from the pledged revenues hereinbefore mentioned and that the holders hereof may not look to any general or other fund for the payment of principal or interest of such obligations.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-24, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 84, § 15.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Special Hospital District Act. - See 4-48A-1 NMSA 1978 and notes thereto.

## **§ 4-48A-25. Revenue bonds; security.**

A. The principal of and interest on any revenue bonds issued under the authority of the Special Hospital District Act shall be secured by a pledge of the revenues out of which such bonds shall be made payable, and may be secured by a mortgage covering all or any part of the hospital facility from which the revenues so pledged may be derived.

B. The resolution and proceedings under which such revenue bonds are authorized to be issued or any such mortgage may contain any agreement and provisions customarily contained in instruments securing bonds, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, provisions respecting the designation and collection of revenues from a hospital facility covered by such proceedings or mortgage, the maintenance and insurance of such hospital facility, the creation and maintenance of special funds derived from the revenues relating to such hospital facility and the rights and remedies available in the event of default to the bondholders or to the trustee under a mortgage, all as the board of trustees of the special hospital district shall deem advisable and as shall not be in conflict with the provisions of the Special Hospital District Act.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-25, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 84, § 16.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Special Hospital District Act. - See 4-48A-1 NMSA 1978 and notes thereto.

## **§ 4-48A-26. Revenue bonds; exemption from taxation.**

The revenue bonds issued under authority of the Special Hospital District Act and the income from said bonds, all mortgages or other security instruments executed as security for such bonds, shall be exempt from all taxation by the state or any subdivision thereof.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-26, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 84, § 17.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Special Hospital District Act. - See 4-48A-1 NMSA 1978 and notes thereto.

## **§ 4-48A-27. Election not required.**

The Special Hospital District Act shall not be construed to require an election by the voters of a special hospital district prior to the issuance of revenue bonds hereunder by the special hospital district.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-27, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 84, § 18.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Special Hospital District Act. - See 4-48A-1 NMSA 1978 and notes thereto.

### **§ 4-48A-28. No notice or publication required.**

No notice, consent or approval by any governmental body, commission, board or public officer shall be required as a prerequisite to the sale or issuance of any revenue bonds or the making of a mortgage under the authority of the Special Hospital District Act, except as provided herein.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-28, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 84, § 19.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 84, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 21, 1981. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Special Hospital District Act. - See 4-48A-1 NMSA 1978 and notes thereto.

### **§ 4-48A-29. Agreements with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council; authority; security; restrictions and limitations and other details.**

A. A special hospital district may enter into a lease, loan or other financing agreement, with a term not exceeding thirty years from the date of execution, with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council created under the Hospital Equipment Loan Act [58-23-1 to 58-23-32 NMSA 1978] to acquire funds for the construction, purchase, renovation, remodeling, equipping or re-equipping of hospital facilities under its control and may purchase the land necessary therefor or for any combination of the foregoing purposes.

B. The special hospital district entering into agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council may pledge irrevocably all or a portion of the revenues derived from the operation of a hospital facility and revenues derived from the leasing of or other contractual arrangement for the operation of a hospital facility for the payment of

rentals, principal and interest and any other amount or obligation required under the lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council.

C. At a regular or special meeting called for the purpose of approving the execution and delivery of a lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council as authorized herein, the board of trustees may adopt a resolution declaring the necessity for entering into the lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council; authorizing the entering into of the lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council; and designating the source of the pledged revenues for the payment or repayment of rentals, principal and interest and any other amounts and obligations required under the lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council.

D. The rentals, principal and interest and any other amounts and obligations owed under a lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council shall be payable solely out of all or a portion of the revenues derived from the ownership and operation of a hospital facility and revenues derived from the leasing of or other contractual arrangement for the operation of a hospital facility for which the lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council is entered into. The amount and obligations under a lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council entered into under the authority of the Special Hospital District Act shall never constitute an indebtedness of the special hospital district or the county or counties in which the special hospital district is located within the meaning of any state constitutional provision or statutory limitation and shall never constitute or give rise to a pecuniary liability of the special hospital district or the county or counties in which the special hospital district is located or charge against its general credit or taxing power.

E. The rentals, principal and interest and any other amounts and obligations owed under a lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council shall be secured by the pledge of the revenues out of which such rentals, principal and interest and any other amounts and obligations shall be payable and may be secured by a mortgage covering all or any part of a hospital facility from which the revenues so pledged may be derived.

F. The resolution, ordinance and proceedings under which the lease, loan or other financing agreement are authorized to be entered into or any mortgage relating thereto may contain any agreement and provisions customarily contained in instruments securing leases, loans or other financing arrangements including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, provisions respecting the designation and collection of the revenues from a hospital facility covered by such proceedings or mortgage, the maintenance and insurance of such hospital facility, the creation and maintenance of special funds derived from the revenues relating to such hospital facility and the rights and remedies available in event of default to the New Mexico hospital equipment loan



council under a mortgage, all as the board of trustees shall deem advisable and as shall not conflict with the provisions of the Special Hospital District Act.

G. No notice, consent or approval by any governmental body, commission or public officer shall be required as a prerequisite to the entering into of a lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council or the making of a mortgage under the authority of the Special Hospital District Act, except as provided herein.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48A-29, enacted by Laws 1987, ch. 49, § 10.

Effective dates. - Laws 1987, ch. 49 contains no effective date provision, but pursuant to N.M. Const., Art. IV, § 23, is effective on June 19, 1987.

Special Hospital District Act. - See 4-48A-1 NMSA 1978 and notes thereto.

## **Article 48B**

### **Hospital Funding**

#### **§ 4-48B-1. Short title.**

Chapter 4, Article 48B NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Hospital Funding Act."

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48B-1, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 1; 1982, ch. 11, § 1.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

Laws 1982, ch. 11, § 6, makes the act effective immediately. Approved March 1, 1982.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - Opposition to construction of new hospital or expansion of existing hospital's facilities as violation of Sherman Act (15 USCS § 1 et seq.), 88 A.L.R. Fed. 478.

#### **§ 4-48B-2. Purpose of act.**

The purpose of the Hospital Funding Act [this article] is:

A. to encourage and enable counties and other political subdivisions to provide appropriate and adequate hospital facilities for the sick of the counties;

B. to provide flexibility in financing construction, operation and maintenance of

necessary hospital facilities; and

C. to minimize the cost of constructing new hospital facilities and maintaining adequate hospital facilities in all geographic areas of the state.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 46, § 1; 1978 Comp., § 4-48-11.2, recompiled as § 4-48B-2 by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 2.

Cross-references. - As to the use of federal funds for rural hospitals, see 27-1-3.1 NMSA 1978.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

### **§ 4-48B-3. Definitions.**

As used in the Hospital Funding Act [this article]:

A. "another political subdivision" means a political subdivision of New Mexico, including a municipality and a special hospital district organized under the Special Hospital District Act [4-48A-1 to 4-48A-18 NMSA 1978] but not including a county;

B. "contracting hospital" means a hospital located in New Mexico which enters into a health care facilities contract with a county or counties or another political subdivision;

C. "county commissioners" means the board of county commissioners of a county;

D. "county hospital" means a hospital owned by a county;

E. "health care facilities contract" means an agreement between a hospital and a county or counties, or between a hospital and a county or counties and another political subdivision, which provides for the payment by the county or counties of all or a portion of the proceeds of a mill levy to the hospital in exchange for the agreement by the hospital to use the funds only for nonsectarian purposes and to make available the following for the sick of the county or counties:

(1) hospital facilities which admit and treat patients without regard to race, sex, religion or national origin;

(2) hospital facilities which include x-ray, laboratory services and a pharmacy or drug room;

(3) adequate emergency equipment, personnel and procedures including:

(a) stand-by emergency power system;

(b) at least one person capable and authorized to initiate immediate lifesaving measures;

(c) facilities for emergency laboratory work, including as a minimum, urinalysis, complete blood count, blood type and cross match; and

(d) diagnostic radiographic facilities;

(4) facilities, procedures and policies for prevention, control and reporting of communicable diseases, including one or more rooms for isolation of patients having or suspected of having communicable diseases;

(5) adequate records including, as a minimum, a daily census and a register of all births, deliveries, deaths, admissions, emergency room admissions, discharges, operations, outpatients, inpatients and narcotics; and

(6) physical facilities, personnel, equipment and procedures which comply with the regulations promulgated by the health services division of the health and environment department.

F. "hospital governing board" means the board which governs a county hospital or the board of directors or trustees of a contracting hospital;

G. "mill levy" means the rate of the tax, at a rate specified in the Hospital Funding Act, in terms of dollars per thousand dollars of net taxable value of property subject to taxation within the county;

H. "municipality" means any city, town or village incorporated under a general act, special act or special charter; and

I. "equipping" or "re-equipping" means purchase or lease of property of a character subject to the allowance for depreciation under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, Section 167 and regulations promulgated thereunder.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48B-3, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 3.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

Internal Revenue Code. - The Internal Revenue Code of 1954, § 167, referred to in Subsection I, appears as 26 U.S.C. § 167.

#### **§ 4-48B-4. Annual report.**

Each contracting hospital shall prepare an annual report to the county or counties, or county or counties and another political subdivision with which the contracting hospital contracts, explaining the expenditure of mill levy funds for the past year, an annual plan explaining the planned use of such funds for the succeeding year and other reports as the county or counties, or county or counties and another political subdivision, from time to time shall reasonably require.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48B-4, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 4.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

### **§ 4-48B-5. Power of counties.**

All counties shall have the following powers:

- A. to purchase, own, maintain and operate hospitals;
- B. to purchase the land necessary to construct hospitals;
- C. to control and regulate county hospitals;
- D. to construct county hospitals;
- E. to issue general obligation bonds and revenue bonds in the manner provided in the Hospital Funding Act [this article] for the construction, purchase, renovation, remodeling, equipping or re-equipping of a county hospital or a jointly owned county-municipal hospital and purchasing the land necessary therefor or for any combination of the foregoing purposes;
- F. to charge for hospital services rendered;
- G. to lease a hospital to any person, corporation or association for the operation and maintenance of the hospital upon terms and conditions as the county commissioners may determine;
- H. to contract with the state, another county or counties, the federal government or its agencies, another political subdivision or a public or private corporation, organization or association for the care of the sick of the county;
- I. to receive all funds appropriated from whatever source or paid by or on behalf of any patient of the hospital;
- J. notwithstanding any other provision of law, to enter into leases, management or

operating contracts, health care facilities contracts and other agreements authorized by the Hospital Funding Act for periods in excess of one year; provided that the contract, lease or agreement may be terminated by the county without cause upon one hundred eighty days' notice after the first three years of the contract;

K. to authorize the hospital governing board of a county hospital to exercise all powers that the county is granted by the Hospital Funding Act except the powers to issue bonds, call a mill levy election and levy the annual assessments for the mill levy authorized by the Hospital Funding Act;

L. to enter into a health care facilities contract with one or more hospitals which agree to provide facilities to the sick of the county;

M. to call a mill levy election as authorized by the Hospital Funding Act and to collect and distribute the proceeds of the mill levy pursuant to that act;

N. to distribute the proceeds of the mill levy authorized by the Hospital Funding Act to one or more county hospitals and one or more contracting hospitals or any combination thereof which provide facilities for the sick of the county, whether located within or without the county wherein the mill levy is collected;

O. to accept grants for constructing, equipping, operating and maintaining a county hospital;

P. to enter into an agreement with a municipality for constructing, equipping, operating and maintaining a jointly owned county-municipal hospital;

Q. to enter into an agreement with another county or counties, another county or counties and another political subdivision or any other person, corporation or association which provides that the parties to the agreement shall join together for the purpose of making some or all purchases necessary for the operation of hospitals owned or operated by the parties; and to designate one of the parties as the central purchasing office, as defined in the Public Purchases Act [13-1-1 to 13-1-27 NMSA 1978], for the others, to make purchases for the parties to the agreement as they shall deem necessary and to comply with the provisions of the Public Purchases Act;

R. to expend public money to recruit health care personnel to serve the sick of the county; and

S. to perform any other act or adopt any regulation necessary or expedient to carry out the provisions of the Hospital Funding Act.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-5001, enacted by Laws 1947, ch. 148, § 1; 1953 Comp., § 15-48-1; 1978 Comp., § 4-48-1, recompiled as § 4-48B-5 by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 5.

- I. General Consideration.
- II. Issuance of Bonds.

I. General Consideration.

Cross-references. - As to bonds for courthouses, jails, bridges, hospitals and libraries, see 4-49-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. For constitutional restrictions on county indebtedness, see N.M. Const., art. IX, § 10. As to joint county-municipal hospitals, see 3-44-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to provision by counties of ambulance service, see 5-1-1 NMSA 1978. As to Community Mental Health Services Act, see 23-7-2 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to Tort Claims Act, see 41-4-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

Power to operate hospital. - Board of county commissioners is empowered to operate hospital at public expense or to avail itself of lease method. *Akopiantz v. Board of County Comm'rs*, 65 N.M. 125, 333 P.2d 611 (1958).

"Purchase". - Word "purchase" does not include or intend to allow a lease of property. A purchase of property involves a transfer of ownership and a passing of title. 1953-54 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 5784.

Contract for outpatient clinic. - County was authorized to enter into a contract with a private, for-profit group to provide a daytime, outpatient clinic in the county, but the county could not sign the proposed contract until it chose a clinic pursuant to the Procurement Code (13-1-28 NMSA 1978 et seq.). 1987 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 87-74.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 40 Am. Jur. 2d Hospitals and Asylums §§ 3, 21; 56 Am. Jur. 2d Municipal Corporations, Counties, and Other Political Subdivisions § 544. 64 Am. Jur. 2d Public Securities and Obligations §§ 1 to 8.

Immunity of county from liability for damages in tort in operating hospital, 25 A.L.R.2d 221.

Liability for wrongful autopsy, 18 A.L.R.4th 858.

20 C.J.S. Counties §§ 258 to 278.

41 C.J.S. Hospitals § 4.

II. Issuance of Bonds.

Editor's notes. - The following case and opinion were decided under former 4-48-2 NMSA 1978.

Constitutionality of use of bond proceeds. - Use of bond moneys for purchase of hospital site and for equipping the building was granted by implication under N.M. Const., art. IX, § 10. Board of County Comm'rs v. McCulloh, 52 N.M. 210, 195 P.2d 1005 (1948).

Procedure for issuance and sale of bonds under former 4-48-1 to 4-48-9 NMSA 1978. - See 1947-48 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 5067.

### **§ 4-48B-6. Election on bond question; petition; notice; limitation on holding; election without petition.**

Whenever a petition signed by not fewer than two hundred qualified electors of any county in this state shall be presented to the county commissioners of the particular county asking that a vote be taken on the question or proposition of constructing, purchasing, renovating, remodeling, equipping or re-equipping a county hospital or a county-municipal hospital and acquiring the land necessary therefor, setting forth in general terms the object of the petition and the amount of bonds asked to be voted for, it shall be the duty of the county commissioners of that county to which the petition may be presented, within ten days after the presentation, to call an election to be held within sixty days thereafter in that county, and to give notice of such election by publication once a week for at least three consecutive weeks in any newspaper published or of general circulation in the county, which notices shall set forth the time and place of holding the election, the hospital proposed to be purchased, constructed, renovated, remodeled, equipped or re-equipped and the land necessary to be acquired, and which bonds are to be voted for. After the defeat of any proposition once voted for, a second special election upon any question or proposition under the provisions of the Hospital Funding Act [this article] shall not be held for a term of two years, unless a petition requesting another election, containing the names of qualified electors of the county equal to ten percent of the vote cast for governor in the last preceding election and otherwise conforming to the requirements of this section, shall be presented to the county commissioners; provided, however, that in no event shall more than two elections upon any proposition or question under the Hospital Funding Act be held in any two-year period. A bond election as provided in this section also may be called by the county commissioners without any petition, after the county commissioners have adopted a resolution calling for such an election, which resolution shall set forth the object of the election and the amount of bonds to be issued.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-5004, enacted by Laws 1947, ch. 148, § 4; 1953 Comp., § 15-48-4; 1978 Comp., § 4-48-3, recompiled as § 4-48B-6 by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 6.

Cross-references. - As to bonds for courthouses, jails, bridges, hospitals and libraries, see 4-49-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. For constitutional restrictions on county indebtedness, see N.M. Const., art. IX, § 10.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

Notice of election and ballot should present same proposition as presented by the petition. 1955-56 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 6101.

Voters entitled to vote on question of hospital construction. - There is no basis for construction where the legislative language and intent make it plain that the voters are entitled to express their opinion upon "the question or proposition" and that the election called shall entitle them to vote upon whether "a hospital" is to be constructed or purchased. Carper v. Board of County Comm'rs, 57 N.M. 137, 255 P.2d 673 (1953).

The language of this section leaves no doubt that the legislature regarded the construction of each hospital, with or without an isolation ward, as a separate and independent proposition. Carper v. Board of County Comm'rs, 57 N.M. 137, 255 P.2d 673 (1953).

Petition by electors requesting that board of county commissioners submit to electors a proposal to build two hospitals with isolation wards within the same county, 35 miles apart, illegally joined two separate propositions as one question and was properly disapproved by the board of county commissioners. Kiddy v. Board of County Comm'rs, 57 N.M. 145, 255 P.2d 678 (1953); Carper v. Board of County Comm'rs, 57 N.M. 137, 255 P.2d 673 (1953).

Variance between notice of election and actual use of bond proceeds. - Under the laws of the state of New Mexico, which require a specific procedure for notice of an election and holding of an election on a bond issue, any variance between the notice and the actual use of the funds would be fatal. 1953-54 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 5656.

The county commissioners, after having duly been presented with a petition for the erection of a county hospital and after having duly acted on the matter and published in accordance with law a notice of election upon this issue, may not then, prior to the election, consider splitting the proceeds of such bonded sums and erecting one hospital to be used by osteopaths and one hospital to be used by medical doctors. 1953-54 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 5656.

#### **§ 4-48B-7. Power to lease hospitals.**

A. All counties shall have the power to authorize the leasing or operating of county hospitals to persons, firms, organizations, corporations or a state educational institution named in Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico upon such terms and conditions as the county commissioners may determine. If the lease is to a state educational institution named in Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico, the payment for the lease shall not exceed one dollar (\$1.00) per year. The lease may be for any length of time deemed appropriate by the parties involved, provided that the



lease shall contain a cancellation clause.

B. In the event of a lease to or an agreement to operate with a state educational institution named in Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico, the county may delegate its authority to operate and maintain the hospital to that institution.

C. In the event of a lease to or an agreement to operate with a state educational institution named in Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico, the public character of the hospital shall continue, and county funds for the hospital shall be paid by the county to that institution for the operation and maintenance of the hospital. Any county hospital, or outpatient clinics thereof, leased to or operated under an agreement with a state educational institution named in Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico shall continue, during the state educational institution's operation and maintenance of the hospital, to be a local public body for purposes of the Unemployment Compensation Law [Chapter 51 NMSA 1978].

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-5005, enacted by Laws 1947, ch. 148, § 5; 1953 Comp., § 15-48-5; Laws 1978, ch. 168, § 1; 1978 Comp., § 4-48-4, recompiled as § 4-48B-7 by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 7.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

Agreements with private parties. - Counties may enter into an agreement for operation of the hospital with private firms, persons or organizations, provided that the agreement makes adequate provision for the care of poor and sick persons and provides for the right to set up charges for hospital services. 1949-50 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 5280.

### **§ 4-48B-8. Sick and indigent persons; agreements for care with state and county agencies.**

Counties, by their county commissioners, are authorized to make agreements with state or county agencies or other agencies for the care of sick and indigent persons.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-5006, enacted by Laws 1947, ch. 148, § 6; 1953 Comp., § 15-48-6; 1978 Comp., § 4-48-5, recompiled as § 4-48B-8 by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 8.

Cross-references. - As to indigent hospital claims, see 27-5-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

### **§ 4-48B-9. Joint construction and operation of hospitals by counties; municipal participation; indebtedness authorized.**

A. If two or more counties shall, through their respective county commissioners, deem it advisable to construct, purchase, renovate, remodel, equip, re-equip, maintain or operate a hospital and to acquire the land necessary therefor for the benefit jointly of such counties, the counties jointly shall have the powers and authorities in the Hospital Funding Act [this article] granted to any individual county and may issue general obligation bonds in the manner provided in Chapter 4, Article 49 NMSA 1978, and revenue bonds issued pursuant to the Hospital Funding Act shall be bonds of the respective counties issued according to the proportions of their populations as shown in the last census, and such hospital may be located at any point in any of the counties as may be determined by agreement of the county commissioners of the respective counties.

B. One or more counties may enter into an agreement with a municipality located in a county entering into an agreement for the construction, purchase, renovation, remodeling, equipping, re-equipping, maintenance or operation of a jointly owned county-municipal hospital and the acquisition of land necessary therefor or any combination of the foregoing purposes, and such hospital may be located at any point in any of the counties or within the participating municipality as may be determined by agreement of the county commissioners of the respective counties and the governing body of the participating municipality.

C. The county or counties entering into an agreement with a municipality are authorized to issue, separately, general obligation bonds in the manner provided in Chapter 4, Article 49 NMSA 1978 for the purpose of constructing, purchasing, renovating, remodeling, equipping or re-equipping a jointly owned county-municipal hospital and for the acquisition of land necessary therefor, or any combination of the foregoing purposes. The municipality entering into an agreement with one or more counties is authorized to issue, separately, for such purposes, in the manner provided by law, general obligation bonds or revenue bonds as provided under Section 3-44-2 NMSA 1978.

D. Any general obligation bonds or revenue bonds issued pursuant to the Hospital Funding Act shall be bonds of the respective counties and the participating municipality issued according to the proportions of their populations as shown in the last census; provided, however, that the population of the county in which the participating municipality is located shall be reduced for the purpose of determining the amount of bonds to be issued by the county and municipality by the population of the participating municipality or a percentage thereof as determined by agreement of the county commissioners of the county and the governing body of the municipality.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-5007, enacted by Laws 1947, ch. 148, § 7; 1953 Comp., § 15-48-7; 1978 Comp., § 4-48-6, recompiled as § 4-48B-9 by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 9.

Cross-references. - As to bonds for courthouses, jails, bridges, hospitals and libraries, see 4-49-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to joint county-municipal hospitals, see 3-44-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

#### **§ 4-48B-10. Hospital governing boards for county hospitals; members; appointment; terms; powers; bonds.**

A. The county commissioners of a county or counties maintaining or operating a county hospital are authorized to appoint a hospital governing board to be composed of either five, seven or nine members. The hospital governing board so appointed shall have the authority to exercise all powers that the county is granted by the Hospital Funding Act [this article] for the operation of such hospitals except the powers to issue bonds, call a mill levy election, levy the annual assessments for the mill levy authorized by the Hospital Funding Act and to dispose of real property of the hospital acquired with the proceeds of any bond issue.

B. Members of the hospital governing board shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners for staggered terms of three years or less. Appointments shall be made in such a manner that the terms of not more than one-third of the members, or as near thereto as possible, expire on June 30 of each year. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment by the board of county commissioners.

C. The hospital governing board shall select from its membership a president and a secretary. After their appointment, none of the members of the hospital governing board shall be removed except for cause specified in a written charge and after full public hearing on the charge.

D. The hospital governing board shall account annually for the receipt and expenditures of funds received for the operation of the hospital.

E. The county commissioners, by an agreement for the maintenance and operation of a county hospital with another county or counties, another political subdivision, person, association or corporation, may permit the selection of a hospital governing board by the other party to the agreement subject to approval by the county commissioners.

F. All actions taken or purportedly taken or proceedings had or purportedly had by or on behalf of county commissioners with respect to the appointment of or delegation of authority to a hospital governing board, notwithstanding any lack of power, authority or otherwise and notwithstanding any defects and irregularities in the actions or proceedings, are hereby validated, ratified, approved and confirmed. This section shall operate to supply such legislative authority as may be necessary to validate any actions or proceedings by any group acting as a hospital governing board which would have

been valid had the provisions of this section been in effect at the time the action or proceedings were taken. This section shall not operate to validate, ratify, approve, confirm or legalize any action or proceeding which has previously been determined in any legal proceeding to be illegal, void or ineffective.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48B-10, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 10; 1982, ch. 11, § 2.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

Laws 1982, ch. 11, § 6, makes the act effective immediately. Approved March 1, 1982.

Editor's notes. - The following case and attorney general opinions were decided under former Article 48 of this chapter.

Governing body. - Under former law, the governing body in regard to maintenance and operation of a county hospital, was the board of trustees. 1957-58 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 57-255.

Positions of member of county hospital board and nurse employee of hospital were incompatible. 1955-56 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 6456.

Persons authorized to conduct business of board. - Since predecessor section provided for a five member board and made no provision for ex-officio members, the legislature intended that the five member board were the only persons who could conduct business of the board. 1969 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 69-76.

### **§ 4-48B-11. Federal aid.**

The county commissioners and the hospital governing board shall have full power and authority to accept federal funds for the erection or enlargement of county hospitals and the maintenance and operation thereof, and to contract as a condition to the acceptance of such funds for the perpetual care in such hospitals of Indian patients at a per diem cost to be set out in the contracts between the appropriate agency of the federal government and the hospital governing boards or county commissioners.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-5011, enacted by Laws 1949, ch. 95, § 2; 1953 Comp., § 15-48-11; 1978 Comp., § 4-48-10, recompiled as § 4-48B-11 by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 11.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

### **§ 4-48B-12. Tax levies authorized.**

A. The county commissioners are hereby authorized to impose a mill levy and collect annual assessments against the net taxable value of the property in a county to pay the cost of operating and maintaining county hospitals or to pay to contracting hospitals in accordance with a health care facilities contract as follows:

(1) in class A counties as defined in Section 4-44-1 NMSA 1978, the mill levy shall not exceed a rate of six dollars fifty cents (\$6.50), or any lower maximum amount required by operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978 upon a mill levy imposed pursuant to this paragraph, on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value of property allocated to the county; and

(2) in other counties, the mill levy shall not exceed four dollars twenty-five cents (\$4.25), or any lower maximum amount required by operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978 upon a mill levy imposed pursuant to this paragraph, on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value of property allocated to the county.

B. The mill levies provided in Paragraphs (1) and (2) of Subsection A of this section shall be made at the direction of the county commissioners, but only to the extent that the county commissioners deem it necessary to operate and maintain county hospitals and to pay the amounts required in the performance of any health care facilities contracts made pursuant to the Hospital Funding Act [this article].

C. In the event that the mill levy provided for in Paragraph (1) of Subsection A of this section is not authorized by the electorate and the resulting mill levy proceeds are not remitted to the entity operating the hospital within a reasonable time period, any lease for operation of the hospital between a county and state educational institution named in Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico shall be terminated immediately. In the event that the mill levy provided for in Paragraph (1) of Subsection A of this section is authorized, an amount not less than the amount that would be produced by a mill levy at the rate of four dollars (\$4.00), or any lower amount that would be required by operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978 upon this rate, on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value of property allocated to the county shall be provided from the proceeds of the mill levy to the state educational institution operating the hospital for hospital purposes unless the institution determines that the amount is not necessary.

D. The distribution of the mill levy authorized at the rates specified in Subsection A of this section shall be made to county and contracting hospitals as authorized in the Hospital Funding Act [this article].

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48B-12, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 12; 1986, ch. 3, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to classification of counties, see 4-44-1 NMSA 1978. As to joint county-municipal hospitals, see 3-44-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

The 1986 amendment substituted "a rate of six dollars fifty cents (\$6.50), or any lower maximum amount required by operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978 upon a mill levy imposed pursuant to this paragraph, on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value of property allocated to the county; and" for "the rate of four dollars fifty cents (\$4.50) on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value of property allocated to the county; and" in Subsection A(1), inserted "or any lower maximum amount required by operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978 upon a mill levy imposed pursuant to this paragraph" in Subsection A(2), deleted "and" at the end of Subsection A(2), substituted "Subsection A of this section" for "this subsection" near the beginning of Subsection B, substituted "mill levy" for "four-dollar-fifty-cent (\$4.50) levy" and inserted "Paragraph (1) of" near the beginning of Subsection C, and substituted the present last sentence of Subsection C for the former last sentence which read: "No less than the proceeds from a four-mill levy shall be provided to the state educational institution operating the hospital for hospital purposes unless the institution determines that proceeds from a four-mill levy are not necessary".

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

Laws 1986, ch. 3, § 4 makes the act effective immediately. Approved February 8, 1986.

Levy of tax for operation and maintenance of hospital leased to private corporation. - The evident purpose of former section and 4-48-14 NMSA 1978 (recompiled as 4-48B-15) was to provide a means by which a county operating a hospital itself could pay for such operation. To construe those sections as allowing the county commissioners to use the funds authorized in former section for the purpose of supporting and maintaining a hospital owned by the county but leased to a private organization would have been in direct violation of N.M. Const., art. IV, § 31 and art. IX, § 14 and thus have made the sections unconstitutional. 1955-56 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 6426.

A tax could not be levied to maintain and operate a hospital that had been leased to a private corporation. 1957-58 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 58-225.

Mill levy funds used for indigent medical care. - Colfax County could not use mill levy funds to provide indigent medical care for its non-miner residents admitted to Miners' Hospital, a state owned and operated facility, where such funds were not proceeds in the county indigent hospital claims fund but instead were proceeds from another county fund. The county could, however, use any proceeds in the indigent hospital claims fund to provide medical care for indigent patients at the Miners' Hospital if they otherwise qualify. 1988 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 88-41.

Funds from levy for one hospital not to be used for another. - Funds generated by a mill levy approved specifically for the operation of one hospital may not be used to construct another hospital. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-30.

### **§ 4-48B-13. County hospital; power to lease; expenditure of proceeds from tax levy.**

Any county hospital operated and maintained pursuant to a lease as authorized by the Hospital Funding Act [this article] which has mill levies levied and collected for its maintenance and operation pursuant to that act may expend those funds for the operation and maintenance of the hospital and the use of the funds is declared to be an incidental benefit to the lessee which is far outweighed by the greater benefits to the public as a whole. The operation and maintenance of a county hospital under lease to the extent of and the use of the funds levied pursuant to that act is deemed to be funding to the hospital as a public institution, and the hospital facility and lessee thereof are subject to the laws of this state regarding the expenditures of public money and the auditing requirements of same and to the provisions of any rules or regulations as are required.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48-11.1, enacted by Laws 1980, ch. 46, § 3; recompiled as § 4-48B-13 by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 13.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

### **§ 4-48B-14. Payment of charges; persons committed by district court.**

A. Charges for care, treatment and services for any person sent by order of a district court to any county hospital or municipally owned hospital serving as a county hospital which is located outside the county of commitment shall be paid:

(1) by the patient, if he is able to pay; or

(2) by the county from which the patient was committed.

B. When a county is required by this section to pay such charges to another county, it shall levy and collect assessments as provided in the Hospital Funding Act [this article].

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-48-12.2, enacted by Laws 1966, ch. 6, § 5; 1978 Comp., § 4-48-13, amended and recompiled as § 4-48B-14 by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 14.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

### **§ 4-48B-15. Election on special levy.**

A. In the event the county commissioners of a county, other than a class A county, desire to provide the mill levy authorized in Paragraph (2) of Subsection A of Section 4-48B-12 NMSA 1978, the county commissioners shall submit to the qualified electors of the county the question of levying those taxes not to exceed four dollars twenty-five cents (\$4.25) on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value of property allocated to the county for a period of time not less than four years nor more than eight years.

B. In the event the county commissioners of a class A county desire to provide the mill levy authorized in Paragraph (1) of Subsection A of Section 4-48B-12 NMSA 1978, the county commissioners shall submit to the qualified electors of the county the question of levying those taxes not to exceed six dollars fifty cents (\$6.50) on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value of property allocated to the county for a period of time of not less than four years nor more than eight years.

C. The question may be submitted to the electors and voted upon as a separate question at any general election or at any special election called for that purpose by the county commissioners. The election upon the question of a mill levy shall be called, held, conducted and canvassed in substantially the same manner as now or hereafter may be provided by law for general elections.

D. In the event the mill levy submitted under Subsection A or B of this section is voted upon favorably by the electors of the county, the mill levy shall become effective and be made for the ensuing fiscal year and those future years, not less than three nor more than seven, as stated in the question voted upon; provided that the question of continuing the mill levy shall thereafter be submitted to the electors at the general election immediately prior to the expiration of the period of assessment previously approved. The county commissioners shall decrease the rate of any mill levy imposed under the Hospital Funding Act [this article] if required by operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978. The county commissioners may direct that the mill levy be decreased or not be made for any year if, in their judgment, sufficient funds for operation and maintenance of the hospital are available or will be obtained from other sources and if, relative to a county hospital operated by a state educational institution named in Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico, a decision to decrease the mill levy is agreed to by the state educational institution.

E. In the event that the mill levy approved by the electors is less than the maximum mill levy authorized for the county by Subsection A of Section 4-48B-12 NMSA 1978 and the county commissioners desire to increase the amount of the approved mill levy, the county commissioners shall submit, in accordance with Subsection C of this section, to the qualified electors of the county the questions of levying those additional taxes for a period of time consistent with the expiration of the mill levy previously approved; provided that the additional taxes, when added to the mill levy previously approved, may not exceed the mill levy maximum for the county provided in Subsection A of Section 4-48B-12 NMSA 1978. In the event that the mill levy increase is voted upon favorably by



the electors of the county, the increase shall become effective for the years stated in the question voted upon. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as requiring an election to restore the mill levy to an amount no higher than the mill levy approved by the electors after a reduction in the mill levy made pursuant to Subsection D of this section.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-5013, enacted by Laws 1953, ch. 174, § 2; 1953 Comp., § 15-48-13; Laws 1955, ch. 224, § 2; 1959, ch. 307, § 2; 1966, ch. 6, § 3; 1967, ch. 129, § 1; 1969, ch. 87, § 2; 1978, ch. 168, § 3; 1981, ch. 37, § 57; 1978 Comp., § 4-48-14, recompiled as § 4-48B-15 by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 15; 1986, ch. 3, § 2.

Cross-references. - As to classification of counties, see 4-44-1 NMSA 1978.

The 1986 amendment, in Subsection A, inserted "of a county, other than a class A county" and substituted "in Paragraph (2) of Subsection A of Section 4-48B-12 NMSA 1978" for "by the Hospital Funding Act" near the beginning and deleted "or four dollars fifty cents (\$4.50) on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value of property allocated to the county, as the case may be, and" following "allocated to the county" near the end; designated the former last two sentences in Subsection A as present Subsection C; added present Subsection B; redesignated former Subsection B as present Subsection D, inserting "submitting under Subsection A or B of this section" in the first sentence, inserting the second sentence, and substituting "and if" for "provided, however, that" and "is agreed" for "must be agreed" and deleting "and the county commissioners" following "state educational institution" in the last sentence; and added present Subsection E.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

Laws 1986, ch. 3, § 4 makes the act effective immediately. Approved February 8, 1986.

Applicability. - Laws 1986, ch. 3, § 3 makes the provisions of §§ 1 and 2 of the act applicable to the 1986 and subsequent property tax years.

Special levy cannot be placed on the tax rolls prior to a vote by the people, since the authority for placing such a tax on the roll is an election. Until this election is had there can be no levy. 1955-56 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 6220.

Levy for operation and maintenance of hospital leased to private corporation. - A tax could not be levied to maintain and operate a hospital that had been leased to a private corporation. 1957-58 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 58-225.

Qualifications of electors. - There is no limitation in this particular provision of the statute which would require the electors to have paid property taxes or by veterans who are property owners. 1955-56 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 6492.

Holding special election on date for election on constitutional amendments. - If the county commissioners call, hold, conduct and canvass the special election in the manner provided by this section, the particular day for holding the said special election could be any day designated by the county commissioners. The fact that it was held on the same day as the election on the constitutional amendments would not be important so long as it was a special election designated for the purpose of voting on the issue of the special tax levy. 1955-56 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 6236.

Funds from levy for one hospital not to be used for another. - Funds generated by a mill levy approved specifically for the operation of one hospital may not be used to construct another hospital. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-30.

#### **§ 4-48B-16. Validation of earlier elections.**

All elections authorizing a mill levy assessment for hospital use which were held prior to the effective date of the Hospital Funding Act are declared valid for the use and purposes of that act, and such mill levy may be imposed and collected during the period of the authorization or any continuation thereof, and the funds may be expended in accordance with the provisions of that act. Any institution specifically named in any election is hereby deemed qualified as a county hospital or contracting hospital, as the case may be, and any authorization of the expenditure of public funds by a county hospital in any previous election is declared by the legislature to be authorization of expenditure of mill levy funds for a county hospital or contracting hospital under the provisions of the Hospital Funding Act [this article].

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48B-16, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 16.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

Funds to be expended for hospital named in mill levy election. - Counties which held a hospital mill levy election prior to the Hospital Funding Act are expressly authorized to expend public funds for the operation of a hospital specifically named in the election. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-30.

#### **§ 4-48B-17. Governing boards of county hospitals authorized to establish retirement plans and programs for employees of county hospitals.**

The hospital governing board of a county hospital and regents of a state educational institution operating a county hospital under a contract approved by the state board of finance may establish retirement plans and programs for employees of a county hospital under their control. In establishing a retirement plan or program for county hospital employees, the governing board of the hospital may contract with private insurance

companies. Any retirement benefits payable or paid to a county hospital employee resulting from a retirement plan or program authorized under this section are employee benefits and part of consideration for services rendered and are not donations to the employee.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-48-15, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 343, § 1; 1978 Comp., § 4-48-16, recompiled as § 4-48B-17 by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 17; 1982, ch. 11, § 3.

Cross-references. - As to powers of hospital governing boards generally, see 4-48B-10 NMSA 1978. As to retirement of public employees generally, see 10-11-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

Laws 1982, ch. 11, § 6, makes the act effective immediately. Approved March 1, 1982.

### **§ 4-48B-18. Hospital revenue bonds; authority to issue; pledge of revenues.**

A. The counties agreeing jointly under Section 8 [9] [4-48B-9 NMSA 1978] of the Hospital Funding Act and the county or counties entering into an agreement with a municipality under Section 9 of the Hospital Funding Act may issue, separately, revenue bonds pursuant to that act for the purpose of constructing, purchasing, renovating, remodeling, equipping or re-equipping a county hospital and a jointly owned county-municipal hospital and the acquisition of land necessary therefor or any combination of the foregoing purposes.

B. The county or counties issuing revenue bonds pursuant to the Hospital Funding Act [this article] may pledge irrevocably all or a portion of the revenues derived from the operation of the county hospital or jointly owned county-municipal hospital and revenues derived from the leasing of or other contractual arrangement for the operation of a county hospital or jointly owned county-municipal hospital for the payment of principal and interest on the revenue bonds.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48B-18, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 18.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

Compiler's notes. - The reference to § 8 of the Hospital Funding Act in Subsection A is seemingly incorrect. Section 9 of that act relates to joint agreements between counties for the construction and maintenance of hospitals. See 4-48B-9 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-48B-19. Use of proceeds of bond issue.**

It is unlawful to divert, use or expend any money received from the issuance of bonds for any purpose other than the purpose for which the bonds were issued.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48B-19, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 19.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

Constitutionality of use of bond proceeds. - Use of bond moneys for purchase of hospital site and for equipping the building was granted by implication under N.M. Const., art. IX, § 10. Board of County Comm'rs v. McCulloh, 52 N.M. 210, 195 P.2d 1005 (1948) (decided under former 4-48-2 NMSA 1978).

### **§ 4-48B-20. Revenue bonds; terms.**

Hospital revenue bonds:

A. shall bear interest payable annually or semiannually and may or may not be evidenced by coupons; provided the first interest payment date may be for interest accruing for any period not exceeding one year;

B. may be subject to a prior redemption at the option of the county at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions, with or without the payment of such premium or premiums, as may be provided by resolution;

C. may mature at any time not exceeding thirty years after the date of issuance;

D. may be serial in form and maturity or may consist of one bond payable at one time or in installments or may be in any other form as may be provided in the resolution authorizing the bonds;

E. shall be sold for cash at above or below par and at a price which results in a net effective interest rate which does not exceed the maximum permitted by the Public Securities Act [6-14-1 to 6-14-3 NMSA 1978]; and

F. may be sold at a public or private sale.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48B-20, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 20; 1983, ch. 265, § 18.

The 1983 amendment deleted "at a coupon rate or coupon rates not exceeding the maximum rate which is permitted by the Public Securities Act and" following "shall bear interest" in Subsection A, substituted "resolution" for "ordinance" in Subsection B, deleted "or times" following "at any time" in Subsection C and added "or may be in any

other form as may be provided in the resolution authorizing the bonds" at the end of Subsection D.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

Laws 1983, ch. 265, § 64, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 7, 1983.

### **§ 4-48B-21. Ordinance authorizing revenue bonds.**

At a regular or special meeting called for the purpose of issuing revenue bonds as authorized pursuant to the Hospital Funding Act [this article], the county commissioners may adopt an ordinance that:

- A. declares the necessity for issuing revenue bonds;
- B. authorizes the issuance of revenue bonds by an affirmative vote of a majority of the county commissioners of the county; and
- C. designates the source of the pledge [pledged] revenues.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48B-21, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 21.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

### **§ 4-48B-22. Hospital revenue bonds not general county obligations.**

Revenue bonds issued by a county under the authority of the Hospital Funding Act [this article] shall not be the general obligation of the county within the meaning of Article 9, Sections 10 and 13 of the constitution of New Mexico. The bonds shall be payable solely out of all or a portion of the net revenues derived from the operation of the county hospital or jointly owned county-municipal hospital and revenues derived from the leasing of or other contractual arrangement for the operation of a county hospital or jointly owned county-municipal hospital for which the bonds are issued. Revenue bonds and interest coupons issued under authority of that act shall never constitute an indebtedness of the county within the meaning of any state constitutional provision or statutory limitation and shall never constitute nor give rise to a pecuniary liability of the county or a charge against its general credit or taxing powers, and this fact shall be plainly stated on the face of each bond.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48B-22, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 22.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

### **§ 4-48B-23. Revenue bonds; security; restrictions and limitations.**

A. The principal of and interest on any revenue bonds issued under the authority of the Hospital Funding Act [this article] shall be secured by a pledge of the revenues out of which such bonds shall be payable and may be secured by a mortgage covering all or any part of the county hospital or jointly owned county-municipal hospital from which the revenues so pledged may be derived.

B. The ordinance and proceedings under which revenue bonds are authorized to be issued or any such mortgage may contain any agreement and provisions customarily contained in instruments securing bonds, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, provisions respecting the designation and collection of revenues from the county hospital or jointly owned county-municipal hospital covered by such proceedings or mortgage, the maintenance and insurance of these hospitals, the creation and maintenance of special funds derived from the revenues relating to such hospital, and the rights and remedies available in the event of default to the bondholders or to the trustee under a mortgage, all as the county commissioners shall deem advisable and as shall not be in conflict with the provisions of the Hospital Funding Act; provided, however, that in making any such agreements or provisions a county shall not have the power to obligate itself except with respect to the purposes for which the revenue bonds are issued and application of the revenues pledged from the operation of a county hospital or jointly owned county-municipal hospital and shall not have the power to incur a pecuniary liability or charge upon its general credit or against its taxing powers. The proceedings authorizing any revenue bonds and any mortgage securing those bonds may provide the procedure and remedies in the event of default in payment of the principal of or the interest on the bonds or in the performance of any agreement. No breach of any agreement shall impose any pecuniary liability upon a county or any charge upon its general credit or against its taxing powers.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48B-23, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 23.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 1, 1981.

### **§ 4-48B-24. Revenue bonds; exemption from taxation.**

The revenue bonds issued under authority of the Hospital Funding Act [this article] and the income from the bonds, all mortgages or other security instruments executed as security for the bonds, all agreement [agreements] made pursuant to the provisions of that act and the revenues derived therefrom by a county shall be exempt from all taxation by the state or any political subdivision thereof.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48B-24, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 24.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately.  
Approved April 1, 1981.

### **§ 4-48B-25. Election not required.**

The Hospital Funding Act [this article] shall not be construed as requiring an election by the voters of a county prior to the issuance of revenue bonds under that act by a county.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48B-25, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 25.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately.  
Approved April 1, 1981.

### **§ 4-48B-26. No notice or publication required.**

No notice, consent or approval by any governmental body, commission or public officer shall be required as a prerequisite to the sale or issuance of any revenue bonds or the making of a mortgage under the authority of the Hospital Funding Act [this article], except as provided in that act.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48B-26, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 26.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately.  
Approved April 1, 1981.

### **§ 4-48B-27. Hospitals declared necessary public buildings.**

The legislature declares that hospitals are necessary public buildings with respect to which counties may borrow money for construction, purchase, renovation, remodeling, equipping or re-equipping and acquisition of necessary land.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48B-27, enacted by Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 27.

Cross-references. - As to power of county commissioners with respect to county buildings, see 4-38-16 NMSA 1978. As to other necessary public buildings, see 4-49-6 NMSA 1978.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 83, § 29, makes the act effective immediately.  
Approved April 1, 1981.

**§ 4-48B-28. Agreements with the New Mexico hospital equipment [equipment] loan council; authority; security; restrictions and limitations and other details.**

A. A county or counties agreeing jointly under Section 4-48B-9 NMSA 1978 and a county or counties entering into an agreement with a municipality under Section 4-48B-9 NMSA 1978 may enter into a lease, loan or other financing agreement with a term not exceeding thirty years from the date of execution, with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council created under the Hospital Equipment Loan Act [58-23-1 to 58-23-32 NMSA 1978] to acquire funds for the construction, purchase, renovation, remodeling, equipping or re-equipping of a county hospital or a jointly owned county-municipal hospital and for purchasing the land necessary therefor or for any combination of the foregoing purposes.

B. The county or counties entering into an agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council may pledge irrevocably all or a portion of the revenues derived from the operation of the county hospital or jointly owned county-municipal hospital and revenues derived from the leasing of or other contractual arrangement for the operation of the county hospital or jointly owned county-municipal hospital for the payment of rentals, principal and interest and any other amount or obligation required under the lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council.

C. At a regular or special meeting called for the purpose of approving the execution and delivery of a lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council as authorized herein, the hospital governing board may adopt an ordinance or resolution declaring the necessity for entering into the lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council; authorizing the entering into of the lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council; and designating the source of the pledged revenues for the payment or repayment of rentals, principal and interest and any other amounts and obligations required under the lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council.

D. The rentals, principal and interest and any other amounts and obligations owed under a lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council shall be payable solely out of all or a portion of the revenues derived from the ownership and operation of a county hospital or jointly owned county-municipal hospital and revenues derived from the leasing of or other contractual arrangement for the operation of a county hospital or jointly owned county-municipal hospital for which the lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council is entered into. The amount and obligations under a lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council entered into under the authority of the Hospital Funding Act [this article] shall never constitute an indebtedness of a county or municipality within the meaning of any



state constitutional provision or statutory limitation and shall never constitute or give rise to a pecuniary liability of the county or charge against its general credit or taxing power.

E. The rentals, principal and interest and any other amounts and obligations owed under a lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council shall be secured by the pledge of the revenues out of which such rentals, principal and interest and any other amounts and obligations shall be payable and may be secured by a mortgage covering all or any part of the county hospital or jointly owned county-municipal hospital from which the revenues so pledged may be derived.

F. The resolution, ordinance and proceedings under which the lease, loan or other financing agreement are authorized to be entered into or any mortgage relating thereto may contain any agreement and provisions customarily contained in instruments securing leases, loans or other financing arrangements including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, provisions respecting the designation and collection of the revenues from the county hospital or jointly owned county-municipal hospital covered by such proceedings or mortgage, the maintenance and insurance of those hospitals, the creation and maintenance of special funds derived from the revenues relating to such hospital and the rights and remedies available in event of default to the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council under a mortgage, all as the county commissioners may deem advisable. The proceedings authorizing any lease, loan or other financing agreement and any mortgage securing those obligations may provide the procedure and remedies in the event of default and the payment of the rentals, principal and interest or other amounts and obligations thereunder or in the performance of any agreement. No breach of any agreement shall impose any pecuniary liability upon a county or charge against its general credit or taxing power.

G. No notice, consent or approval by any governmental body, commission or public officer shall be required as a prerequisite to the entering into of a lease, loan or other financing agreement with the New Mexico hospital equipment loan council or the making of a mortgage under the authority of the Hospital Funding Act, except as provided herein.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-48B-26.1, enacted by Laws 1987, ch. 49, § 9.

Effective dates. - Laws 1987, ch. 49 contains no effective date provision, but pursuant to N.M. Const., Art. IV, § 23, is effective on June 19, 1987.

Compiler's notes. - This section was enacted as § 4-48B-26.1 by Laws 1987, ch. 49, § 9 but was recompiled as § 4-48B-28.

## **Article 49**

### **Bonds for Courthouses, Jails, Bridges, Hospitals and Libraries**

## **§ 4-49-1. Bonds for remodeling and making additions.**

Bonds may be issued under the provisions of Sections 4-49-1 through 4-49-21 NMSA 1978 for the purpose of remodeling and making additions to necessary public buildings and for water, sewer or sanitary landfill systems and airports under the same conditions as provided for issuance of bonds for constructing them. Provided, however, that no money derived from general obligation bonds issued and sold under the provisions of Sections 4-49-1 through 4-49-21 NMSA 1978 shall be used for maintaining existing buildings, and, if used for that purpose, the bonds shall be invalid.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-49-2.1, enacted by Laws 1963, ch. 246, § 1; 1983, ch. 184, § 1.

Cross-references. - For provisions relating to form, interest, maturities, payment, sale and other matters relating to general obligation bonds issued by counties, see 6-15-3 NMSA 1978 et seq.

The 1983 amendment inserted "and for water, sewer or sanitary landfill systems and airports" in the first sentence and substituted "under the provisions of Sections 4-49-1 through 4-49-21 NMSA 1978" for "hereunder" and "used for that purpose, the" for "so, such" in the second sentence.

Effective dates. - Laws 1963, ch. 246, § 2, provided that the act would become effective upon certification by the secretary of state of adoption of a proposed amendment to N.M. Const., art. IX, § 9, allowing counties to borrow money for remodeling and making additions to necessary public buildings. The constitutional amendment was adopted at the general election held November 3, 1964.

Laws 1983, ch. 184, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Extent of bond issues limited. - A county may borrow money through the issuance of general obligation bonds only to the extent authorized by law or necessarily implied therefrom. 1980 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 80-2.

Proper expenditures from bond proceeds. - In addition to actual construction-related costs, the proceeds of general obligation bond issues of a county may be expended only for the purchase of the construction site and for equipment which becomes an integral part of the building being constructed (i.e., fixtures) or which is of a permanent or nondepletable nature and reasonably necessary to the use of the building for its intended purpose (e.g., beds, mattresses and other permanent furnishings). 1980 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 80-2.

## **§ 4-49-2. [Location of county hospitals; approval of the health and environment department.]**

The county hospital or hospitals constructed pursuant to the provisions of this act [4-49-2, 4-49-3, 4-49-8 NMSA 1978] shall be situated in the county in such manner as to make hospital service reasonably accessible to all persons in the county, as determined by the county commissioners in each county, subject to the approval of the director of the state department of public health [secretary of health and environment].

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-4618, enacted by Laws 1947, ch. 20, § 4; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-3.

Cross-references. - As to power of counties to construct, purchase, own, maintain and operate hospitals generally, see 4-48B-5 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The powers, duties and property of the former state departments of public health and public welfare and the state department of public health and welfare were transferred to the "health and social services department" by Laws 1968, ch. 37, § 3.

The health and social services department has been abolished by Laws 1977, ch. 252, § 5, and ch. 253, § 5, and public health functions are now discharged by the health and environment department. See Laws 1977, ch. 253, § 3.

### **§ 4-49-3. [Two or more counties joining in construction of county hospital; bonds.]**

If two or more counties shall, through their respective boards of county commissioners, deem it advisable to construct one hospital or isolation ward for the benefit jointly of such counties, the said counties jointly shall have the powers and authorities in this act [4-49-2, 4-49-3, 4-49-8 NMSA 1978] granted to any individual county, and any bonds so issued shall be bonds of the respective counties issued according to the proportions of their populations as shown in the last census, and such hospital and [or] isolation ward may be located at any point in any of the counties as may be determined by agreement of the boards of county commissioners.

History: 1941 Comp., § 15-4619, enacted by Laws 1947, ch. 20, § 5; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-4.

Cross-references. - As to joint county-municipal hospitals, see 3-44-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

### **§ 4-49-4. Bonds for courthouses, jails and bridges.**

The bonds authorized in Chapter 4, Article 49 NMSA 1978 to be issued shall be in such form and shall be payable at such place or places as the board of county

commissioners may direct, with interest payable semiannually at the same place or places where the principal is made payable. The bonds, except for bonds issued in book entry or similar form without the delivery of physical securities, shall bear the seal of the county issuing them and shall be signed by the chairman of the board of county commissioners and attested by the county clerk.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 83, § 2; C.L. 1897, § 350; Code 1915, § 1157; C.S. 1929, § 33-3902; 1941 Comp., § 15-4602; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-5; 1983, ch. 265, § 19.

Cross-references. - As to restrictions on county indebtedness, see N.M. Const., art. IX, § 10. As to destruction of documentary evidence of extinguished public debt, see 6-10-62 NMSA 1978.

The 1983 amendment rewrote this section to the extent that a detailed comparison is impracticable.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1983, ch. 265, § 64, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 7, 1983.

#### **§ 4-49-5. [Election necessary.]**

That before any bonds shall be issued under this article, the same shall be ordered by a vote of the qualified electors of such county, in the same manner hereinafter provided.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 83, § 3; C.L. 1897, § 351; Code 1915, § 1158; C.S. 1929, § 33-3903; 1941 Comp., § 15-4603; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-6.

Cross-references. - As to restrictions on county indebtedness, see N.M. Const., art. IX, § 10.

#### **§ 4-49-6. Legislative declaration; necessary public buildings and public projects.**

The legislature hereby declares that courthouses, jails, bridges, hospitals, public libraries, facilities for the holding of county fairs, cultural facilities, juvenile detention homes, athletic facilities, parking structures, administrative facilities, facilities for housing equipment, repairing equipment and servicing equipment and sewerage facilities are necessary public buildings, and construction or repair of public roads, construction and acquisition of water, sewer or sanitary landfill systems and airports are necessary public projects.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-49-6.1, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 400, § 1; 1975, ch. 84, § 1; 1976, ch. 42, § 1; 1979, ch. 137, § 1; 1983, ch. 184, § 2; 1985, ch. 50, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to hospital funding, see 4-48B-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to restrictions on county indebtedness, see N.M. Const., art. IX, § 10. As to bonds for juvenile detention homes, see 33-6-1, 33-6-2 NMSA 1978.

The 1983 amendment added "and public projects" at the end of the catchline and added the language beginning with "and construction and acquisition" at the end of the section.

The 1985 amendment inserted "parking structures, administrative facilities, facilities for housing equipment, repairing equipment and servicing equipment" near the middle and inserted "construction or repair of public roads" near the end of the section.

Effective dates. - Laws 1983, ch. 184, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Laws 1985, ch. 50 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on June 14, 1985.

Proper expenditures from bond proceeds. - In addition to actual construction-related costs, the proceeds of general obligation bond issues of a county may be expended only for the purchase of the construction site and for equipment which becomes an integral part of the building being constructed (i.e., fixtures) or which is of a permanent or nondepletable nature and reasonably necessary to the use of the building for its intended purpose (e.g., beds, mattresses and other permanent furnishings). 1980 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 80-2.

#### **§ 4-49-7. General obligation bonds; authority to issue.**

The boards of county commissioners may issue the general obligation bonds of the county in any sum necessary, not greater than four percent, inclusive of all other bonded indebtedness, of the assessed value of the taxable property of the county, for the purpose of building courthouses, jails, bridges, hospitals, public libraries, facilities for the holding of county fairs, cultural facilities, juvenile detention homes, athletic facilities, parking structures, administrative facilities, facilities for housing equipment, repairing equipment and servicing equipment and sewerage facilities, constructing or repairing public roads and for construction and acquisition of water, sewer or sanitary landfill systems and airports.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-49-6.2, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 400, § 2; 1975, ch. 84, § 2; 1976, ch. 42, § 2; 1979, ch. 137, § 2; 1983, ch. 184, § 3; 1985, ch. 50, § 2.

Cross-references. - As to hospital funding, see 4-48B-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to restrictions on county indebtedness, see N.M. Const., art. IX, § 10. As to bonds for juvenile detention homes, see 33-6-1, 33-6-2 NMSA 1978.

The 1983 amendment added the language beginning with "and for construction and acquisition" at the end of the section.

The 1985 amendment inserted "parking structures, administrative facilities, facilities for housing equipment, repairing equipment and servicing equipment" and "constructing or repairing public roads" near the end of the section.

Effective dates. - Laws 1983, ch. 184, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Laws 1985, ch. 50 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on June 14, 1985.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1973, ch. 400, § 3, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 5, 1973.

Laws 1975, ch. 84, § 5, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 2, 1975.

Validating clauses. - Laws 1975, ch. 84, § 3, provides that all prior elections held for the purpose of authorizing bonds by counties for the purpose of building facilities for the holding of county fairs, the validity of which is not or has not been contested in court, and whose validity is not confirmed, ratified and approved, are validated, approved and confirmed.

Proper expenditures from bond proceeds. - In addition to actual construction-related costs, the proceeds of general obligation bond issues of a county may be expended only for the purchase of the construction site and for equipment which becomes an integral part of the building being constructed (i.e., fixtures) or which is of a permanent or nondepletable nature and reasonably necessary to the use of the building for its intended purpose (e.g., beds, mattresses and other permanent furnishings). 1980 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 80-2.

#### **§ 4-49-8. Election on bond question; petition; notice; election without petition.**

Whenever a petition signed by not less than two hundred qualified electors of any county in this state shall be presented to the board of county commissioners asking that a vote be taken on the question or proposition of building, remodeling or making additions to necessary public buildings or necessary public projects, setting forth in general terms the object of the petition and the amount of bonds asked to be voted for, it shall be the duty of the board of county commissioners of the county to which the petition may be presented, within ten days after the presentation, to call an election to be held within sixty days thereafter in the county. The board shall give notice of the election by publication once a week for at least three consecutive weeks in any

newspapers published in the county, which notices shall set forth the time and place of holding the election, the necessary public building or necessary public project proposed and which bonds are to be voted for. Except as provided in Chapter 4, Article 49 NMSA 1978, such elections shall be held and conducted in the same manner as general elections, including recount and contest, and the board of county commissioners shall certify and declare on the records of the county the returns of the election. After the defeat of any proposition once voted for, a second special election upon any question or proposition under the provisions of Chapter 4, Article 49 NMSA 1978 shall not be held for a term of two years, unless a petition requesting another election, containing the names of qualified electors of the county equal to ten percent of the vote cast for governor in the last preceding election and otherwise conforming to the requirements of this section, shall be presented to the board of county commissioners; provided, however, that in no event shall more than two elections upon any proposition or question under Chapter 4, Article 49 NMSA 1978 be held in any term of two years. A bond election as provided in this section may also be called by the board of county commissioners, without any petition, after the board has adopted a resolution calling such an election, which resolution shall set forth the object of the election and the amount of bonds to be issued.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 83, § 4; C.L. 1897, § 352; Code 1915, § 1159; C.S. 1929, § 33-3904; Laws 1937, ch. 52, § 1; 1941 Comp., § 15-4604; Laws 1947, ch. 20, § 3; 1951, ch. 83, § 3; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-7; Laws 1959, ch. 234, § 1; 1985, ch. 50, § 3.

Cross-references. - As to requirement of holding of elections generally, see 4-49-5 NMSA 1978. As to conduct of general elections, see 1-1-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to bond elections generally, see 6-15-23 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to publication of notice, see 14-11-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

The 1985 amendment rewrote this section to the extent that a detailed comparison is impracticable.

Effective dates. - Laws 1985, ch. 50 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on June 14, 1985.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1959, ch. 234, § 2, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 2, 1959.

Bridge bonds can be issued only when ordered by a vote of the qualified voters of the county. 1909-12 Op. Att'y Gen. 86.

Bond election after defeat at special election. - Board of county commissioners may, by resolution, and without petition, call for a bond election within two years after the same proposition has been defeated in a special election if the resolution calls for the bond election to be held at a general election. 1961-62 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 62-122.

Required publication of notice. - Publication of the notice of election for three consecutive weeks is required, though the election may be held the day following the last publication when notice of publication so declares. 1941-42 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 3755.

Postponement of election. - The board of county commissioners would not be justified in postponing an election on a bond issue for a juvenile detention home until the next primary election on the grounds of shortage of funds to conduct such an election at the present time. 1961-62 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 61-114.

Requirements as to voting on multiple propositions. - Petition filed under this section, asking that a vote be taken upon two bond issues, designated separately, did not authorize submission by ballot as a joint proposition, and an election at which the ballot submitted a single proposition, for or against, "courthouse and jail bonds," was null and void. *Dickinson v. Board of Comm'rs*, 34 N.M. 337, 281 P. 33 (1929), explained in *White v. Board of Educ.*, 42 N.M. 94, 75 P.2d 712 (1938). But see 6-15-26 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-49-9. [Second petition; procedure.]**

In the event that a second petition is filed, the procedure for the calling of such election, for giving notice thereof and for all other procedure requirements, shall be the same as if no other petition had been filed.

History: Laws 1937, ch. 52, § 2; 1941 Comp., § 15-4605; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-8.

#### **§ 4-49-10. [Conduct of election.]**

All such elections as herein provided for shall be held at the usual place of voting in such county, and shall be conducted by the officers or persons provided by law for the holding of ordinary or general elections in any such county, such election to be in all respects governed by, and the result declared according to, the rules and regulations provided by law for holding ordinary or general elections.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 83, § 5; C.L. 1897, § 353; Code 1915, § 1160; C.S. 1929, § 33-3905; 1941 Comp., § 15-4606; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-9.

Cross-references. - As to conduct of general elections, see 1-1-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to bond elections generally, see 6-15-23 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Holding of bond election and regular election at same time. - The submission of the proposition of the issuance of county bonds for a courthouse may be at the same time as the regular election if 4-49-8 NMSA 1978 is complied with in the matter of published notice. 1919-20 Op. Att'y Gen. 63.



## **§ 4-49-11. [Ballots.]**

The vote at all such elections shall be by ballot, on tickets or ballots having written or printed words, "For courthouse bonds," or "Against," [or] any other work of improvement for which bonds are to be voted, as the case may be.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 83, § 6; C.L. 1897, § 354; Code 1915, § 1161; C.S. 1929, § 33-3906; 1941 Comp., § 15-4607; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-10.

Numbers on ballots. - It is not necessary that ballots used in courthouse bond election have a concealed number. 1937-38 Op. Att'y Gen. 256.

## **§ 4-49-12. [Qualifications of voters.]**

All qualified electors under the laws of this state who are property taxpayers shall be entitled to vote at all elections provided by this article.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 83, § 7; C.L. 1897, § 355; Code 1915, § 1162; C.S. 1929, § 33-3907; 1941 Comp., § 15-4608; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-11.

Cross-references. - As to restrictions on county indebtedness, see N.M. Const., art. IX, § 10. As to bond elections generally, see 6-15-23 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Compiler's notes. - The restriction by this section and N.M. Const., art. IX, § 10 of the right to vote in bond elections to property owners appears to be unconstitutional under the rationale of the decision in Board of Educ. v. Maloney, 82 N.M. 167, 477 P.2d 605 (1970). See also 6-15-25, 6-15-26 NMSA 1978.

Persons entitled to vote at elections. - Petitions may be signed by any qualified electors of the county though only property owners may vote on the proposition in view of N.M. Const., art. IX, § 10. 1941-42 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 3755. But see 6-15-25, 6-15-26 NMSA 1978.

Members of a firm or a corporation whose individual names do not appear on the tax rolls, or where it is not shown that certain individual members have paid property taxes, are not entitled to vote in bond election for a courthouse and jail. 1937-38 Op. Att'y Gen. 270.

Ex-soldiers who have completely used up their exemption are not entitled to vote for a bond election for a courthouse and jail, unless they have actually paid property taxes during the preceding year. 1937-38 Op. Att'y Gen. 256, 270.

In a bond election for a courthouse and jail, the petition must be signed by not less than 200 qualified electors of the county who may not be taxpayers, but the voters at such

election must have paid a property tax the preceding year. 1937-38 Op. Att'y Gen. 256, 270.

Persons who pay no tax are not entitled to vote at a county bond election by reason of their having purchased an automobile license plate because, while it may be in lieu of a property tax, it is not a property tax, and the proceeds, so far as the county is concerned, go to the road fund and not to payment of the county bonded indebtedness. 1939-40 Op. Att'y Gen. 93.

Law reviews. - For comment, "The Last Bastion Crumbles: All Property Restrictions on Franchise Are Unconstitutional," see 1 N.M.L. Rev. 403 (1971).

### **§ 4-49-13. [Stream on county boundary; bridge bonds.]**

When any two counties are separated by a stream of water, and it is desired to bridge such stream, such counties may join in the construction of the same, and the county commissioners of the aforesaid counties shall determine the proportionate share of bonds to be issued by each, and each county shall bear its proportionate share and expense of cost of constructing and maintaining said bridge, and if the same be a toll bridge, shall receive a proportionate share of tolls collected therefrom: provided, that each county shall vote separately on the issue of the bonds.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 83, § 8; C.L. 1897, § 356; Code 1915, § 1163; C.S. 1929, § 33-3908; 1941 Comp., § 15-4609; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-12.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 11 C.J.S. Bridges § 12.

### **§ 4-49-14. [Vote for issuance; notice of bids; proposals; place of construction.]**

If the majority of the legal votes cast at any such election herein provided for shall be in favor of the proposition voted for the issuing of bonds, then the county commissioners of such county, if the proposition be for the building of a courthouse or jail or bridge for which bonds were voted, shall without delay give notice in some newspaper of general circulation published in such county, not exceeding thirty days, that sealed proposals will be received until a certain hour in a certain day named in such notice, not to exceed thirty days thereafter, for the building of such courthouse, or jail, or bridge, as the case may be, which notice shall set forth the location of the proposed courthouse or jail or bridge with such particularity of details that an inspection of the premises may be had without difficulty.

Proposals for the building of any such courthouse or jail or bridge, if notices have not been given by the county commissioners of such county that such proposals shall be for the building of such courthouse or jail or bridge, in accordance with the plans and

specifications on file in the possession of said county commissioners, such proposals shall be accompanied with complete plans and specifications of the same, the price to be charged therefor in the bonds of the county at par value, or for cash, together with a bond of undertaking, with good and sufficient security double the amount of the proposed cost thereof, conditioned for the faithful execution of the work proposed and the carrying into effect of any contract made in reference thereto. The board of county commissioners are [is] hereby authorized to build courthouses, jails and bridges, in the place designated by the petitioners, if the majority of the voters so decide, and in no other place.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 83, § 9; C.L. 1897, § 357; Code 1915, § 1164; C.S. 1929, § 33-3909; 1941 Comp., § 15-4610; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-13.

Cross-references. - As to public works generally, see 13-4-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to publication of notice generally, see 14-11-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Necessity for statement in election notice or ballot as to location of proposed building. - No language in the statutes specifically requires that the exact proposed location of a proposed jail be stated either in the election notice or in the ballot form, even if such a place be designated in the petition. 1951-52 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 5402.

#### **§ 4-49-15. [Contracts authorized.]**

The said county commissioners of any county are hereby fully authorized and empowered to enter into any and all contracts necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this article.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 83, § 10; C.L. 1897, § 358; Code 1915, § 1165; C.S. 1929, § 33-3910; 1941 Comp., § 15-4611; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-14.

#### **§ 4-49-16. [Registration of bonds.]**

The county commissioners of any county issuing such bonds shall make a registration thereof in a book to be kept for that purpose, showing the date, amount, number [and] maturity of such bonds, and if issued for the building of a courthouse or a jail or a bridge, what bridge or other work of internal improvement.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 83, § 11; C.L. 1897, § 359; Code 1915, § 1166; C.S. 1929, § 33-3911; 1941 Comp., § 15-4612; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-15.

#### **§ 4-49-17. [Tax levy for payment of bonds.]**

It shall be the duty of the board of county commissioners to ascertain from the

assessment books of the county the amount of assessed taxable property in each county having issued bonds, and what percentage thereof is required to be levied to pay said amount, and when so ascertained, shall levy such percentage upon the taxable property of such county (to pay the interest and create a sinking fund for the final redemption of such bonds: provided, that there shall be no levy made for the payment of the principal of such bonds until ten years after their issue) as may be responsible for such bonds, and shall place the same upon the tax books and lists of the county in a separate column or columns designating the purpose for which said tax is levied upon any particular county, and said tax shall be accordingly collected by the treasurer of such county in the same manner that other taxes are collected.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 83, § 12; C.L. 1897, § 360; Code 1915, § 1167; C.S. 1929, § 33-3912; 1941 Comp., § 15-4613; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-16.

Cross-references. - As to restrictions on county indebtedness, see N.M. Const., art. IX, § 10.

#### **§ 4-49-18. [Taxes to be paid in cash; use for specified purpose.]**

All taxes for interest on and for the redemption of such bonds shall be paid only in cash, and shall be kept by the county treasurer as a special fund, to be used for the payment of interest on and for the redemption of such bonds only.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 83, § 13; C.L. 1897, § 361; Code 1915, § 1168; C.S. 1929, § 33-3913; 1941 Comp., § 15-4614; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-17.

#### **§ 4-49-19. [Redemption; notice; cancellation.]**

It shall be the duty of the county treasurer to keep the interest and sinking fund account of the county separate and distinct, and when there are sufficient funds in his hands to the credit of the redemption fund to pay in full the principal and interest of any such bonds issued under this article by any such county, to immediately call in and pay as many of such bonds, with accrued interest thereon, as such funds in hand will liquidate, as hereinbefore provided. Such bonds shall be paid in the order of their number, and when it is desired to redeem any of such bonds the county treasurer shall cause to be published for thirty days in some newspaper at or nearest the county seat, a notice stating that certain county bonds by numbers and amounts will be paid on presentation, and that at the expiration of thirty days such bonds will cease to bear interest, and when any bonds or coupons issued under this article are redeemed, it shall be the duty of such treasurer to certify his action to the board of county commissioners, who shall cancel the bonds by punching holes through all the signatures of the bonds and coupons, so that they can be plainly identified, and cause record to be made of the same.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 83, § 14; C.L. 1897, § 362; Code 1915, § 1169; C.S. 1929, § 33-3914; 1941 Comp., § 15-4615; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-18.

Cross-references. - As to publication of notice generally, see 14-11-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

### **§ 4-49-20. [Use of funds for specific purpose; misapplication; penalty.]**

No bonds issued under this article, nor the proceeds thereof, shall be used for any other purpose than that for which they were issued. Any officer who shall apply the same to any other purpose shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than double the amount of the bonds so misapplied, and imprisoned not less than one year: provided, that the proceeds of such bonds may be applied for the redemption of the same.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 83, § 15; C.L. 1897, § 363; Code 1915, § 1170; C.S. 1929, § 33-3915; 1941 Comp., § 15-4616; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-19.

Cross-references. - As to purposes for which bonds issued, see 4-49-1 NMSA 1978.

Interest from investments deemed part of proceeds. - See same catchline in notes to N.M. Const., art. IX, § 9.

### **§ 4-49-21. [Failure to levy tax; mandamus.]**

If for any cause the board of county commissioners or county clerk, or other authority of any county who is by law charged with the levying of taxes or placing the same upon the tax books, shall fail or neglect to make such levy or place the same in the tax books at the time herein provided, the holder or holders of any such bonds or coupons shall have the right by mandamus to compel the levy and collection of such taxes or the placing of the same on the said tax book. The writ of mandamus herein provided for may be granted either in term time or vacation, and the necessary jurisdiction for that purpose is hereby conferred.

History: Laws 1891, ch. 83, § 16; C.L. 1897, § 364; Code 1915, § 1171; C.S. 1929, § 33-3916; 1941 Comp., § 15-4617; 1953 Comp., § 15-49-20.

Cross-references. - As to mandamus generally, see 44-2-1 NMSA 1978.

## **Article 50**

### **Flood Control**

## **§ 4-50-1. County flood commissioner; appointment; salary.**

Subject to the approval of the board of county commissioners, there is created the office of county flood commissioner in each county through which runs any river or stream which is subject to flood conditions destructive to property or dangerous to human life. County flood commissioners shall be appointed by the governor to serve for a term of two years, or until their successors are appointed and qualify, and they shall each receive a salary of one dollar (\$1.00) a year payable from the county flood fund.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 163, § 1; C.S. 1929, § 33-5001; 1941 Comp., § 15-4701; 1953 Comp., § 15-50-1; Laws 1967, ch. 238, § 8.

Cross-references. - As to powers relating to flood and mud-slide hazard areas, see 3-18-7 NMSA 1978. As to flood control in municipalities, see 3-41-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to disaster relief emergency funds, see 6-7-1 to 6-7-3 NMSA 1978. As to oath and bond of county officers, see 10-1-13 NMSA 1978.

Appointment of commissioner. - Appointment of a county flood commissioner is not subject to the approval of the county commissioners. The sole authority of the county commissioners in this regard is to approve the establishment of the office of county flood commissioner. Once such commissioners have exercised their discretion in approving the establishment of such an office, the sole power of appointment of a person to such office is then vested with the governor. 1959-60 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 60-134.

Cooperation with cities and federal government proper. - A county and a city can enter into an agreement to cooperate in sponsoring a flood control project, and counties and cities can cooperate with the federal government and seek aid under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. § 1001 et seq.). 1963-64 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 63-82 (opinion rendered under former law).

Law reviews. - For article, "Existing Legislation and Proposed Model Flood Plain Ordinance for New Mexico Municipalities," see 9 Nat. Resources J. 629 (1969).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - Liability of municipality or other governmental subdivision in connection with flood-protection measures. 5 A.L.R.2d 57. 52A C.J.S. Levees and Flood Control § 21.

## **§ 4-50-2. Tax levy; county flood fund; authority to borrow.**

A board of county commissioners, upon certification of the need and estimated cost by the county flood commissioner, may contract to borrow funds through state or federal agencies for flood control purposes and may levy an annual tax at a rate not to exceed one dollar fifty cents (\$1.50), or any lower maximum amount required by operation of

the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978 upon a tax imposed under this section, on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value, as that term is defined in the Property Tax Code [Articles 35 to 38 of Chapter 7 NMSA 1978], of all the taxable property located within five miles of both sides of any river or stream which contributes to or is subject to flood conditions destructive to property or dangerous to human life. Such taxes shall be levied and collected for the purpose of creating a fund which shall be used to construct and maintain dikes, dams, embankments, ditches or such other structures or excavations necessary to prevent flood waters from damaging property or human life within such counties or to repay, according to their terms, any state or federal loans obtained for flood control purposes. Such tax shall be assessed, levied and collected as other taxes are collected and when so collected shall be known as the "county flood fund", and such fund shall be maintained in such a manner as to keep separate records of all flood control taxes collected from each stream or river drainage area. The taxes collected shall only be used and disbursed for flood control projects in the drainage area for which they were assessed in accordance with the provisions of Sections 4-50-1 through 4-50-9 NMSA 1978 and shall not be transferred to any other fund or purpose.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 163, § 2; C.S. 1929, § 33-5002; 1941 Comp., § 15-4702; 1953 Comp., § 15-50-2; Laws 1969, ch. 72, § 1; 1986, ch. 32, § 4.

The 1986 amendment, in the first sentence, inserted "at a rate" near the beginning substituted the language between "at a rate not to exceed" and "all the taxable property" for "one and one-half mills of each dollar of the assessed value on" in the first sentence and "sections 4-50-1 through 4-50-9 NMSA 1978" for "sections 15-50-1 through 15-50-9 NMSA 1953" in the last sentence, and made minor stylistic changes.

Effective dates. - Laws 1986, ch. 32 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on May 21, 1986.

Property subject to taxation. - Steam production equipment, consisting of turbines, boilers, pumps and fans, was real estate for taxation purposes where the utility company installed and maintained such equipment on special foundations, could not foresee moving it because of its huge size and weight and such equipment was the very heart of the company's business. *Southwestern Pub. Serv. Co. v. Chaves County*, 85 N.M. 313, 512 P.2d 73 (1973).

Electric transmission and distribution substation equipment, consisting of transformers, switches and circuit breakers, was not real estate for taxation purposes since it was readily portable and had very little, if any, annexation or adaptation. *Southwestern Pub. Serv. Co. v. Chaves County*, 85 N.M. 313, 512 P.2d 73 (1973).

Electric transmission lines, poles, line transformers, meters and such equipment frequently located on easements and public rights-of-way were not real estate for taxation purposes since they were changed or relocated frequently and were located on

unowned land. *Southwestern Pub. Serv. Co. v. Chaves County*, 85 N.M. 313, 512 P.2d 73 (1973).

Use of fund. - Money from the county flood fund may be used to prevent future damage from floods. 1921-22 Op. Att'y Gen. 120.

County construction within city limits. - Sandoval County could use county flood funds to construct flood control structures located within the county and within the drainage area as set forth in this section, when necessary to prevent flood waters from rivers or streams from damaging life and property, even if the structures lay within the Rio Rancho city limits. 1988 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 88-30.

But not for salaries of county officers. - County funds raised by special tax for specific purposes are not subject to transfer to pay salaries of county officers. 1933-34 Op. Att'y Gen. 68.

### **§ 4-50-3. Inspection of rivers; construction of works; personnel; contracts for financing.**

County flood commissioners may inspect rivers and streams in their respective counties where flood waters are liable to cause damage to property or life and in their discretion cause to be constructed and maintained dikes, embankments, dams, ditches or other structures or excavations necessary to control such flood water and protect life and property in their counties against loss and damage. County flood commissioners may employ engineering and other personnel, directly supervise or contract for the construction and maintenance of flood control works and do all other acts necessary to carry into effect the provisions of Sections 4-50-1 through 4-50-9 NMSA 1978. If the money in the county flood fund is insufficient to finance flood control projects and provide for maintenance, the board of county commissioners, upon the recommendation of the county flood commissioner, may contract with any federal or state agency for grants or loans for the purpose of construction and maintenance of dikes, dams, embankments, ditches and other structures and excavations. Any contract for borrowing funds from state or federal agencies may provide that annual installments of principal and interest on the debt shall be paid out of the appropriate account within the county flood fund. The provisions of Sections 6-6-11 through 6-6-18 NMSA 1978 shall not apply to contracts entered into with state or federal agencies for flood control projects under the provisions of this section.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 163, § 3; C.S. 1929, § 33-5003; 1941 Comp., § 15-4703; 1953 Comp., § 15-50-3; Laws 1969, ch. 72, § 2.

Cross-references. - As to limitation upon and payment of indebtedness and expenses, see 4-50-6 NMSA 1978. As to county debt limit, see N.M. Const., art. IX, § 13. As to finances of counties, municipalities and school districts generally, see 6-6-7 NMSA 1978 et seq.



Powers of commissioners as to employment of personnel. - The county flood commissioner may do all acts necessary to carry into effect the terms of 4-50-1 to 4-50-9 NMSA 1978 and if employment of an attorney or an engineer or others for varied purposes to initiate or to carry through a program of flood control is reasonably necessary, such employment is authorized. 1951-52 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 5535.

Power of commissioners to incur long-term indebtedness. - There is no prohibition against county flood commissioners incurring a long-term indebtedness for flood control purposes if such contract is entered into in good faith and pursuant to the county flood commissioners' statutory powers. 1968 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 68-78.

So long as the county flood commissioners do not bind the county in a long-term lease under this section, to a debt for which the installment due during any one year cannot be paid in that year, the debt is binding and does not violate 4-50-6 NMSA 1978. 1968 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 68-78.

#### **§ 4-50-4. [Entry upon lands; damages; interference; misdemeanor; objections.]**

Such county flood commissioners, their agents and employes shall have free and unobstructed ingress and egress to any and all lands and premises where such ingress and egress are necessary to the performance of the duties by this act [4-50-1 to 4-50-9 NMSA 1978] imposed, and shall not be liable for damages because of any such entry, except for wanton and malicious injury, and any person or persons obstructing such ingress or egress shall, upon conviction thereof, be found guilty of a misdemeanor. Provided, however, that no such dikes, embankments, dams and ditches, or other structures or excavations shall be constructed, built or maintained where written objection to such construction, building and maintaining are filed by the state engineer with any commissioner in charge thereof, and except in the manner as, after such objection, shall be approved by said state engineer.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 163, § 4; C.S. 1929, § 33-5004; 1941 Comp., § 15-4704; 1953 Comp., § 15-50-4.

Cross-references. - As to Tort Claims Act, see 41-4-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to state engineer generally, see 72-2-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

#### **§ 4-50-5. Condemnation of property.**

The county flood commissioners shall have the power to condemn property for the purpose of carrying Sections 4-50-1 through 4-50-17 NMSA 1978 into effect, upon petition to the district courts, and in the manner provided by the Eminent Domain Code [42A-1-1 to 42A-1-33 NMSA 1978].

History: Laws 1921, ch. 163, § 5; C.S. 1929, § 33-5005; 1941 Comp., § 15-4705; 1953 Comp., § 15-50-5; 1981, ch. 125, § 44.

Cross-references. - As to eminent domain and condemnation generally, see N.M. Const., art. II, § 20, and 42A-1-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 125, § 64, makes the act effective on July 1, 1981.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 26 Am. Jur. 2d Eminent Domain § 65.

## **§ 4-50-6. Limit on indebtedness; payment of expenses.**

A. No expense or indebtedness shall be incurred by any county flood commissioner in excess of the amount of any annual levy, excepting where there may be remaining on hand funds arising from previous similar levies; provided, however, that where a board of county commissioners, upon the recommendation of the county flood commissioner, contracts to borrow funds from a state or federal agency for flood control projects and pledges the proceeds of the annual levies for their repayment, the amount which may be borrowed shall be limited by the terms of repayment so that no annual installment of principal and interest shall exceed eighty percent of the amount produced by the annual levy in the year preceding the signing of the loan agreement.

B. All expenses and indebtedness incurred by any county flood commissioner under the provisions of Sections 4-50-1 through 4-50-9 NMSA 1978 shall be subject to the approval of the board of county commissioners. Upon the approval of the board, the expenses and indebtedness incurred shall be paid upon warrant or warrants drawn by the board of county commissioners, upon the filing by the county flood commissioner of vouchers for the expenditures and indebtedness with the board of county commissioners. The warrants shall be paid by the county treasurer out of the appropriate separate account within the county flood fund. The county clerk shall file and keep a record of all vouchers filed with the board of county commissioners by the county flood commissioner.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 163, § 6; C.S. 1929, § 33-5006; 1941 Comp., § 15-4706; 1953 Comp., § 15-50-6; Laws 1961, ch. 72, § 1; 1969, ch. 72, § 3.

Cross-references. - As to power of commissioners to contract for financing, see 4-50-3 NMSA 1978. As to county debt limit, see N.M. Const., art. IX, § 13. As to finances of counties, municipalities and school districts generally, see 6-6-7 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Powers of flood commissioners to incur long-term indebtedness. - See notes under 4-50-3 NMSA 1978.

Disbursement of flood moneys. - The county flood commissioner and not the board of county commissioners is under this section empowered to disburse county flood moneys. 1941-42 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 3986.

### **§ 4-50-7. [Report to county commissioners.]**

Between the 15th day of December of each year and the succeeding first day of January each county flood commissioner shall make full and detailed report to the county commissioners of their respective counties, giving a detailed description of all work constructed, built or maintained by them during the current year, together with a full and true account of all expenditures made by such county flood commissioner. A copy of the report by this act [4-50-1 to 4-50-9 NMSA 1978] required shall be filed in the office of the state engineer.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 163, § 7; C.S. 1929, § 33-5007; 1941 Comp., § 15-4707; 1953 Comp., § 15-50-7.

Cross-references. - As to filing with county clerk of monthly statements of public moneys received and disbursed by county and precinct officers, see 10-17-4 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-50-8. [Work in adjoining counties.]**

The county flood commissioners are hereby authorized and empowered to jointly expend money with the county flood commissioners of adjoining counties, or to locate dikes, dams, embankments, ditches and other structures and excavations without their counties when such location is deemed necessary for the purpose of protecting property and lives in their counties.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 163, § 8; C.S. 1929, § 33-5008; 1941 Comp., § 15-4708; 1953 Comp., § 15-50-8.

### **§ 4-50-9. [Expenditure of funds raised under prior law.]**

All county flood funds now on hand shall be held and disbursed subject to the provisions of this act [4-50-1 to 4-50-9 NMSA 1978]. All moneys in the county flood fund of the respective counties affected by this act, levied under the provisions of Section 1308 of the Compiled Laws of 1915, of the state of New Mexico, shall be held, applied and expended in accordance with the terms and provisions of this act.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 163, § 9; C.S. 1929, § 33-5009; 1941 Comp., § 15-4709; 1953 Comp., § 15-50-9.

Cross-references. - As to county flood fund, see 4-50-2 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - Code 1915, § 1308, referred to in this section, is deemed to have been superseded by 4-50-2 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-50-10. [Emergency flood districts; establishment.]**

Each county of the state through which runs any river, stream or arroyo subject to flood conditions destructive to property or dangerous to human life shall be by the board of county commissioners, within thirty days after the passage and approval of this act [4-50-10 to 4-50-17 NMSA 1978], divided into emergency flood districts, and said board shall set out the limits and boundaries of each said district, and cause the same to be properly numbered so that the same may be known and identified.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 169, § 1; C.S. 1929, § 151-301; 1941 Comp., § 15-4710; 1953 Comp., § 15-50-10.

Effective dates. - Laws 1921, ch. 169, was approved on March 12, 1921.

Power of county commissioners to redefine district boundaries. - The 30-day specification in this section should not be regarded as a limitation on the authority of county commissioners to redefine emergency flood district boundaries. 1973 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 73-36.

#### **§ 4-50-11. [Emergency flood superintendent; appointment; qualifications.]**

It shall be the duty of the board of county commissioners to appoint an emergency flood superintendent for each of said districts. Each emergency flood superintendent shall be a citizen of the United States, and of the state of New Mexico, and shall have resided in the district for which he is appointed not less than two years. The term "superintendent" wherever used in this act [4-50-10 to 4-50-17 NMSA 1978] shall be construed to mean "emergency flood superintendent."

History: Laws 1921, ch. 169, § 2; C.S. 1929, § 151-302; 1941 Comp., § 15-4711; 1953 Comp., § 15-50-11.

#### **§ 4-50-12. [Term, oath and bond of superintendent.]**

The term of office of such superintendent shall be for a period of two years, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, and the board of county commissioners shall have power to remove such officer for any cause they shall deem sufficient. Within thirty days from the date of appointment each superintendent shall qualify by taking and filing with the county clerk an oath to faithfully perform his duties as such superintendent, and

shall furnish a bond to the county to faithfully perform his duties and to account for all moneys collected by him, which bond shall be in the sum of two thousand dollars [(\$2,000)], with at least two good and sufficient sureties, to be approved by the board of county commissioners, and filed with the county clerk.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 169, § 3; C.S. 1929, § 151-303; 1941 Comp., § 15-4712; 1953 Comp., § 15-50-12.

Cross-references. - As to bonds of public officers generally, see 10-2-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

### **§ 4-50-13. Emergency flood workers.**

The superintendent, in all cases where property or life is threatened by flood waters, may, with the consent of the county commissioners, summon all or any part of the able-bodied male persons under the age of sixty years residing within his district and within five miles on each side of the flood river or stream, and require the persons summoned to work in the control and diversion of the flood waters not to exceed five days during any current year, as their services may be needed. All persons having teams may be required to appear and work with their teams for the required number of days as above provided. The services may be rendered in person, or by substitution, or the person summoned may pay in cash the sum of two dollars (\$2.00) per day for each day's services required of him, and the sum of three dollars (\$3.00) per day for each day's service required of any team belonging to him and summoned hereunder; however, no person or team summoned shall be required to work for more than one day until all of the persons and teams residing in the district have been required to either work or pay.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 169, § 4; C.S. 1929, § 151-304; 1941 Comp., § 15-4713; 1953 Comp., § 15-50-13; Laws 1969, ch. 219, § 15.

### **§ 4-50-14. [Service of notice, summons or calls for work; filing list.]**

Said superintendent shall have the right to serve notice, summons or calls for work upon persons summoned and called hereunder. Such notice shall state time and place where such work is required, and the number of days' work required, and the teams required, and he shall make a correct list of the names of all persons and teams summoned and file the same with the county clerk.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 169, § 5; C.S. 1929, § 151-305; 1941 Comp., § 15-4714; 1953 Comp., § 15-50-14.

### **§ 4-50-15. [Failure to work or pay; penalty; use of fine moneys.]**

Any person summoned and called to do work hereunder as above provided, who shall fail to appear and do said work or to furnish a substitute who shall appear and do said work, or pay to the superintendent the sum or sums herein provided in lieu of said work, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction therefor before any justice of the peace [magistrate] shall be fined in a sum not more than fifty dollars [(\$50.00)], or imprisoned in the county jail not more than thirty days, or suffer both such fine and imprisonment. All fines collected hereunder shall be deposited in the emergency district flood fund.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 169, § 6; C.S. 1929, § 151-306; 1941 Comp., § 15-4715; 1953 Comp., § 15-50-15.

Cross-references. - As to emergency district flood fund, see 4-50-16 NMSA 1978.

Compiler's notes. - The office of justice of the peace has been abolished and all jurisdiction, powers and duties conferred by law upon justices of the peace have been transferred to magistrate courts. See N.M. Const., art. VI, § 31 and 35-1-38 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-50-16. [Emergency district flood fund; superintendent failing to pay amounts collected; penalty; recovery.]**

All moneys collected under the provisions of this act [4-50-10 to 4-50-17 NMSA 1978] shall be deposited with the county treasurer to the credit of a fund to be known as the "emergency district flood fund," and shall be used and applied solely for the purposes of this act within the districts where such moneys are collected. Each superintendent to whom any money shall be paid in lieu of work shall forthwith deposit the same with the county treasurer and take a receipt therefor, and shall file with the county clerk a correct list of the names of the persons paying such moneys. Any superintendent who shall fail, neglect or refuse to account as required by law for moneys collected by him, or shall fail, neglect or refuse to deposit moneys collected by him as hereinbefore provided, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof may be fined in any sum not exceeding two hundred dollars [(\$200)], or imprisoned in the county jail not exceeding ninety days, or suffer both fine and imprisonment. Any moneys which any superintendent shall fail, neglect or refuse to account for may also be recovered in a civil action upon the bond filed by such superintendent.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 169, § 7; C.S. 1929, § 151-307; 1941 Comp., § 15-4716; 1953 Comp., § 15-50-16.

Cross-references. - As to payment of certain fines into fund, see 4-50-15 NMSA 1978. As to use of certified copy in action on bond of officer, see 10-2-10 NMSA 1978. As to failure, neglect or refusal to discharge duties of office and failure to account for moneys as causes for removal of local public officers, see 10-4-2 NMSA 1978.

## **§ 4-50-17. [Powers and duties of superintendent.]**

The said superintendent is hereby authorized and empowered in times of flood emergency to order headgates of ditches to be closed, ditches to be cut, flood waters to be drained through ditches or other channels already cut, or through ditches or channels to be cut for that purpose; dikes, dams, embankments and other structures to be erected, necessary labor to be employed, and necessary materials to be purchased, and generally to do all things according to the necessity and emergency existing. The superintendent and his agents, laborers and employes shall have the right of entry upon all premises necessary to control and suppress flood emergencies, and shall not be liable for any damage thereto except for any wanton or malicious injury. No expenditures hereunder shall be made by any superintendent in excess of the moneys in the emergency district flood funds at the time such expenditure is made. All moneys paid out of the emergency district flood fund shall be paid by warrants drawn by the board of county commissioners on vouchers filed and approved by the superintendent. Any person who shall willfully hinder, delay or obstruct any superintendent, his agents, laborers or employes from performing any of the duties imposed by this act [4-50-10 to 4-50-17 NMSA 1978] shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in a sum not to exceed fifty dollars [(\$50.00)], or imprisoned in the county jail not to exceed thirty days, or suffer both such fine and imprisonment.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 169, § 8; C.S. 1929, § 151-308; 1941 Comp., § 15-4717; 1953 Comp., § 15-50-17.

Cross-references. - As to accounts and claims against counties, see 4-45-3 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to authority to call emergency flood workers, see 4-50-14, 4-50-15 NMSA 1978. As to payment of certain moneys collected to county treasurer, see 4-50-16 NMSA 1978.

## **Article 51**

### **County Budget**

#### **§ 4-51-1. Surplus revenues; application.**

At the close of any calendar year, should the actual revenues exceed the estimated budget estimates of expenses as finally approved and certified, the excess money shall be applied on the budget estimate for the next succeeding year, except as provided in Section 6-6-19 NMSA 1978.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 188, § 6; C.S. 1929, § 33-5906; 1941 Comp., § 15-4806; 1953 Comp., § 15-51-6; 1989, ch. 276, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to powers and duties of local governmental bodies and local government division of state department of finance and administration with respect to financial affairs of local public bodies, see 6-6-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to finances of counties, municipalities and school districts generally, see 6-6-7 NMSA 1978 et seq.

The 1989 amendment, effective June 16, 1989, added the present catchline, inserted "except as provided in Section 6-6-19 NMSA 1978" at the end of the section, and made minor stylistic changes.

Funds accumulated for remote contingencies or investment. - Counties may not accumulate funds as an unreserved general fund balance, for a remote contingency, or for the sole purpose of investment. They must apply excess funds in such categories to the following year's budget estimate. Counties, however, may designate or reserve excess funds for reasonably foreseeable contingencies or capital projects. 1988 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 88-56.

### **§ 4-51-2. [Violation of act; penalty; liability to county.]**

Any official or employee violating the provisions of this act [4-51-1 to 4-51-3 NMSA 1978] shall, upon conviction thereof in a court of competent jurisdiction, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by a fine not less than one hundred dollars [(\$100)] nor more than five hundred dollars [(\$500)], or by imprisonment, in the discretion of the court. Any county commissioner, or any other official whose duty it is to allow claims and issue warrants therefor, who issues warrants or evidences of indebtedness contrary to the provisions of this act shall be liable to the county for such violations, and recovery may be had against the bondsmen of such official. Any county treasurer or other official whose duty it is to pay warrants and evidences of indebtedness, who shall pay such warrants and evidences of indebtedness contrary to the provisions of this act, shall likewise be liable to the county for such violations, and recovery may be had against his bondsmen.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 188, § 7; C.S. 1929, § 33-5907; 1941 Comp., § 15-4807; 1953 Comp., § 15-51-7.

Cross-references. - As to liability of county commissioners for moneys, warrants or indebtedness ordered paid out without authority of law, see 4-38-28 NMSA 1978. As to liability of county commissioners for unauthorized approval of accounts, see 4-38-29 NMSA 1978. As to financial affairs of counties, municipalities and school districts generally, see 6-6-7 NMSA 1978 et seq.

### **§ 4-51-3. [Repeal and saving clause.]**

All acts and parts of acts in conflict with this act [4-51-1 to 4-51-3 NMSA 1978] are hereby repealed; provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed as repealing



Sections 6-6-11, 6-6-13 to 6-6-18 NMSA 1978 or other existing statutory limitations upon the debt-contracting or tax-levying powers of boards of county commissioners or other boards and officials having such powers.

History: Laws 1921, ch. 188, § 8; C.S. 1929, § 33-5908; 1941 Comp., § 15-4808; 1953 Comp., § 15-51-8.

Cross-references. - As to powers and duties of local governmental bodies and local government division of state department of finance and administration with respect to financial affairs of local public bodies, see 6-6-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to finances of counties, municipalities and school districts generally, see 6-6-7 NMSA 1978 et seq.

## **Article 52**

### **Refuse Disposal Districts**

#### **§ 4-52-1. Short title.**

This act [4-52-1 to 4-52-10, 4-52-11 to 4-52-15 NMSA 1978] may be cited as the "Refuse Disposal Act."

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-52-1, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 194, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to Special District Procedures Act, see 4-53-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to authority of county to collect and dispose of garbage and rubbish, see 4-56-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to collection and disposal of refuse by municipalities, see 3-48-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

#### **§ 4-52-2. Definitions.**

As used in the Refuse Disposal Act [4-52-1 to 4-52-10, 4-52-11 to 4-52-15 NMSA 1978]:

A. "garbage" includes all waste food, swill, carrion, slops and all waste from the preparation, cooking and consumption of food and from the handling, storage and sale of food products and the carcasses of animals;

B. "rubbish" includes all waste paper, paper cartons, tree branches, yard trimmings, discarded furniture, tin cans, dirt, ashes, bottles and all other unwholesome material of every kind not included as garbage; and

C. "refuse" includes garbage and rubbish.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-52-2, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 194, § 2.

### **§ 4-52-3. Purpose of act.**

The purpose of the Refuse Disposal Act [4-52-1 to 4-52-10, 4-52-11 to 4-52-15 NMSA 1978] is to safeguard and improve the public health through the proper disposition of refuse.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-52-3, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 194, § 3.

### **§ 4-52-4. Application of act.**

A refuse disposal district may be organized and managed as herein provided, and is authorized to exercise the powers expressly granted or necessarily implied by the Refuse Disposal Act [4-52-1 to 4-52-10, 4-52-11 to 4-52-15 NMSA 1978].

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-52-4, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 194, § 4.

### **§ 4-52-5. Area.**

A district must be entirely within one county and may consist of noncontiguous parcels of property, but shall not include any incorporated area.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-52-5, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 194, § 5.

### **§ 4-52-6. Petitions.**

When fifty or more resident electors of a proposed district, or, if less than one hundred resident electors are involved, a majority of the resident electors of the proposed district, desire to form a district, they shall file a petition with the board of county commissioners. The petition shall define the boundaries of the proposed district and give reasons for requesting creation of the district, the proposed name for the district and other information pertinent to the proposal.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-52-6, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 194, § 6.

### **§ 4-52-7. Hearing; notice.**

A. Within thirty days after the petition has been filed with the board of county commissioners, it shall cause due notice to be given by publication for three consecutive weeks immediately prior to action in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, or, if no newspaper of general circulation exists, shall post in not less than

eight public places within the proposed area a notice of hearing upon the practicability and feasibility of creating the district. All interested parties have the right to attend the hearing and be heard. If it appears at the hearing that other lands should be included or that lands included in the petition should be excluded, the board of county commissioners may permit such inclusion or exclusion.

B. If it appears upon hearing that it is desirable to include within the proposed district, territory outside of the area, within which due notice of hearing has been given, the hearing shall be adjourned and due notice of a further hearing given throughout the entire area considered for inclusion in the district, and a further hearing shall be held. After final hearing, if the board of county commissioners determine upon the facts presented at the hearing and upon other available information that there is need, in the interest of public health, safety and welfare for such a district to function in the territory considered, it shall make and record the determination and define by metes and bounds, or by legal subdivisions, the boundaries of the district.

C. If the board determines after the hearing that it is not feasible for the district to function in the territory considered, it shall make and record the determination and deny the petition.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-52-7, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 194, § 7.

Cross-references. - As to publication of notice generally, see 14-11-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

### **§ 4-52-8. Referendum.**

After the board of county commissioners has made and recorded a determination that there is need, in the interest of public health, safety and welfare, for creation of the proposed district, it shall consider the question whether the operation of a district within the proposed boundaries with the powers conferred upon districts in Section 11 [4-52-11 NMSA 1978] of the Refuse Disposal Act is administratively practicable and feasible. To assist it in this determination, the board shall, within a reasonable time after entry of the finding of need for organization of the district and determination of the boundaries of the district, hold a referendum within the proposed district upon the proposition of creation of the district. Due notice of the referendum shall be given as provided in Section 7 [4-52-7 NMSA 1978] of the Refuse Disposal Act. The notice shall state the date of holding the referendum, the hours of opening and closing the polls, and shall designate one or more places within the proposed district as polling places. The board shall appoint a polling superintendent and other necessary polling officers, giving equal representation to the proponents and opponents of the question involved.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-52-8, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 194, § 8.

Cross-references. - As to publication of notice generally, see 14-11-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

### **§ 4-52-9. Ballots.**

The question to be voted on shall be submitted by ballots upon which appear the following:

USE THE ZOOM COMMAND TO VIEW THE FOLLOWING FORM:

"For creation of  
.....Refuse Control District \_  
Against creation of  
.....Refuse Control District \_ "

A square shall follow each proposition. The ballot shall also contain a direction to insert an "X" mark in the square following one or the other of the propositions, as the voter may favor or oppose creation of the district. The ballot shall set forth the boundaries of the proposed district as determined by the board of county commissioners and the board's ordinance powers for the proposed district under Section 11 [4-52-11 NMSA 1978]. All electors residing within the boundaries of the territory, as determined by the board, shall be eligible to vote in the referendum.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-52-9, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 194, § 9.

### **§ 4-52-10. Votes; results.**

The votes shall be counted by the election officers at the close of the polls and report of the results along with the ballots delivered to the polling superintendent, who shall certify the results to the board of county commissioners. If a majority of votes cast favor creation of the district, the board shall certify the results to the county clerk. Upon proper recording of this action, each district shall be duly created.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-52-10, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 194, § 10.

#### **§ 4-52-10.1. Creation; alternate procedure.**

In a class A county, the board of county commissioners may create a refuse disposal district by ordinance. The district shall consist only of contiguous parcels of property. The board shall create the district only after considering the feasibility of the district and the likelihood that services could be provided without the creation of the district. Upon passage of the ordinance, the district is duly created.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-52-10.1, enacted by Laws 1983, ch. 188, § 1.

Effective dates. - Laws 1983, ch. 188, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

### **§ 4-52-11. Powers.**

The board of county commissioners has power to:

- A. establish and fill a position of manager to manage and supervise the manner of storage, collection and disposal of refuse, and fix the compensation attached to the position, or may authorize and direct an administrative official of the county to assume the functions of the manager;
- B. provide for employment of personnel to operate and manage facilities for the storage, collection and disposal of refuse within the district;
- C. execute contracts on behalf of the district with any firm, corporation or individual to provide for collection and disposal of refuse within the district;
- D. execute contracts on behalf of the district with any incorporated village, town, city or other district for the joint operation of any refuse collection system and any sanitary landfill or other disposal method acceptable to the environmental improvement division of the health and environment department for the disposal of refuse;
- E. determine that collection and disposal of refuse is in the interest of public health, safety and welfare, and regulate collection and disposal within the district;
- F. by district ordinance, adopt on behalf of the district such schedules, rules and regulations and service charge rates imposed upon users as may be necessary for the orderly collection of refuse from the district and for maintenance and operation of sanitary landfills or other satisfactory disposal methods. The board shall, prior to adoption of rules and regulations, obtain approval from the environmental improvement division;
- G. acquire by purchase, gift, grant, bequest, devise or through condemnation proceedings, in the manner provided in the Eminent Domain Code [42A-1-1 to 42A-1-33 NMSA 1978], such property, rights-of-way or equipment as is necessary for exercise of any authorized function of the district;
- H. plan, construct, improve, operate and maintain such structures as may be necessary for performance of any function authorized by the Refuse Disposal Act [4-52-1 to 4-52-10, 4-52-11 to 4-52-15 NMSA 1978]; and

I. receive all grants or assistance from and cooperate with county, municipal, state and federal agencies in carrying out the purpose of the Refuse Disposal Act.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-52-11, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 194, § 11; 1981, ch. 125, § 45.

Cross-references. - As to eminent domain and condemnation generally, see N.M. Const., art. II, § 20 and 42A-1-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Effective dates. - Laws 1981, ch. 125, § 64, makes the act effective on July 1, 1981.

Appropriations. - Laws 1983, ch. 73, § 1, appropriates \$100,000 from the general fund to the middle Rio Grande council of governments for the development of a program for regional solid waste disposal for Bernalillo, Sandoval, Tarrant, Valencia and southern Sante Fe counties in the seventy-second and seventy-third fiscal years and provides that any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of the seventy-third fiscal year shall revert to the general fund.

Laws 1983, ch. 73, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

## **§ 4-52-12. Addition of land.**

A. Resident electors of an area without a district may petition the board of county commissioners to add the area to the district. The petition shall define the boundaries of the land desired to be annexed and give other information pertinent to such proposal. The petition shall be signed by twenty-five or more resident electors of the territory described, if fifty or more resident electors are involved, or by a majority if less than fifty resident electors are involved.

B. Within thirty days after the petition is filed, the board shall cause due notice to be given, as provided in Section 7 [4-52-7 NMSA 1978], of hearing on the petition. All interested parties have a right to attend the hearing and be heard. The board shall determine whether the lands described in the petition or any portion thereof shall be included in the district. If all the resident electors of the territory involved are not petitioners, a referendum shall be held within the territory as provided in Sections 7 through 10 [4-52-7 to 4-52-10 NMSA 1978] of the Refuse Disposal Act, before making a final determination. If it is determined that the land should be added, this fact shall be certified by the board of county commissioners to the county clerk.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-52-12, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 194, § 12.

Cross-references. - As to area includable within district, see 4-52-5 NMSA 1978. As to procedure for creation of district, see 4-52-6 to 4-52-10 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-52-13. Detaching land.**

Resident electors of lands which have not been, are not and cannot be benefited by their inclusion in the district, may petition the board of county commissioners to have the lands detached. The petition shall describe the lands and state the reasons why they should be detached. A hearing shall be held within thirty days after the petition is received. Due notice of hearing, as provided in Section 7 [4-52-7 NMSA 1978], shall be given at least ten days before the hearing. If it is determined by the board that such lands shall be detached, the determination shall be certified to the county clerk.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-52-13, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 194, § 13.

Cross-references. - As to area includable within district, see 4-52-5 NMSA 1978. As to procedure for creation of district, see 4-52-6 to 4-52-10 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-52-14. Discontinuance of districts.**

A. Any time after five years from the organization of a district, fifty or more resident electors of a district, or, if less than one hundred resident electors are involved, a majority of the resident electors of the district, may file a petition with the board of county commissioners, praying that the existence of the district be discontinued. The petition shall state reasons for discontinuance and that all obligations of the district have been met.

B. After giving notice, as defined in Section 7 [4-52-7 NMSA 1978], the board may conduct such hearings on the petition as may be necessary to assist it in making a determination.

C. Within sixty days after petition is filed, a referendum shall be held under supervision of the board. No informalities in the conduct of the referendum shall invalidate it or its results if notice of the referendum has been given substantially as provided in Subsection B of this section.

D. If a majority of votes cast in the referendum favor discontinuance of the district and it is found that all obligations have been met, the board shall make a determination that the district shall be discontinued. A copy of the determination shall be certified to the county clerk for recording.

E. Any funds remaining after discontinuance shall revert to the county general fund.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-52-14, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 194, § 14.

Cross-references. - As to procedure for creation of district, see 4-52-6 to 4-52-10 NMSA 1978.

## **§ 4-52-15. Penalty [for violation of ordinance.]**

Violation of any ordinance adopted by the county commissioners on behalf of the district under Section 11 [4-52-11 NMSA 1978] of the Refuse Disposal Act shall be deemed a misdemeanor.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-52-15, enacted by Laws 1959, ch. 194, § 15.

## **Article 53**

### **Special District Procedures**

#### **§ 4-53-1. Short title.**

This act [4-53-1 to 4-53-11 NMSA 1978] may be cited as the "Special District Procedures Act."

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-53-1, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 291, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to refuse disposal districts, see 4-52-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to community service districts, see 4-54-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to playgrounds and recreational facilities, see 5-4-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to water and sanitation districts, see 73-21-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

#### **§ 4-53-2. Definitions.**

As used in the Special District Procedures Act [4-53-1 to 4-53-11 NMSA 1978]:

A. "special district" means any single or multipurpose district organized or that may be organized as a local public body of this state for the purpose of constructing and furnishing any urban-oriented service which another political subdivision of the state is authorized to perform, including but not limited to the services of water for domestic, commercial or industrial uses, sewage, garbage, refuse collection and recreation, but excluding the functions or services of drainage, irrigation, reclamation, soil and water conservation or flood control;

B. "county officer" means an elected county official or a member of the board of county commissioners;

C. "city officer" means a mayor or a member of the governing authority of municipality; and



D. "commission" means a county special district commission.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-53-2, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 291, § 2.

### **§ 4-53-3. County special district commission.**

A. There shall be created in each county of the state a "county special district commission" consisting of five members selected as follows:

(1) two members appointed by the board of county commissioners, each of whom shall represent the county and shall be a county officer;

(2) two members appointed by the mayors or chief executives of all municipalities within the county at a joint meeting, each of whom shall represent the municipalities and shall be a city officer; and

(3) one member appointed by the other four members of the commission, who shall be chairman of the commission and shall represent the general public in the county. If within five days following their appointment, the four other members of the commission fail to appoint the fifth member of the commission, the district court of the county in which the commission is located shall appoint the fifth member of the commission within ten days following the date of the appointment of the four other members of the commission.

B. The term of each member shall be four years and until the appointment and qualification of his successor, except that the term of each county officer and each city officer shall expire upon the termination of his county or city office. Any city or county member may be removed by his appointing authority.

C. Vacancies on the commission shall be filled for the unexpired term by the appointing authority which originally appointed the member whose position has become vacant. Commission members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed the actual amounts for their reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in attending meetings and in performing the duties of their office, which amounts shall not exceed the amounts permitted for such purposes in the Per Diem and Mileage Act [10-8-1 to 10-8-8 NMSA 1978].

D. Prior to establishment of a commission in a county, any proposals for the creation of a special district, or petition for the merger, consolidation or dissolution of an existing special district shall be submitted to the county clerk as otherwise provided in the Special District Procedures Act [4-53-1 to 4-53-11 NMSA 1978]. Upon receipt of the proposal or petition the clerk shall immediately notify the board of county commissioners of the county and each of the governing authorities of all municipalities in the county of

such receipt. The counties and municipalities shall then proceed to establish a commission.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-53-3, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 291, § 3.

#### **§ 4-53-4. Powers and duties of commission.**

The commission may:

A. review and approve, or disapprove with or without amendment, wholly, partially or conditionally, proposals to create special districts within the county;

B. review and approve, or disapprove petitions for the dissolution, consolidation or merger of special districts within the county; and

C. adopt standards and procedures consistent with the provisions of the Special District Procedures Act [4-53-1 to 4-53-11 NMSA 1978] for the evaluation of proposals for the creation, dissolution, consolidation and merger of special districts.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-53-4, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 291, § 4.

#### **§ 4-53-5. Proposals for creation of special districts.**

A. Any proposal for the creation of a special district shall be submitted to the commission prior to any election or court hearing provided in the law authorizing the creation of the special district by those parties authorized by law to initiate proceedings for the creation of a special district.

B. Upon receiving notice of a proposal to create a special district, the commission shall direct the county clerk to give notice of the proposal to create a special district to:

(1) each municipality within twenty miles of the territory of the proposed district;

(2) each special district with boundaries adjacent to the proposed boundaries of the proposed district and which is performing the same type of service that the proposed district would perform; and

(3) the board of county commissioners.

C. At the same time the commission shall cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county an announcement of its receipt of the proposal, and notice of intention to hold a public hearing on a proposal to create the proposed district, which hearing shall be held not less than twenty nor more than forty days from receipt of the notification of the proposal to create the special district.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-53-5, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 291, § 5.

Cross-references. - As to factors to be considered in creation of district, see 4-53-8 NMSA 1978. As to multi-county special districts, see 4-53-9 NMSA 1978. As to publication of notice generally, see 14-11-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

### **§ 4-53-6. Merger, consolidation or dissolution of special district.**

A. Any municipality, county or special district may by resolution adopted by its governing body, petition the commission requesting the merger, dissolution or consolidation of any special district within the county. Merger or consolidation petitions shall include information as will permit the commission to evaluate the degree to which the proposed action will permit more effective and efficient performance of the service provided by the special district.

B. The resident property owners of any special district may petition the commission requesting the merger, dissolution or consolidation of any special district in which they reside. The petition shall be signed by at least twenty percent of the property owners actually residing within the territory of the special district.

C. Upon receipt of a petition for the merger, dissolution or consolidation of a special district, the commission shall direct the county clerk to notify the governing authorities of each political subdivision specified in Subsection B of Section 5 [4-53-5 NMSA 1978], and the governing body of the special district which is the subject of the petition. At the same time the commission shall cause to be published an announcement of such petition and the hearing to be held thereon in the manner provided in Subsection C of Section 5.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-53-6, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 291, § 6.

Cross-references. - As to factors to be considered in merger, consolidation or dissolution of district, see 4-53-8 NMSA 1978. As to multi-county special districts, see 4-53-9 NMSA 1978. As to publication of notice generally, see 14-11-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

### **§ 4-53-7. Hearings.**

At public hearings held pursuant to the Special District Procedures Act [4-53-1 to 4-53-11 NMSA 1978], the commission shall hear any interested party having made a written request to be heard, and shall receive any reports on the proposal before it. The commission may make and enforce any rules and regulations as necessary for the orderly and fair hearing on the issues before it.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-53-7, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 291, § 7.

## **§ 4-53-8. Factors to be considered.**

A. Factors to be considered in the review of a proposal for creation, consolidation, merger or dissolution of a special district shall include but not be limited to:

(1) population; population density; land area; land use; per capita assessed valuation; topography, natural boundaries and drainage basins; proximity to other populated areas; the likelihood of significant growth in the area, and in adjacent incorporated and unincorporated areas during the next ten years;

(2) need for organized community services; the present cost and adequacy of governmental services and controls in the area; probable future needs for such services and controls; probable effect of the proposed formation and of alternative courses of action on the cost and adequacy of services and controls in the area and adjacent areas; and the probable effect of the proposed action on the total tax and indebtedness burden upon the taxpayers of the area;

(3) the effect of the proposed action, and of alternative actions, on adjacent areas, on mutual social and economic interests and on the local government structure of the county.

B. Any municipality, county or special district receiving notification of hearing to be held by the commission may:

(1) in the case of a petition for creation of a new special district indicate to the commission its willingness and ability to provide the service to be undertaken by the proposed district. The notification shall include references to appropriate statutory authority empowering the municipality, county or special district to assume responsibility for providing the service within the territory of the proposed district and shall include appropriate evidence of its financial ability to provide the services. It may also include reasons why it, rather than the proposed district, should provide the service.

(2) in the case of petition for the dissolution, consolidation or merger of a special district, submit to the commission its recommendations concerning such proposals. If the petition for dissolution, consolidation or merger is based upon a municipality, county or special district assuming the function undertaken by the subject special district, the notification shall include references to appropriate statutory authority empowering the municipality, county or special district to assume responsibility for providing the services with [within] the territory of the subject district and shall include appropriate evidence of its financial ability to provide the services. It may also include reasons why it, rather than the subject district, should provide the services.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-53-8, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 291, § 8.

## **§ 4-53-9. Multi-county special districts.**

In the event that the territory of any special district lies in two or more counties, proposals to create, or petitions to merge, consolidate or dissolve special districts shall be forwarded to commissions in each of the counties affected. The commissions shall within ten days agree upon a date and place for a joint public hearing and shall proceed jointly as otherwise directed by the Special District Procedures Act [4-53-1 to 4-53-11 NMSA 1978], except that all time spans shall be measured from the date of the agreement.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-53-9, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 291, § 9.

### **§ 4-53-10. Decisions of commission.**

A. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the commission may take the matter under consideration and shall, within thirty days following conclusion of the hearing, present its decision. The commission may also adjourn a hearing from time to time, but not to exceed a total of thirty days.

B. If the commission approves the formation of the proposed special district, proceedings for its formation may be continued as otherwise provided by law. If the commission approves the proposed formation with modifications or conditions, further proceedings for the special district's formation may be continued only in compliance with such modifications or conditions. If the commission disapproves the formation of the proposed special district no further action shall be taken to create the special district and notice of intention to create such a district may not be presented to the commission for at least two years after the date of disapproval.

C. The commission may order the merger, dissolution or consolidation of a special district where the factors specified in Section 8 [4-53-8 NMSA 1978] indicate the action is appropriate and [it] finds:

(1) that a petitioning municipality, county or existing special district adjacent to the subject district can provide the service to the residents of the subject district more effectively and more economically; or

(2) where it finds that there is no longer a need for the service provided by a subject district.

D. Decisions approving proposals for the merger, consolidation or dissolution of a special district shall provide for the equitable disposition of the assets of the subject district, for the adequate protection of the legal rights of the employees of the special district and for adequate protection of the legal rights of creditors; provided that no provision of the Special District Procedures Act [4-53-1 to 4-53-11 NMSA 1978] shall be construed as to relieve any bonded indebtedness of a merged, consolidated or dissolved special district which is subject to any tax levied upon property in the district.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-53-10, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 291, § 10.

### **§ 4-53-11. Administration.**

The usual and necessary operating expenses incurred by the commission shall be prorated among the municipalities in the county by an agreement between the county and such municipalities.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-53-11, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 291, § 11.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1965, ch. 291, § 12, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 3, 1965.

## **Article 54**

### **Community Service Districts**

#### **§ 4-54-1. Short title.**

This act [4-54-1 to 4-54-5 NMSA 1978] may be cited as the "Community Service District Act."

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-54-1, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 283, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to refuse disposal districts, see 4-52-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to Special District Procedures Act, see 4-53-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to playgrounds and recreational facilities, see 5-4-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to water and sanitation districts, see 73-21-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

#### **§ 4-54-2. Definitions.**

As used in the Community Service District Act [4-54-1 to 4-54-5 NMSA 1978]:

A. "community service district" means any single or multipurpose special district organized as a local public body of this state for the purpose of constructing and furnishing any urban-oriented service which another political subdivision of this state is authorized to perform, including but not limited to the services of water for domestic, commercial or industrial uses, sewage, garbage, refuse collection and recreation, but not including the function [functions] or services of drainage, irrigation, reclamation, soil and water conservation or flood control;

B. "governing authority" means any board, commission or other governing body

responsible for the conduct of the affairs of the community service district; and

C. "negotiable securities" means any security issued by a community service district representing indebtedness of the district and including but not limited to bonds.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-54-2, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 283, § 2.

### **§ 4-54-3. Procedure for issuing negotiable securities.**

A. Any community service district issuing negotiable securities for the construction or acquisition of any facilities necessary to carry on the purpose of the district shall issue the negotiable securities in the manner provided in this section.

B. Prior to the issuing of any negotiable securities, the governing authority of the district shall hold a public hearing on the question of issuing the negotiable securities. Notice of the public hearing shall be published once each week for three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the community service district and the last publication shall not be less than three nor more than ten days before the date of the public hearing. The notice shall state the purpose of the hearing and the date, time and place where it will be conducted by the governing authority.

C. At the date, time and place specified in the notice, the governing authority shall hold the hearing, at which time it shall determine if the negotiable securities shall be issued. If the governing authority determines that the negotiable securities should be issued, it may issue and sell the negotiable securities in conformity with the provisions of the law authorizing the community service district; provided that:

(1) the negotiable securities of the community service district:

(a) shall bear an interest rate of not more than six percent a year;

(b) are sold at par value; and

(c) are sold at public sale after notice of the proposed sale is published in a newspaper of general circulation within the community service district; and

(2) the total value of the outstanding negotiable securities of the community service district do [does] not exceed in the aggregate, at any one time, more than five percent of the assessed valuation of the community service district.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-54-3, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 283, § 3.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 64 Am. Jur. 2d Public Securities and Obligations §§ 1 et seq.

20 C.J.S. Counties §§ 248 to 257.

#### **§ 4-54-4. Tax limitation.**

The aggregate total of all taxes levied by a community service district for all purposes shall not exceed a rate of ten dollars (\$10.00), or any lower maximum amount required by operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978 upon taxes levied pursuant to the Community Service District Act [4-54-1 to 4-54-5 NMSA 1978], on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value, as that term is defined in the Property Tax Code [Articles 35 to 38 of Chapter 7 NMSA 1978], of taxable property within this community service district.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-54-4, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 283, § 4; 1986, ch. 32, § 5.

The 1986 amendment substituted the language following "shall not exceed" for "ten mills on each dollar of assessed valuation of taxable property within the community service district."

Effective dates. - Laws 1986, ch. 32 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on May 21, 1986.

#### **§ 4-54-5. Liberal construction.**

The Community Service District Act [4-54-1 to 4-54-5 NMSA 1978] shall be liberally construed to protect the interests and rights of the owners of the taxable property within the community service district.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-54-5, enacted by Laws 1965, ch. 283, § 5.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1965, ch. 283, § 7, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 5, 1961.

Saving clauses. - Laws 1965, ch. 283, § 6, provides that nothing in the act shall affect, modify or limit any tax levy made by any community service district prior to its effective date.

## **Article 55**

### **Special Assessment Districts for Improvements in Class "A" Counties**

(Repealed by Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 40.)



Sec.  
4-55-1 to 4-55-34. Repealed.

§§ 4-55-1 to 4-55-34. Repealed.

Repeals. - Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 40, repeals 4-55-1 to 4-55-34 NMSA 1978, relating to special assessment districts for improvements in class "A" counties, effective March 3, 1980.

## **Article 55A**

### **County Improvement Districts**

#### **§ 4-55A-1. Short title.**

This act [4-55A-1 to 4-55A-39 NMSA 1978] may be cited as the "County Improvement District Act."

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 1.

#### **§ 4-55A-2. Improvement district; definitions.**

As used in the County Improvement District Act [4-55A-1 to 4-55A-39 NMSA 1978]:

- A. "board" means the board of county commissioners;
- B. "construct" or "construction" means to plan, design, engineer, construct, reconstruct, install, extend, better, alter, build, rebuild, improve, purchase or otherwise acquire any project authorized in the County Improvement District Act;
- C. "county" means any county except a class H county;
- D. "engineer" means any person who is [a] professional engineer licensed to practice in New Mexico and who is a permanent employee of the county or employed by the county in connection with an improvement;
- E. "improvement" means any one or any combination of projects in one or more locations authorized in the County Improvement District Act; and
- F. "improvement district" means one or more streets or one or more public grounds wherein the improvement is to be constructed and one or more tracts or parcels of land to be assessed for the cost of the improvement.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 2; 1987, ch. 47, § 3.

The 1987 amendment, effective June 19, 1987, in Subsection B inserted "plan, design, engineer,".

### **§ 4-55A-3. Improvement district; authorization; limitation.**

A. Whenever the board determines that the creation of an improvement district is necessary for the public safety, health or welfare, the board may create an improvement district for any one or any combination of projects authorized in Section 4 [4-55A-4 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act by the:

(1) provisional order method; or

(2) petition method.

B. The board may adopt any ordinance or resolution necessary or proper to accomplish the purposes of the County Improvement District Act [4-55A-1 to 4-55A-39 NMSA 1978].

C. The improvement district shall include for the purpose of assessment, all the property which the board determines is benefited by the improvement or improvements, including property utilized for public, governmental, charitable or religious purposes, except that of the United States or any agency, instrumentality or corporation thereof in the absence of a consent of congress, but shall not include any property within the exterior boundaries of a municipality except as provided in Section 5 [4-55A-5 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 3.

### **§ 4-55A-4. Improvement district; purpose.**

An improvement district may be created as authorized in the County Improvement District Act [4-55A-1 to 4-55A-39 NMSA 1978] in order to construct in one or more locations any one or any combination of the following projects:

A. a street, alley, curb, gutter or sidewalk project, including without limitation the grading, regrading, oiling, surfacing, graveling, excavating, macadamizing, paving, backfilling, repaving, leveling, lighting, landscaping, beautifying or in any manner improving all or part of one or more streets; including without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the construction of median and divider strips, parkways and boulevards; alleys or intersections and the grading, regrading, graveling, excavating, laying, backfilling, leveling or in any manner improving all or any part of one or more curbs, gutters or sidewalks, or any combination of the foregoing;

- B. any utility project for providing gas, water, electricity or telephone service; and
- C. any storm sewer, sanitary sewer or drainage project including drainage structures.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 4; 1987, ch. 47, § 4.

The 1987 amendment, effective June 19, 1987, designated the provisions of the former section as present Subsection A, and added Subsections B and C.

#### **§ 4-55A-5. Improvement district; powers of county.**

Every county shall have the power to construct improvements authorized by the County Improvement District Act [4-55A-1 to 4-55A-39 NMSA 1978] on or through any street or right-of-way one side of which lies within the boundaries of a municipality and one side of which lies outside such boundaries. The board may enter into a joint powers agreement with the governing body of the municipality to provide for joint administration of any such improvement district.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 5.

#### **§ 4-55A-6. Improvement district; limitations on powers of county with respect to street or right-of-way under jurisdiction of state highway commission.**

The county shall not construct improvements on or through any street or right-of-way under the jurisdiction of the state highway commission unless it receives prior written approval from the state highway commission to undertake such improvements.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 6.

Cross-references. - As to jurisdiction of state highway commission, see 67-3-14 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-55A-7. Improvement district; provisional order method; procedure.**

A. Whenever the board determines that the creation of an improvement district is necessary by the provisional order method, the board shall by resolution direct the engineer to prepare preliminary plans and an estimate of cost for the proposed improvement district.

B. The resolution shall:

- (1) describe in general terms the property to be included in the improvement district;
- (2) require the engineer to prepare:
  - (a) an assessment plat showing the area to be included in the improvement district; and
  - (b) an addendum to the assessment plat showing the amount of maximum benefit estimated to be assessed against each tract or parcel in the improvement district on a front-foot, zone, area or other equitable basis, which basis shall be set forth in the resolution; and
- (3) require the engineer to prepare preliminary plans showing for each type of curb, gutter, sidewalk and street, a typical section of the contemplated improvement, the type of material to be used and the approximate thickness and width of the material.

C. The engineer shall include in the total cost estimate for the improvement district all expenses, including but not limited to advertising, appraising, engineering and printing expenses which the engineer deems necessary to pay the complete cost of the improvement.

D. The engineer shall submit to the county clerk the:

- (1) assessment plat;
- (2) preliminary plans of the type of construction; and
- (3) estimate of costs for the improvement.

E. After the board examines the assessment plat, preliminary plans and estimates of cost for the improvement district, the board may adopt a provisional order which:

- (1) orders the improvement to be constructed; and
- (2) instructs the county clerk or engineer to give notice of a hearing on the provisional order.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 7.

#### **§ 4-55A-8. Improvement district; notice of assessment; protests.**

A. The notice of the provisional order creating an improvement district shall:

- (1) contain the time and place when the board shall hold a hearing on the provisional

order creating the improvement district;

(2) describe the improvement to be constructed and the general location thereof; and

(3) state that any interested person may ascertain in the office of the county clerk:

(a) a description of the property to be assessed; and

(b) the maximum amount of benefit estimated to be conferred on each tract or parcel of land.

B. Not more than thirty days nor less than ten days before the day of the hearing, the county clerk, his deputy or the engineer shall mail the notice of the hearing on the provisional order to the owner of the tract or parcel of land being assessed the cost of the improvement at his last known address. The name and address of the owner of each tract of land shall be obtained from the records of the county assessor or any other source the county clerk or engineer deems reliable. Proof of the mailing is to be made by affidavit of the county clerk, his deputy or the engineer, and shall be filed in the office of the county clerk. Failure to mail any notice shall not invalidate any of the proceedings authorized in the County Improvement District Act [4-55A-1 to 4-55A-39 NMSA 1978].

C. Notice of the hearing shall also be published once each week for three consecutive weeks and the last publication shall be at least one week prior to the day of the hearing. Such service by publication shall be verified by an affidavit of the publisher which is to be filed in the office of the county clerk.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 8.

Cross-references. - As to payment of notice of order, see 14-11-7 NMSA 1978.

#### **§ 4-55A-9. Improvement district; provisional order; protest; action in district court.**

A. At the hearing of the board on the provisional order creating an improvement district, any interested person or owner of property to be assessed for the improvement may file a written protest or objection questioning the:

(1) propriety and advisability of constructing the improvement;

(2) estimated cost of the improvement;

(3) manner of paying for the improvement; or

(4) amount to be assessed against the individual tract or parcel of land.

B. The board may recess the hearing from time to time so that all protestants may be heard.

C. Within thirty days after the board has:

(1) concluded the hearing;

(2) determined:

(a) the advisability of constructing the improvement; and

(b) the type and character of the improvement; and

(3) created the improvement district;

any person who during the hearing filed a written protest with the board protesting the construction of the improvement may commence an action in district court to correct or set aside the determination of the board. After the lapse of thirty days after the determination of the board, any action attacking the validity of the proceedings and the amount of benefit to be derived from the improvement is perpetually barred.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 9.

#### **§ 4-55A-10. Improvement district; petition method; requirements; distribution of costs; notice of hearing.**

A. Whenever the owners of sixty-six and two-thirds percent or more of the front-feet of any tracts or parcels of land, exclusive of any land owned by the United States or the state, which abuts on a street or road, petition the board in writing to create an improvement district and construct the improvement described in the petition, the board may:

(1) create the improvement district;

(2) select the type of material and method of construction to be used; and

(3) proceed with the construction of the improvement as authorized in Section 14 [4-55A-14 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act, after complying with the requirements for a preliminary hearing required in this section. A governing body of a municipality, board of county commissioners or local board of education may sign a petition seeking the improvement for any land under its control. The submission of separate petitions on any one street within a six-month period shall be considered as a single petition.

B. The board may:

- (1) pay the cost of the improvement;
- (2) assess the cost of the improvement against the abutting tract or parcel of land; or
- (3) pay part of the cost of the improvement and assess part of the cost of the improvement against the abutting tract or parcel of land.

C. If any part or all of the cost of the improvement sought to be constructed as authorized in this section is to be assessed against the benefiting tract or parcel of land, the board shall hold a preliminary hearing on the proposed improvement district and give notice of the preliminary hearing.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 10.

### **§ 4-55A-11. Improvement district; notice of preliminary hearing.**

A. The notice of the preliminary hearing required in Section 10 [4-55A-10 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act shall contain:

- (1) the time and place when the board will hold a preliminary hearing on the proposed improvement;
- (2) the estimated cost of the improvement;
- (3) the boundary of the improvement district;
- (4) the route of the improvement by streets or roads;
- (5) the places of commencement and end of the proposed improvement;
- (6) a description of each property to be assessed;
- (7) the estimated amount of the assessment against each tract or parcel of land; and
- (8) the amount of the cost to be assumed by the county, if any.

B. If the owners are found within the county, the notices shall be personally served on them at least thirty days prior to the day of the hearing. The notice shall also be published in a newspaper published in the county once each week for four successive weeks. The last publication shall be at least three days before the day of the preliminary hearing.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 11.

Cross-references. - As to payment of notice of hearing, see 14-11-7 NMSA 1978.

**§ 4-55A-12. Improvement district; preliminary hearing; protest; action in district court.**

A. At the preliminary hearing of the board on the question of creating an improvement district as authorized in Section 10 [4-55A-10 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act, any owner of a tract or parcel of land to be assessed may contest:

- (1) the proposed assessment;
- (2) the regularity of the proceedings relating to the improvement;
- (3) the benefits of the improvement; or
- (4) any other matter relating to the improvement district.

B. The board shall not assess the tract or parcel of land an amount greater than the actual benefit to the tract or parcel of land by reason of the enhanced value of the tract or parcel of land as a result of the improvement as ascertained at the hearing. The board may allow a fair price, based on its present value, as a setoff against any assessment against a tract or parcel of land if the owner has improved the tract or parcel of land in such a manner that the improvement may be made part of the proposed improvement.

C. At the hearing, the board may:

- (1) correct any mistake or irregularity in any proceeding relating to the improvement;
- (2) correct an assessment made against any tract or parcel of land;
- (3) in case of any invalidity, reassess the cost of the improvement against an abutting tract or parcel of land; and
- (4) recess the hearing from time to time.

D. Within thirty days after the hearing, any owner of a tract or parcel of land assessed, whether he appeared at the hearing or not, may commence an action in district court seeking an account of any error or invalidity of the proceedings relating to the improvement district to set aside or correct the assessment or any proceedings relating to the improvement district. Thereafter, any owner or his heirs, assigns, successors or personal representatives are barred from any action or any defense of error or invalidity in the proceedings or assessments.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 12.



**§ 4-55A-13. Improvement district; levy and collection of assessments prior to commencing improvement; special fund; misuse; penalty.**

A. Whenever the board:

(1) elects to order the construction of a street or road as authorized in the County Improvement District Act [4-55A-1 to 4-55A-39 NMSA 1978];

(2) uses county owned or leased equipment to construct the street or road; and

(3) determines what portion of the estimated cost of the construction shall be paid by tract or parcel of land benefited or to be benefited by the construction,

the assessment may be levied and the installments collected prior to the commencement of work and as work progresses according to the terms of payment fixed by the board.

B. The construction shall commence within sixty days after the payment of the first installment of the assessment and be diligently prosecuted so that the construction is completed within one year from the date of commencement. At the end of the one-year period, any tract or parcel of land that has not received the benefits provided by this section shall be released of any lien assessed against the tract or parcel of land by reason of this section and all assessment money collected from each owner of a tract or parcel of land so assessed and not benefited shall be returned.

C. All assessment money collected under this section shall be held by the county treasurer in a special account as a separate fund and used only for constructing the improvement, including the purchasing or leasing of necessary equipment. The use of the special fund for any purpose other than that required under this section by any public official, treasurer or member of the board is prohibited and is a felony punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment in the penitentiary for not more than two years or by both fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 13.

**§ 4-55A-14. Improvement district; advertising for bids; county may do work; contribution by governmental agency.**

A. If a continuous area proposed to be improved on any one street or road exceeds five hundred feet in length, the board, before using county equipment and employees to construct the improvement, shall advertise for bids for the construction of the

improvement and award the contract for the construction of the improvement to the lowest responsible bidder; provided, however, a county may construct the improvement using the same specifications upon which bids were requested if:

(1) the county can guarantee to construct the improvement for an amount less than the lowest bid amount and not assess the benefiting tracts or parcels of land an amount in excess of the lowest responsible bid if a bid is received; or

(2) the county receives no bids for the construction of the improvement.

B. A county using county owned or leased equipment and county employees in constructing an improvement may cooperate with another governmental agency which contributes money, labor or a portion of the cost of materials towards completion of the improvement.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 14.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - Standing of disappointed bidder on public contract to seek damages under 42 USCS § 1983 for public authorities' alleged violation of bidding procedures, 86 A.L.R. Fed. 904.

#### **§ 4-55A-15. Notice of bid; acceptance of bid.**

A. After the board creates an improvement district, the board may proceed as authorized in Section 13 or 14 [4-55A-13 or 4-55A-14 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act or call for sealed bids on the proposed improvement. The notice of the call for bids shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Section 13-1-11 NMSA 1978.

B. After advertising for bids, the county may make minor alterations or changes in the plans and specifications to correct errors or omissions in the original plans and specifications.

C. The board shall award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder unless the board:

(1) elects to construct the improvement as authorized in Section 13 or 14 [4-55A-13 or 4-55A-14 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act;

(2) rejects all bids submitted for the construction of the improvement. Such bids shall be rejected in the following manner:

(a) if less than three bids are received, the purchase may be made without bids at the best documented obtainable price; or

(b) if three or more bids are received, the county may reject any or all bids but shall

readvertise and accept new bids; and

(c) if no new bids are received or if all new bids are rejected, the rejection shall be accompanied by a written statement of the board declaring the reasons for the rejection and the county may then purchase the required items on the open market at the best documented price.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 15.

Compiler's notes. - Section 13-1-11 NMSA 1978, referred to in the second sentence in Subsection A, was repealed in 1984. For present comparable provisions, see 13-1-105 NMSA 1978.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - Low bidder's monetary relief against state or local agency for nonaward of contract, 65 A.L.R.4th 93.

#### **§ 4-55A-16. Improvement district; assessment of railroad property.**

The board may assess the property of any railroad or street railroad which occupies or abuts any street the whole cost of the improvement between or under the rails or tracks and two feet on each side of the rail or track of the railroad or street railroad. The assessment shall be levied as other assessments are levied and shall constitute a lien coequal with the lien of other taxes and prior and superior to all other liens, claims and titles, and may be enforced by sale of the railroad or street railroad property or by suit against the owner of the railroad or street railroad.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 16.

#### **§ 4-55A-17. Improvement district; assessment roll; notice of assessment hearing.**

A. After the contract has been awarded and the board determines the total cost of the improvement to the county, the board shall determine what portion of the total cost of the improvement shall be assessed against the benefited tract or parcel of land. The assessment, including the cost of the improvement at an intersection, shall not exceed the estimated benefit to the tract or parcel of land assessed.

B. With the engineer, the board shall prepare and cause to be filed in the office of the county clerk an assessment roll containing, among other things:

(1) the name of the last known owner of the tract or parcel of land to be assessed, or if his name is unknown, state "unknown";

(2) a description of the tract or parcel of land to be assessed; and

(3) the amount of the assessment against each tract or parcel of land.

C. After the filing of the assessment roll, the board shall, by resolution, set a time and place for the assessment hearing when an owner may object to the amount of the assessment.

D. Not more than thirty days nor less than ten days before the day of the hearing, the county clerk, his deputy or the engineer shall mail the notice of the hearing on the assessment roll to the owner of the tract or parcel of land being assessed the cost of the improvement at his last known address. The name and address of the owner of each tract of land shall be obtained from the records of the county assessor or any other source the county clerk or engineer deems reliable. Proof of the mailing is to be made by affidavit of the county clerk, his deputy or the engineer and shall be filed in the office of the county clerk. Failure to mail any notice shall not invalidate any of the proceedings authorized in the County Improvement District Act. The notice of the hearing shall also be published once each week for three consecutive weeks and the last publication shall be at least one week prior to the day of the hearing. Such service by publication shall be verified by an affidavit of the publisher which is to be filed in the office of the county clerk.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 17.

#### **§ 4-55A-18. Improvement district; filing of objections; assessment hearing; appeal to district court.**

A. Not later than three days before the date of the hearing on the assessment roll, any owner of a tract or parcel of land which is listed on the assessment roll may file his specific objections in writing with the county clerk. Unless presented as required in this subsection, any objection to the regularity, validity and correctness of:

(1) the proceedings;

(2) the assessment roll;

(3) each assessment contained on the assessment roll; or

(4) the amount of the assessment levied against each tract or parcel of land,

is deemed waived.

B. At the hearing, the board shall hear all objections which have been filed as provided in this section and may recess the hearing from time to time and, by resolution, revise, correct, confirm or set aside any assessment and order another assessment be made de novo.

C. The board by ordinance shall by reference to the assessment roll as so modified, if modified, and as confirmed by the resolution, levy the assessments contained in the assessment roll. The decision, resolution and ordinance of the board is:

- (1) a final determination of the regularity, validity and correctness of:
  - (a) the proceedings;
  - (b) the assessment roll;
  - (c) each assessment contained on the assessment roll; and
  - (d) the amount of the assessment levied against each tract or parcel of land; and
- (2) conclusive upon the owners of the tract or parcel of land assessed.

D. Within fifteen days after the publication or posting of the ordinance, any owner who has filed an objection as provided in this section may commence an action in district court to correct or set aside the determination of the board. After the lapse of fifteen days after the publication or posting of the ordinance, all actions which include the defense of confiscation or attack the regularity, validity and correctness of:

- (1) the proceedings;
- (2) the assessment roll;
- (3) each assessment contained on the assessment roll; or
- (4) the amount of the assessment levied against each tract or parcel of land

are perpetually barred.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 18.

#### **§ 4-55A-19. Improvement district; assessments; terms of payment; liens; foreclosure.**

A. The board may, by ordinance:

- (1) establish the time and terms of paying the assessment or installments on the assessment, including but not limited to any provision for differing optional time periods over which installments of assessments for the same district may be paid and, at the discretion of the board, differing interest rates on the assessments which are payable over different time periods; provided that in the situation where the board provides for

optional time periods for payment of assessment installments, the ordinance shall set a limit on the time during which the affected property owner must select one of the specified options in writing and shall provide that failure to select one of the options within the time limit conclusively establishes the selection of a specific option designated in the ordinance;

(2) set any rate or rates of interest upon deferred payments of the assessment which shall commence from the date of publication of the ordinance ratifying the assessment; provided that the same interest rate shall be set for assessments which are payable over the same time period; and provided further than [that] no rate or rates of interest in excess of twelve percent a year upon such deferred payments of the assessment shall become effective unless the state board of finance or any successor thereof at any time approves such higher rate or rates in writing based upon the determination of the state board of finance that the higher rate is reasonable under existing or anticipated bond market conditions, which approval shall be conclusive; and

(3) fix penalties to be charged for delinquent payment of an assessment.

B. After the publication of the ordinance ratifying an assessment levied as provided in Section 4-55A-18 NMSA 1978 of the County Improvement District Act, the assessment together with any interest or penalty accruing to the assessment is a lien upon the tract or parcel of land so assessed. Such a lien is coequal with the lien for general, ad valorem, taxes and the lien of other improvement districts, and is superior to all other liens, claims and titles. Unmatured installments are not deemed to be within the terms of any general covenant or warranty. All purchasers, mortgagees or encumbrancers of a tract or parcel of land so assessed shall hold the tract or parcel of land subject to the lien so created.

C. Within sixty days after the publication of the ordinance ratifying an assessment roll, the county clerk shall prepare, sign, attest and record in his office a claim of lien for any unpaid amount due and assessed against a tract or parcel of land.

D. Any tract or parcel of land so assessed shall not be relieved from the assessment or lien by the sale of the tract or parcel of land for general taxes or any other assessment, subject to the provisions of Section 4-55A-26 NMSA 1978 of the County Improvement District Act. The statute of limitations shall not begin to run against an assessment until after the last installment of the assessment becomes due.

E. If any tract or parcel of land so assessed is delinquent in the payment of any assessment or any installment of an assessment, the delinquent assessment has the effect of a mortgage and shall be foreclosed and sold in the manner provided by law for the foreclosure of mortgages on real estate. If there is no other purchaser for the tract or parcel of land having a delinquent assessment, the county shall purchase the tract or parcel of land for the amount of the balance due on the assessment plus any interest, penalties or costs which have accrued against the assessment. No real property shall be sold to satisfy a delinquent assessment until at least fifteen days after the date of the

order, judgment or decree of the court within which time the owner of the tract or parcel of land may pay off the decree and avoid the sale. Any real estate sold under any order, judgment or decree of court to satisfy the lien may be redeemed at any time within one year of the date of sale by the owner or by his assign by repaying to the purchaser or his assign the amount paid with interest from the date of purchase at the rate of twelve percent per year.

F. The fact that an improvement is omitted in front of any tract or parcel of land does not invalidate a lien or assessment made against any other tract or parcel of land.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 19; 1981, ch. 44, § 4.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1981, ch. 44, § 7, makes the act effective immediately.  
Approved March 30, 1981.

#### **§ 4-55A-20. Improvement district; authority to issue bonds or assignable certificates.**

A. To pay all or any part of the cost of the improvement, the board may issue in the name of the county bonds in such form as the board may determine or assignable certificates in an amount not exceeding the total cost of the improvement. If the bonds or assignable certificates recite that:

- (1) the proceedings relating to making the improvement and levying the assessments to pay for the improvement have been done in compliance with law; and
- (2) all prerequisites to the fixing of the assessment lien against the tract or parcel of land benefited by the improvement have been performed;

such recital shall be conclusive evidence of the facts recited.

B. The assignable certificates shall:

- (1) declare the liability of the owner of the tract or parcel of land so assessed or the liability of the tract or parcel of land so assessed for payment of the assessment, interest and penalties;
- (2) fix the terms and conditions of the certificates; and
- (3) accurately describe the tract or parcel of land covered by the certificate.

C. The bonds shall:

- (1) recite the terms and conditions for their issuance;

(2) be payable from the money collected from the assessments authorized in Section 4-55A-18 NMSA 1978; provided that if assessments are made payable over more than one period of time as permitted by Section 4-55A-19 NMSA 1978, specified portions of the bonds may be payable from money collected from those assessments payable over that period of time which generally corresponds to the period of time over which such specified portions of the bonds are payable; and

(3) bear a rate or rates of interest which shall not exceed the rate of interest on the deferred installments of the assessments or, if more than one rate of interest is specified for assessments as permitted by Section 4-55A-19 NMSA 1978, on that portion of the deferred installments of assessments from which that specified portion of the bonds may be payable. Payment of the bonds issued for the construction of a street, alley, curb, gutter or sidewalk project may be supplemented from gasoline tax and special fuel use tax distributed to the county under Section 7-13-9 NMSA 1978, on or before a date not more than twelve months after the last deferred installment of an assessment is due from the owner of a tract or parcel of land so assessed.

D. The bonds may be issued to the contractor in payment for the construction of the improvement or may be issued and sold:

(1) in payment of the county's proportion of the cost of the improvement;

(2) in payment of the proportionate cost, if the improvement is done in cooperation with another governmental agency;

(3) in payment of the construction of the improvement done under contract; or

(4) in reimbursement to the county, if the county constructed the improvement with county-owned or -leased equipment and county employees.

E. Bonds or assignable certificates may be sold at a public or private sale at a discount.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 20; 1983, ch. 265, § 20.

The 1983 amendment deleted "negotiable coupon" preceding "bonds" throughout the section, substituted New Mexico citations for County Improvement District Act citations throughout the section, inserted "in such form as the board may determine" in the first sentence in the introductory paragraph of Subsection A and "the liability of" near the middle of Paragraph (1) of Subsection B and deleted "coupon" preceding "rate" near the beginning of Paragraph (3) of Subsection C.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1983, ch. 265, § 64, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 7, 1983.

Compiler's notes. - Section 7-13-9 NMSA 1978, referred to in the second sentence in Subsection C(3), was repealed in 1983.



Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 64 Am. Jur. 2d Public Securities and Obligations §§ 1 to 8.  
20 C.J.S. Counties §§ 258 to 278.

### **§ 4-55A-21. Improvement district; rights of negotiable bondholders or assignable certificate holders.**

A. If the board fails or refuses to foreclose and sell a tract or parcel of land for the delinquent assessment or installment of the assessment as required in Section 22 [4-55A-22 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act, any holder of a bond secured by the assessment may foreclose the assessment lien on such delinquent property in the manner provided by law for the foreclosure of mortgages on real estate.

B. Any person holding two or more assignable certificates issued as authorized in Section 20 [4-55A-20 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act, may sue in the same action on all tracts or parcels of land described in the certificate to enforce the lien against the tract or parcel of land described in the certificate.

C. Whenever a governing body of a municipality, board of county commissioners or local board of education is delinquent in the payment of an assessment, the holder of any assignable certificate issued against the tract or parcel of land of the municipality, county or school district has the rights and remedies for the collection of the assessment as are given by law for the collection of judgments against municipalities, counties and school districts.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 21.

### **§ 4-55A-22. Improvement district; additional duties imposed on county.**

A. Whenever an improvement district has been created and negotiable coupon bonds or assignable certificates have been issued to finance the improvement, a county shall:

- (1) act as agent for the collection of the assessments;
- (2) collect the assessments annually or semiannually;
- (3) act as trustee for the benefit of the holders of the negotiable coupon bonds or assignable certificates; and
- (4) annually prepare a statement which shall:
  - (a) be available for inspection in the office of the county treasurer;

(b) reflect the financial condition of the improvement district;

(c) list all the delinquencies existing at that time; and

(d) institute proceedings to foreclose the assessment lien against any tract or parcel of land which is delinquent in the payment of the assessment or installment of an assessment for a period of more than one year.

B. If more than one improvement district is created, the money from assessments in each district shall be kept in a separate fund and used for the payment of principal and interest of the negotiable coupon bonds or assignable certificates outstanding against that improvement district.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 22.

#### **§ 4-55A-23. Improvement district; acceptance of deed in lieu of foreclosure.**

In lieu of the foreclosure of a lien against any tract or parcel of land which is delinquent in the payment of an assessment or installment of an assessment for a period of more than one year, a county may accept a deed to the property subject to the lien if the owner of the property tenders the deed to the county.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 23.

#### **§ 4-55A-24. Improvement district; trustee may purchase at foreclosure of street improvement liens where bonds were exchanged for certificates; contents of bid.**

In any action seeking the foreclosure of a lien against any tract or parcel of land assessed by a county for the construction of any project after either or both assignable certificates and negotiable coupon bonds have been issued, the trustee of the fund from which the bonds are to be paid may:

A. purchase the tract or parcel of land sold at the foreclosure sale; and

B. bid, in lieu of cash, the full amount of the assessment and interest found by the court to be due and payable under the ordinance creating the lien and any cost taxed by the court in the foreclosure proceedings against the property ordered sold.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 24.

**§ 4-55A-25. Improvement district; title subject to redemption vests in trustee.**

Upon the acceptance or purchase of the tract or parcel of land as provided in Sections 23 and 24 [4-55A-23 and 4-55A-24 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act, title of the tract or parcel of land, subject to the right of redemption as now provided by law, vests in the trustee of the fund from which the negotiable coupon bonds are payable.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 25.

**§ 4-55A-26. Improvement district; private or public sale of property after expiration of redemption period; application for authorization; appraisal; disposition of proceeds.**

A. After expiration of the period of redemption of the tract or parcel of land foreclosed, the trustee may apply to the district court which ordered the property sold for an order authorizing the trustee to sell the property at private sale.

B. After the filing of the application of the trustee, the district court shall appoint three disinterested persons to appraise the property sought to be sold and return the appraisal to the court. After the appraisal is filed in the district court, the district court shall, if it deems the appraisal to be fair, enter an order authorizing and directing the trustee to sell and convey to the purchaser the tract or parcel of land being sold. The tract or parcel of land shall not be sold at private sale except for cash and for not less than the value determined by the appraisers.

C. If the trustee is unable to sell the tract or parcel of land at its appraised value, the trustee may apply to the district court which ordered the property sold for an order authorizing the trustee to sell for cash the tract or parcel of land foreclosed to the highest and best bidder subject to the approval of the district court. After the filing of the application and if the district court determines that the property cannot be sold at its appraised value, the district court may enter an order directing the public sale of the property. The sale shall be conducted in the same manner as a sale for the foreclosure of a real estate mortgage.

D. The proceeds of the sale of property as provided in Subsection C of this section shall be applied as follows:

(1) first, to the payment of costs in giving notice of the sale and of conducting the sale;

(2) second, to the indebtedness claimed under the lien and thence to ad valorem taxes and other special assessments having a lien of the property which are coequal with the

ad valorem taxes; and

(3) third, after all such costs, liens, assessments and taxes are paid, to the former owner, mortgage holder or other parties having an interest in the tract or parcel, upon such person providing satisfactory proof to the court of such interest and upon approval of the court.

Receipts for the satisfaction of the indebtedness claimed under the lien shall be paid into the proper improvement district fund for payment of the interest and the negotiable coupon bonds. In case of the sale of any tract or parcel of land subject to more than one delinquent assessment, such remaining proceeds shall be distributed into the proper improvement district funds for such payment pro rata based upon the total unpaid amount due each such district.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 26.

#### **§ 4-55A-27. Improvement district; assessment funds; expenditures; misuse; penalties.**

A. All money received by the county from any special assessment or assessment within an improvement district shall be held in a special fund and used to:

(1) pay the cost of the improvement for which the assessment was made; or

(2) reimburse the county for any work performed by the county in constructing the improvement; or

(3) pay the interest and principal due on any outstanding negotiable coupon bonds or assignable certificates.

B. Any person who uses money in an improvement district fund other than as provided in this section is guilty of a felony and shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment in the state penitentiary for not more than two years, or by both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 27.

#### **§ 4-55A-28. Transfer of improvement district funds.**

The board may transfer to the general fund of the county any money obtained from the levy of an assessment for an improvement district if:

A. bonds or assignable certificates were issued to finance the improvement; and

B. the funds obtained by the bonds or assignable certificates were spent for the improvement; and

C. the assessments were levied and collected for the payment of the bonds or assignable certificates; and

D. either the bondholders or assignable certificate holders are barred by the statute of limitations or a court judgment or decree from collecting the indebtedness; or

E. the bonded indebtedness or assignable certificates have been paid.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 28.

#### **§ 4-55A-29. Improvement district; reassessment after voiding of assessments; procedure.**

A. It is the purpose of Sections 29 through 33 [4-55A-29 to 4-55A-33 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act to:

(1) charge the cost of any improvement payable by the tract or parcel of land benefited by the improvement by making a reassessment for the cost of the improvement; and

(2) permit the making of a reassessment when an original assessment is declared void or the enforcement of the original assessment is refused by a court.

B. Whenever any assessment for improvements is declared void or unenforceable, either directly or indirectly, by a decision of any court for any cause whatever, the board shall reassess the tracts or parcels of land which are benefited or will be benefited by the improvement to the extent of the proportionate share of the cost of the improvement of each tract or parcel of land together with an accrued interest. If the cost of the improvement exceeds the actual value of the improvement, the reassessment shall be based upon the actual value of the improvement at the time of its completion.

C. The reassessment roll shall be prepared, a hearing held on the reassessment roll and a final determination of the reassessment made by the board shall all be conducted in the manner provided in Sections 18 through 20 [4-55A-18 to 4-55A-20 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act for the original assessment.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 29.

#### **§ 4-55A-30. Improvement district; reassessment; defects waived; credit for previous payment.**

A. The fact that:

- (1) the contract has been let;
- (2) an improvement has been wholly or partially constructed;
- (3) an omission, failure or neglect of the board or county officer to comply with the requirements of Sections 1 through 20 [4-55A-1 to 4-55A-20 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act; or
- (4) any other matter whatsoever connected with the improvement or initial assessment is invalid,

shall not invalidate or in any way affect the making of a reassessment as authorized in Section 29 [4-55A-29 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act and charging the benefited tract or parcel of land the cost of the improvement.

B. When the reassessment is complete, any money paid on the former attempted assessment against a tract or parcel of land shall be credited to the tract or parcel of land in partial or whole payment of the reassessment.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 30.

### **§ 4-55A-31. Improvement district; notice of appeal; appeal to district court; appeal to supreme court.**

A. After an owner has filed a written objection with the county clerk to any reassessment as provided in Section 19 [4-55A-19 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act and the board has determined the reassessment, any owner of a tract or parcel of land that is reassessed may within ten days after the reassessment roll has been ratified by ordinance file a notice of appeal to the district court. The notice to the county clerk shall describe the tract or parcel of land being reassessed and shall state the objections of the appellant to the reassessment.

B. Within twenty days after the reassessment roll has been ratified by ordinance, the appellant shall file with the clerk of the district court copies of the:

- (1) notice of appeal;
- (2) appeal;
- (3) reassessment roll;
- (4) reassessment proceedings, all certified by the county clerk; and
- (5) a bond to the county conditioned to pay all costs that may be awarded against the

appellant in a sum of not less than two hundred dollars (\$200), with such security as shall be approved by the district court.

C. The case shall:

(1) be docketed by the clerk of the district court in the name of the owner taking such appeal against the county as "an equal appeal from reassessments";

(2) have preference over all civil cases pending in the district court except proceedings under:

(a) the law relating to eminent domain by counties; or

(b) actions of forcible entry and detainer; and

(3) be tried as in the case of equitable causes except that no pleadings are necessary.

The judgment of the district court shall be to confirm, modify or annul the reassessment insofar as the reassessment affects the tract or parcel of land of the appellant. If the reassessment is confirmed, the fees of the county clerk for copies of the record shall be taxed against the appellant with the other costs.

D. On any judgment of the district court, appeal shall be to the supreme court as in other causes. If an appeal is taken to the supreme court, the transcript of the proceedings in the district court shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the supreme court within thirty days after the rendering of the decree being appealed. If the appeal is not filed within the thirty-day period, the appeal shall be forthwith dismissed upon motion. If the appeal is properly prosecuted, the supreme court shall advance the cause on the docket and hear the appeal at the earliest possible opportunity.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 31.

### **§ 4-55A-32. Improvement district; payment of reassessment; continuing proceedings to collect assessment.**

A. The board shall enforce payment of the reassessment of the tract or parcel of land benefiting from an improvement in the manner provided in Section 19 [4-55A-19 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act for the enforcement of the original assessment.

B. If for any reason a reassessment is held to be invalid or uncollectable, the board shall continue to reassess the tract or parcel of land as provided in Sections 29 through 38 [4-55A-29 to 4-55A-38 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act, until the benefited tract or parcel of land has paid the cost of any improvement chargeable to the benefited tract or parcel of land.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 32.

**§ 4-55A-33. Improvement district; appeal of reassessment; procedure exclusive.**

A. The rights and remedies granted in Section 18 [4-55A-18 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act to any owner who objects, contests or appeals the amount, correctness, regularity or validity of the reassessment;

(1) are declared to exclude any other right, remedy, suit or action either at law or in equity which might otherwise be available; and

(2) do afford the owner a sufficient day in court for the redressing of all rights and grievances that he may have in connection with the reassessment.

B. Any person who fails to file an objection to a reassessment in the manner provided in Section 18 of the County Improvement District Act or fails to appeal to the district court in the manner provided in Section 31 [4-55A-31 NMSA 1978] of that act, is forever absolutely barred from objecting to or contesting the amount, correctness, regularity or validity of the reassessment.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 33.

**§ 4-55A-34. Improvement district; application of reassessment fund to outstanding indebtedness.**

A. Whenever a county has:

(1) issued negotiable coupon bonds or assignable certificates to obtain money to pay for an improvement that has been constructed; and

(2) reassessed the tract or parcel of land benefiting from the improvement as provided in Sections 26 through 31 [4-55A-26 to 4-55A-31 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act, the county shall apply all money received from the payment of the reassessment to the payment of the negotiable coupon bonds or assignable certificates.

B. Such negotiable coupon bonds or assignable certificates which have been issued to obtain money to pay for any improvement that has been constructed are:

(1) valid and binding obligations of the county; and

(2) payable from the payments received from any reassessment which shall be levied until all obligations of indebtedness of the improvement have been paid in full.



History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 34.

**§ 4-55A-35. Improvement district; refunding improvement bonds; authority.**

Whenever there is not, and it is certain there will not be, sufficient money in an improvement district fund to pay the principal and interest due on the improvement district bonds, the board may issue refunding improvement district bonds. If there is not sufficient money in an improvement district fund to pay in full the improvement district bonds that have matured, the board shall issue refunding improvement district bonds to pay the interest and principal on the improvement district bonds.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 35.

**§ 4-55A-36. Improvement district; default; petition of bondholders; exchange.**

If the payment of either interest or principal of outstanding improvement district bonds has continued in default for more than six consecutive months and the owners of a majority in amount of the bonds in default petition the board to exchange the bonds in default for refunding bonds, the board may exchange the refunding bonds for the bonds in default both as to principal and interest.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 36.

**§ 4-55A-37. Improvement district; ordinance for refunding bonds; conditions; sale or exchange.**

A. The ordinance authorizing the issuance of refunding bonds for an improvement district shall describe the:

- (1) details of the issue;
- (2) form of the refunding bonds and interest coupons, if any;
- (3) fund from which the principal and interest of the refunding bonds will be paid; and
- (4) manner in which the bonds are to be issued.

B. The refunding bonds shall:

- (1) not be issued in an amount greater than the principal and accrued interest due on

the improvement district bonds being refunded;

(2) not bear a rate of interest greater than the rate of interest borne by the bonds being refunded;

(3) become due and payable in regular numerical order;

(4) not be issued for a period of more than twenty years from the date of issuance; and

(5) be payable from the same funds that were applicable to the payment of the bonds being refunded.

C. The refunding bonds may be:

(1) sold at not less than par; or

(2) exchanged, dollar for dollar, for the improvement district bonds being refunded. If the refunding bonds are exchanged for the bonds being refunded, the lower numbered refunding bonds shall be exchanged for the lower numbered bonds being refunded so that the bondholder shall have relatively the same position in the refunding issue as he had in the outstanding bonds prior to the refunding.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 37; 1983, ch. 265, § 21.

The 1983 amendment added "if any" at the end of Paragraph (2) of Subsection A.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1983, ch. 265, § 64, makes the act effective immediately.  
Approved April 7, 1983.

#### **§ 4-55A-38. Improvement district; payment of assessment for refunding bond; maximum term; interest; prepayment; liens.**

A. After refunding bonds are issued as provided in Sections 35 through 37 [4-55A-35 to 4-55A-37 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act, the board shall by ordinance provide that any unpaid assessment and accrued interest on the assessment shall be paid in not more than twenty equal annual or forty semiannual installments with interest at the rate of interest borne by the refunding bonds and with the penalties as lawfully attached to the original assessment. The owner of a tract or parcel of land that is assessed may at any time pay the assessment in full with interest to the time of payment.

B. The assessment shall be collected as provided in Section 19 [4-55A-19 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act, and the refunding bonds shall be secured and enforced as the original lien was established as provided in that section.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 38.

### **§ 4-55A-39. Improvement district [; county liability; rights of bondholders].**

A. Nothing contained in Sections 35 through 38 [4-55A-35 to 4-55A-38 NMSA 1978] of the County Improvement District Act shall be construed as:

(1) increasing the burden or liability of any tract or parcel of land or the owner of any tract or parcel of land; or

(2) creating any additional liability of the county.

B. The issuance of the refunding bonds shall not give any bondholder any greater right than he had prior to the refunding. The owners and holders of refunding bonds shall be subrogated to all the rights and remedies possessed by the owners and holders of the bonds refunded.

History: Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 39.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1980, ch. 91, § 41, makes the act effective immediately. Approved March 3, 1980.

## **Article 56**

### **Refuse; Collection and Disposal**

#### **§ 4-56-1. Definitions.**

As used in this act [4-56-1 to 4-56-3 NMSA 1978]:

A. "garbage" includes all waste food, swill, carrion, slops and all waste from the preparation, cooking and consumption of food and from the handling, storage and sale of food products and the carcasses of animals;

B. "rubbish" includes all junked parts or bodies of automobiles, waste paper, paper cartons, tree branches, yard trimmings, discarded furniture, tin cans, dirt, ashes, bottles and all other unwholesome material of every kind not included as garbage; and

C. "refuse" includes garbage and rubbish.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-57-1, enacted by Laws 1967, ch. 79, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to Refuse Disposal Act, see 4-52-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to collection and disposal of refuse by municipalities, see 3-48-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Counties may provide for refuse collection and disposal under this article without regard for 4-52-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. 1971 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 71-24.

### **§ 4-56-2. County may collect and dispose of all refuse.**

A. A county may establish and maintain, manage and supervise a system of storage, collection and disposal of all refuse. The board of county commissioners may appropriate money for:

- (1) the lease, purchase or condemnation of such lands or rights-of-way as are necessary for the storage, collection and disposal of refuse;
- (2) the planning, construction, improvement, operation and maintenance of such structures and equipment as may be necessary for the storage, collection and disposal of refuse;
- (3) the compensation of the necessary employees;
- (4) the payment of the cost of contracting on behalf of the county for the collection and disposal of refuse by any firm, corporation or individual.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-57-2, enacted by Laws 1967, ch. 79, § 2.

Compiler's notes. - This section, as enacted, contained no Subsection B.

### **§ 4-56-3. Authority of board of county commissions [commissioners] to administer.**

A. The board of county commissioners in any county establishing a system of collection and disposal of refuse may acquire by purchase, gift, grant, bequest, devise or through condemnation proceedings, in the manner provided in Sections 42-1-1 through 42-2-21 NMSA 1978, such lands and rights-of-way as are necessary for the exercise of any authorized function of the county in the collection and disposal of refuse.

B. The board of county commissioners may execute contracts on behalf of the county with any municipality or other county for the joint operation of any refuse collection system and sanitary landfill or other disposal method.

C. The board of county commissioners may determine that the collection and disposal of refuse is in the interest of public health, safety and welfare, and regulate such collection and disposal within the county.

D. The board of county commissioners may receive all grants or assistance from and cooperate with county, municipal, state and federal agencies in carrying out the purpose and function of the collection and disposal of refuse.

E. If the board of county commissioners has acted under this section to establish one or more sanitary landfill sites and is regulating the disposal of refuse in the county, it may establish, assess and collect fees from persons using the refuse disposal sites.

F. If the board of county commissioners has acted under this section to establish a system of collection and disposal of refuse and is regulating the collection and disposal of refuse, it may establish, assess and collect fees from persons who use the disposal system in order to pay the necessary costs of the refuse collection and disposal system. Before taking final action on the establishment of a system of fees, the board of county commissioners shall give at least twenty days' notice of the meeting at which final action to establish a system of fees is to be taken and shall publish that notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at least fifteen days prior to the meeting.

G. The board of county commissioners shall consult with and coordinate solid waste disposal activities with the local health department.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-57-3, enacted by Laws 1967, ch. 79, § 3; 1971, ch. 124, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to eminent domain and condemnation generally, see N.M. Const., art. II, § 20 and 42A-1-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Appropriations. - Laws 1983, ch. 73, § 1, appropriates \$100,000 from the general fund to the middle Rio Grande council of governments for the development of a program for regional solid waste disposal for Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, Valencia and southern Sante Fe counties in the seventy-second and seventy-third fiscal years and provides that any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of the seventy-third fiscal year shall revert to the general fund.

Laws 1983, ch. 73, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Compiler's notes. - Sections 42-1-1 through 42-1-39 NMSA 1978 were repealed by Laws 1981, ch. 125, § 62, and 42-1-40 NMSA 1978 was recompiled as 42A-1-31 NMSA 1978 by Laws 1981, ch. 125, § 60. For present provisions concerning condemnation proceedings generally, see 42A-1-1 et seq.

## **Article 57**

### **Planning Commission**

#### **§ 4-57-1. Creation of planning commission.**

Any county may by ordinance establish a planning commission. A county planning commission shall consist of not less than five (5) members who shall be appointed by the county commission. Administrative officials of the county may be appointed as ex-officio nonvoting members of the planning commission.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-58-1, enacted by Laws 1967, ch. 150, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to Planning District Act, see 4-58-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to municipal planning, see 3-19-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to planning and platting of subdivisions, see 3-20-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to Regional Planning Act, see 3-56-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Law reviews. - For note, "County Regulation of Land Use and Development," see 9 Nat. Resources J. 266 (1969).

For article, "Existing Legislation and Proposed Model Flood Plain Ordinance for New Mexico Municipalities," see 9 Nat. Resources J. 629 (1969).

For note, "Subdivision Planning Through Water Regulation in New Mexico," see 12 Nat. Resources J. 286 (1972).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 82 Am. Jur. 2d Zoning and Planning § 60. 20 C.J.S. Counties § 49; 101 C.J.S. Zoning § 9.

## **§ 4-57-2. Powers and duties of commission.**

A. A county planning commission shall have such powers as are necessary and proper to carry out and promote county planning. Such planning shall be made with the general purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development of the county which will, in accordance with existing and future needs, best promote health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity or the general welfare as well as efficiency and economy in the process of development.

B. A county planning commission may:

(1) make reports and recommendations for the planning and development of the county to any other individual, partnership, firm, public or private corporation, association, trust, estate, political subdivision or agency of the state or any other legal entity or their legal representatives, agents or assigns;

(2) recommend to the administrative and governing officials of the county, programs for public improvements and their financing.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-58-2, enacted by Laws 1967, ch. 150, § 2.

### **§ 4-57-3. Planning jurisdiction.**

Each county shall have exclusive planning jurisdiction within its county boundary except as to any area exclusively within the planning and platting jurisdiction of a municipality and except as to those areas where a county and a municipality may have concurrent jurisdiction, as now or may hereinafter be provided by law.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-58-3, enacted by Laws 1967, ch. 150, § 3.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1967, ch. 150, § 4, makes the act effective immediately. Approved March 28, 1967.

## **Article 58**

### **Planning Districts**

#### **§ 4-58-1. Short title.**

This act [4-58-1 to 4-58-6 NMSA 1978] may be cited as the "Planning District Act."

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-59-1, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 298, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to county planning commissions, see 4-57-1 to 4-57-3 NMSA 1978. As to Regional Planning Act, see 3-56-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. As to Executive Planning Act, see 9-14-1 et seq. As to Joint Powers Agreements Act, see 11-1-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

#### **§ 4-58-2. Purpose.**

The purpose of the Planning District Act [4-58-1 to 4-58-6 NMSA 1978] is to establish state grants-in-aid for financial assistance to designated planning and development districts as created by executive order of the governor and which presently consist of:

- A. district 1, consisting of San Juan, McKinley and Cibola counties;
- B. district 2, consisting of Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Taos, Los Alamos, Colfax, Mora and San Miguel counties;
- C. district 3, consisting of Sandoval, Bernalillo, Valencia and Torraine counties;
- D. district 4, consisting of Union, Harding, Quay, Curry, Roosevelt, Guadalupe and De Baca counties;

E. district 5, consisting of Catron, Hidalgo, Luna and Grant counties;

F. district 6, consisting of Lincoln, Otero, Chaves, Eddy and Lea counties; and

G. district 7, consisting of Socorro, Sierra and Dona Ana counties.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-59-2, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 298, § 2; 1989, ch. 35, § 1.

The 1989 amendment, effective June 16, 1989, substituted "McKinley and Cibola counties" for "and McKinley counties" in Subsection A.

### **§ 4-58-3. Limitation.**

Nothing in the Planning District Act [4-58-1 to 4-58-6 NMSA 1978] shall be construed to change or conflict with the status of economic development districts, regional and metropolitan planning commissions or councils of governments established heretofore under the Regional Planning Act [3-56-1 to 3-56-9 NMSA 1978] or the Joint Powers Agreements Act [11-1-1 to 11-1-7 NMSA 1978].

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-59-3, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 298, § 3.

### **§ 4-58-4. Recognized regional councils.**

A. The governing board of any existing economic development district or council of government is the regional council of the initial planning and development district. No regional council of a planning and development district shall be recognized unless the membership of its governing board complies with the provisions of Subsection B of this section.

B. In order to qualify for the benefits of the provisions of the Planning District Act [4-58-1 to 4-58-6 NMSA 1978], the regional council of a planning and development district shall be officially designated by the governor; shall have a governing board of at least fifty percent elected officials of local or county governments and the remainder of the members shall represent economic development organizations and organizations broadly representative of diverse community interests.

C. The operations of regional councils of planning and development districts shall be solely within the discretion and control of the governing boards.

D. Qualification as a regional council and eligibility for grants-in-aid provisions of the Planning District Act shall terminate with respect to any regional council that uses state funds for any purpose not within the intent and purposes of the Planning District Act and



shall not be restored until the regional council makes restitution for any misused funds and furnishes proof of compliance with respect to future operations.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-59-4, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 298, § 4.

### **§ 4-58-5. State grants-in-aid authorized.**

A. The secretary of the department of finance and administration may, from time to time, make grants-in-aid to officially recognized regional councils of planning and development districts from funds appropriated for that purpose. Payments shall be scheduled as nearly as possible to begin on July 1 of each fiscal year and on the first day of each calendar quarter thereafter.

B. Funds appropriated for grants-in-aid to recognized regional councils of planning and development districts shall be allocated, in equal shares, among the initial seven recognized planning and development districts. If any changes occur in the district boundaries of any of the initial seven districts, allocations of appropriated funds shall be made to the districts in accordance with equitable criteria established by the department of finance and administration and filed under the State Rules Act [14-3-24, 14-3-25, 14-4-1 to 14-4-9 NMSA 1978] prior to establishment of the changes.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-59-5, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 298, § 5; 1977, ch. 247, § 144; 1983, ch. 296, § 13.

Cross-references. - As to planning powers and duties of the secretary of the department of finance and administration, see 9-6-5.1 NMSA 1978.

The 1983 amendment substituted "secretary" for "planning division" in the first sentence in Subsection A.

Effective dates. - Laws 1983, ch. 296, contains no effective date provision applicable to this section, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

### **§ 4-58-6. Conditions of grants-in-aid.**

A. Whenever funds are appropriated to be used for making grants-in-aid authorized in the Planning District Act [4-58-1 to 4-58-6 NMSA 1978], the secretary of the department of finance and administration shall notify the respective boards of directors of the regional councils of the amount allocated to the district and shall notify the regional council that applications for grants-in-aid may be made upon forms provided by the secretary. Upon receipt of the application, the secretary shall determine that:

(1) the regional council applying for a grant-in-aid is officially recognized for a

designated district;

(2) the governing board of the regional council certifies that a budget has been adopted for the expenditure of state and local funds for purposes consistent with the Planning District Act;

(3) the regional council has obtained nonfederal matching funds or services, or both, from local governments or private sources at least equal to the amount of the state grant-in-aid. The president or treasurer of the board of directors of the regional council shall certify from time to time that the matching funds from local or private sources are on deposit to the organization's own account before quarterly payment of a state grant-in-aid is made to the regional council; and

(4) at the end of each fiscal year, an audited report of expenditures of the regional council will be submitted to the secretary, that any state funds unexpended on June 30 each year will revert to the general fund and that, if the regional council has used any state funds for any purpose not within the purposes of the Planning District Act, the amount shall be reimbursed to the state.

B. The secretary shall review any application for a grant-in-aid, and if it is determined that the regional council is qualified to receive money under the Planning District Act, the grant-in-aid shall be paid to the regional council on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis of funds or services, or both, provided from local or private nonfederal sources, but the total of all grants-in-aid within a planning and development district shall not exceed the amount allocated to that district for the fiscal year. All or part of the state and local funds or services, or both, may be used to qualify for matching federal funds to be used for the purposes of the Planning District Act. If any planning and development district does not qualify for the total amount of grants-in-aid allocated to it during any fiscal year because of the lack of required matching funds or services, or both, from nonfederal local or private sources, the amount thereof for which the district does not qualify shall revert to the state general fund and shall not be apportioned for payment to any other district.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-59-6, enacted by Laws 1973, ch. 298, § 6; 1977, ch. 247, § 145; 1983, ch. 296, § 14.

Cross-references. - As to planning powers and duties of the secretary of the department of finance and administration, see 9-6-5.1 NMSA 1978.

The 1983 amendment substituted "secretary" for "planning division" throughout the section.

Effective dates. - Laws 1983, ch. 296, contains no effective date provision applicable to this section, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

## **Article 59**

## **County Industrial Revenue Bonds**

### **§ 4-59-1. Short title.**

This act [4-59-1 to 4-59-16 NMSA 1978] may be cited as the "County Industrial Revenue Bond Act."

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-60-1, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 286, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to Industrial Revenue Bond Act, see 3-32-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - Eminent domain: industrial park or similar development as public use justifying condemnation of private property, 62 A.L.R.4th 1183.

### **§ 4-59-2. Definitions.**

As used in the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act [4-59-1 to 4-59-16 NMSA 1978], unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- A. "commission" means the governing body of a county;
- B. "county" means those counties organized or incorporated in New Mexico;
- C. "health care services" means the diagnosis or treatment of sick or injured persons or medical research and includes the ownership, operation, maintenance, leasing and disposition of health care facilities, such as hospitals, clinics, laboratories, x-ray centers and pharmacies;
- D. "mortgage" means a mortgage or a mortgage and deed of trust or the pledge and hypothecation of any assets as collateral security;
- E. "project" means any land and building or other improvements thereon, the acquisition by or for a New Mexico corporation of the assets or stock of an existing business or corporation located outside the state to be relocated within a county, but not within the boundaries of any incorporated municipality, in the state, and all real and personal properties deemed necessary in connection therewith, whether or not now in existence, which shall be suitable for use by the following or by any combination of two or more thereof:
  - (1) any industry for the manufacturing, processing or assembling of any agricultural or manufactured products;
  - (2) any commercial enterprise in storing, warehousing, distributing or selling products of

agriculture, mining or industry, but does not include facilities designed for the sale or distribution to the public of electricity, gas, water, telephone or other services commonly classified as public utilities;

(3) any business in which all or part of the activities of such business involve the supplying of services to the general public or to governmental agencies or to a specific industry or customer;

(4) any nonprofit corporation engaged in health care services;

(5) any mass transit or other transportation activity involving the movement of passengers, any industrial park, any office headquarters and any research facility; and

(6) any water distribution or irrigation system, including without limitation, pumps, distribution lines, transmission lines, towers, dams and similar facilities and equipment, designed to provide water to any vineyard or winery; and

F. "property" means any land, improvements thereon, buildings and any improvements thereto, machinery and equipment of any and all kinds necessary to the project, operating capital and any other personal properties deemed necessary in connection with the project.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-60-2, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 286, § 2; 1979, ch. 389, § 1; 1983, ch. 282, § 2.

The 1983 amendment, in Subsection E, deleted "and" at the end of Paragraph (4) and added Paragraph (6).

Effective dates. - Laws 1983, ch. 282, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

### **§ 4-59-3. Legislative intent.**

It is the intent of the legislature by the passage of the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act [4-59-1 to 4-59-16 NMSA 1978] to authorize counties to acquire, own, lease or sell projects for the purpose of promoting industry and trade by inducing manufacturing, industrial and commercial enterprises to locate or expand in this state, promoting the use of the agricultural products and natural resources of this state and promoting a sound and proper balance in this state between agriculture, commerce and industry. Further, it is the intent of the legislature that counties may be able to promote the local health and general welfare by inducing nonprofit corporations engaged in health care services to locate, relocate, modernize or expand in this state and by inducing mass transit or other transportation activities, industrial parks, office headquarters [and] research and development activities to locate or expand in this state. It is intended that

each project be self-liquidating. It is not intended that any county itself be authorized to operate any manufacturing, industrial or commercial enterprise, or any nonprofit corporation engaged in health care services or industrial parks, office headquarters or research and development facilities.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-60-3, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 286, § 3.

County to pay bonds from sale or lease of projects. - No provision of this article would indicate that a county may generate revenues to pay bonds from any source other than the sale or lease of "projects." 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-19.

County not authorized to make loans to farmers and ranchers. - Although the promotion of agriculture and ranching may well be within the intended purpose of this section, it is not intended that a county be authorized to issue agricultural development revenue bonds to provide funds to make loans to farmers and ranchers, regardless of how such a bond program may be structured. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-19.

#### **§ 4-59-4. Additional powers conferred on counties.**

In addition to any other powers which it may now have, each county shall have the following powers:

A. to acquire, whether by construction, purchase, gift or lease, one or more projects, which shall be located within this state and shall be located within the county outside the boundaries of any incorporated municipality; provided, however, any project located within fifteen miles of a municipality shall be subject to prior approval of the governing body of the largest municipality within the same county and within the fifteen mile zone;

B. to sell or lease or otherwise dispose of any or all of its projects upon such terms and conditions as the commission may deem advisable and as shall not conflict with the provisions of the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act [4-59-1 to 4-59-16 NMSA 1978]; and

C. to issue revenue bonds for the purpose of defraying the cost of acquiring, by construction and purchase, or either, any project, and to secure the payment of such bonds, all as hereinafter provided. No county shall have the power to operate any project as a business or in any manner except as lessor thereof.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-60-4, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 286, § 4; 1979, ch. 389, § 2.

Cross-references. - For requirements respecting leases, see 4-59-7 NMSA 1978. As to refunding bonds, see 4-59-8 NMSA 1978. As to use of proceeds of bonds, see 4-59-9 NMSA 1978. As to finances of counties, municipalities and school districts generally, see 6-6-7 NMSA 1978 et seq.

## **§ 4-59-5. Bonds issued to finance projects.**

A. Bonds issued by a county under authority of the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act [4-59-1 to 4-59-16 NMSA 1978] shall not be the general obligation of such county within the meaning of Article 9, Sections 10 and 13 of the constitution of New Mexico. The bonds shall be payable solely out of the revenue derived from the projects for which the bonds are issued. Bonds and interest coupons, if any, issued under authority of the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act shall never constitute an indebtedness of the county within the meaning of any state constitutional provision or statutory limitation and shall never constitute or give rise to a pecuniary liability of the county or a charge against its general credit or taxing powers, and such fact shall be plainly stated on the face of each bond.

B. Such bonds may be executed and delivered at any time, and from time to time, may be in such form and denominations, may be of such tenor, may be in registered or bearer form either as to principal or interest or both, may be payable in such installments and at such time or times not exceeding thirty years from their date, may be payable at such place or places, may bear interest at such rate payable at such place or places and evidenced in such manner and may contain such provisions not inconsistent with this section, all as shall be provided in the ordinance and proceedings of the governing body under which the bonds shall be authorized to be issued.

C. Any bonds issued under the authority of the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act may be sold at public or private sale in such manner and from time to time as may be determined by the commission to be most advantageous, and the county may pay all expenses, attorneys', engineering and architects' fees, premiums and commissions which the commission may deem necessary or advantageous in connection with the authorization, sale and issuance of the bonds.

D. All bonds issued under the authority of the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act and all applicable interest coupons shall be construed to be negotiable.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-60-5, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 286, § 5; 1983, ch. 265, § 22.

Cross-references. - As to refunding bonds, see 4-59-8 NMSA 1978. As to limitations upon county indebtedness, see N.M. Const., art. IX, §§ 10 and 13. As to finances of counties, municipalities and school districts generally, see 6-6-7 NMSA 1978 et seq.

The 1983 amendment inserted "if any" in the last sentence in Subsection A, deleted "or rates" following "such rate" in Subsection B and made a series of minor stylistic changes, also in Subsection B.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1983, ch. 265, § 64, makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 7, 1983.

Low interest loans to farmers and ranchers. - Although an intended purpose of this article may be accomplished by means of an agricultural development revenue bond program providing funds for low interest loans to farmers and ranchers, such a loan program is not one of the means prescribed by the legislature to accomplish that purpose. 1981 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 81-19.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 64 Am. Jur. 2d Public Securities and Obligations §§ 1 et seq.  
20 C.J.S. Counties §§ 258 to 278.

## **§ 4-59-6. Security for bonds.**

A. The principal of and interest on any bonds issued under the authority of the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act [4-59-1 to 4-59-16 NMSA 1978]:

(1) shall be secured by a pledge of the revenues out of which such bonds shall be made payable;

(2) may be secured by a mortgage covering all or any part of the project from which the revenues so pledged may be derived; and

(3) may be secured by a pledge of the lease of such project.

B. The ordinance and proceedings under which such bonds are authorized to be issued or any such mortgage may contain any agreement and provisions customarily contained in instruments securing bonds, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, provisions respecting the fixing and collection of all revenues from any project covered by such proceedings or mortgage, the terms to be incorporated in the lease of such project, the maintenance and insurance of such project, the creation and maintenance of special funds from the revenues from such project and the rights and remedies available in event of default to the bondholders or to the trustee under a mortgage, all as the governing body shall deem advisable and as shall not be in conflict with the provisions of the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act.

C. In making any such agreements or provisions, a county shall not have the power to obligate itself except with respect to the project and the application of the revenues therefrom, and shall not have the power to incur a pecuniary liability or a charge upon its general credit or against its taxing powers. The proceedings authorizing any bonds and any mortgage securing such bonds may provide the procedure and remedies in the event of default in payment of the principal of or the interest on such bonds or in the performance of any agreement. No breach of any such agreement shall impose any pecuniary liability upon a county or any charge upon its general credit or against its taxing powers.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-60-6, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 286, § 6.

Cross-references. - As to use of proceeds of bonds, see 4-59-9 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-59-7. Requirements respecting lease.**

Prior to the leasing of any project, the commission must determine and find the following:

A. the amount necessary in each year to pay the principal of and the interest on the bonds proposed to be issued to finance such project; and

B. the amount necessary to be paid each year into any reserve funds which the commission may deem it advisable to establish in connection with the retirement of the proposed bonds and the maintenance of the project; and unless the terms under which the project is to be leased provide that the lessee shall maintain the project and carry all proper insurance with respect to it, the estimated cost of maintaining the project in good repair and keeping it properly insured. The determinations and findings of the commission required to be made in this subsection shall be set forth in the proceedings under which the proposed bonds are to be issued, and, prior to the issuance of such bonds, the county shall lease or sell the project to a lessee or purchaser under an agreement conditioned upon completion of the project and providing for payment to the county of such rentals or payments as, upon the basis of such determinations and findings, will be sufficient:

(1) to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds issued to finance the project;

(2) to build up and maintain any reserve deemed by the commission to be advisable in connection with the project; and

(3) to pay the costs of maintaining the project in good repair and keeping it properly insured, unless the agreement of lease obligates the lessee to pay for the maintenance and insurance of the project.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-60-7, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 286, § 7.

Cross-references. - As to leasing of projects generally, see 4-59-4 NMSA 1978.

### **§ 4-59-8. Refunding bonds.**

Any bonds issued hereunder and at any time outstanding may at any time and from time to time be refunded by a county by the issuance of its refunding bonds in such amount as the commission may deem necessary but not exceeding any amount sufficient to refund the principal of the bonds to be refunded, together with any unpaid interest and any premiums and commissions necessary to be paid in connection with them. Any such refunding may be effected whether the bonds to be refunded have



matured or mature thereafter, either by sale of the refunding bonds and the application of the proceeds for the payment of the bonds to be refunded, or by exchange of the refunding bonds for the bonds to be refunded. The holders of any bonds to be refunded shall not be compelled without their consent to surrender their bonds for payment or exchange prior to the date on which they are payable, or, if they are called for redemption, prior to the date on which they are by their terms subject to redemption. Any refunding bonds issued under the authority of the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act [4-59-1 to 4-59-16 NMSA 1978] shall be payable solely from the revenues out of which the bonds to be refunded were payable, and shall be subject to the provisions contained in Section 5 [4-59-5 NMSA 1978] of the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act, and may be secured in accordance with the provisions of Section 6 [4-59-6 NMSA 1978] of the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-60-8, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 286, § 8.

### **§ 4-59-9. Use of proceeds from sale of bonds.**

The proceeds from the sale of any bonds issued under authority of the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act [4-59-1 to 4-59-16 NMSA 1978] shall be applied only for the purpose for which the bonds were issued; any accrued interest and premiums received in any such sale shall be applied to the payment of the principal of or the interest on the bonds sold. If for any reason any portion of such proceeds shall not be needed for the purpose for which the bonds were issued, then such balance of such proceeds shall be applied to the payment of the principal of or the interest on the bonds. Any portion of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or any accrued interest and premium received in any such sale, may, in the event the money will not be needed or cannot be effectively used to the advantage of the county for the purposes herein provided, be invested in short-term, interest-bearing securities if such investment will not interfere with the use of such funds for the primary purpose as herein provided. The cost of acquiring any project shall include the following:

- A. the actual cost of the construction of any part of a project which may be constructed, including architects', attorneys' and engineers' fees;
- B. the purchase price of any part of a project that may be acquired by purchase;
- C. the actual cost of the extension of any utility to the project site, all expenses in connection with the authorization, sale and issuance of the bonds to finance such acquisition; and
- D. the interest on such bonds for a reasonable time prior to construction, during construction and not exceeding six months after completion of construction.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-60-9, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 286, § 9.

#### **§ 4-59-10. No contribution by county.**

No county shall have the power to pay out of its general funds or otherwise contribute any part of the costs of acquiring a project, and shall not have the power to use land, already owned by the county or in which the county has an equity, for construction of a project or any part of it, unless the county is fully reimbursed for the value of the land as may be determined by a current appraisal or unless the county leases the land at an annual rental fee of not less than five percent of the appraised value. The entire cost of acquiring any project must be paid out of the proceeds from the sale of bonds issued under the authority of the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act [4-59-1 to 4-59-16 NMSA 1978]. This section shall not be construed to prevent a county from accepting donations of property to be used as a part of any project or money to be used for defraying any part of the cost of any project.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-60-10, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 286, § 10.

#### **§ 4-59-11. Bonds made legal investments.**

Bonds issued under the provisions of the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act [4-59-1 to 4-59-16 NMSA 1978] shall be legal investments for savings banks and insurance companies organized under the laws of this state.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-60-11, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 286, § 11.

#### **§ 4-59-12. Exemption from taxation.**

The bonds authorized by the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act [4-59-1 to 4-59-16 NMSA 1978] and the income from the bonds, all mortgages or other security instruments executed as security for the bonds, all lease agreements made pursuant to the provisions of the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act, and revenue derived from any lease or sale by the county shall be exempt from all taxation by New Mexico, or any subdivision of it.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-60-12, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 286, § 12.

#### **§ 4-59-13. Construction of act.**

The County Industrial Revenue Bond Act [4-59-1 to 4-59-16 NMSA 1978] shall not be construed as a restriction or limitation upon any powers which a county might otherwise have under any laws of this state, but shall be construed as cumulative; and the County

Industrial Revenue Bond Act shall not be construed as requiring an election by the voters of a county prior to the issuance of bonds hereunder by a county.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-60-13, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 286, § 13.

#### **§ 4-59-14. No notice or publication required.**

No notice, consent or approval by any commission or public officer shall be required as a prerequisite to the sale or issuance of any bonds or the making of a mortgage under the authority of the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act [4-59-1 to 4-59-16 NMSA 1978], except as provided in that act.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-60-14, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 286, § 14.

#### **§ 4-59-15. Board of finance.**

If any representative of an existing business or enterprise located within the boundaries of the county or within five miles of the proposed project alleges, in a written complaint filed with the county governing body at a meeting at which an ordinance or resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds hereunder [sic], that the proposed project would directly and substantially compete with such an existing business or enterprise located within the boundaries of the county or within five miles of the proposed project, the bonds in connection with such project shall not be issued until the state board of finance has determined that the proposed project will not directly or substantially compete with an existing business or enterprise located within the boundaries of the county or within five miles of the proposed project.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-60-15, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 286, § 15.

Compiler's notes. - "Sic" has been inserted to indicate that some phrase was inadvertently omitted from the original act, such as "is adopted."

#### **§ 4-59-16. Liberal interpretation.**

The County Industrial Revenue Bond Act [4-59-1 to 4-59-16 NMSA 1978] shall be liberally construed to carry out its purposes.

History: 1953 Comp., § 15-60-16, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 286, § 16.

Severability clauses. - Laws 1975, ch. 286, § 17, provides for the severability of the act if any part or application is held invalid.

# **Article 60**

## **County Pollution Control Revenue Bonds**

### **§ 4-60-1. Short title.**

Sections 1 through 17 [4-60-1 to 4-60-15 NMSA 1978] may be cited as the "County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act."

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-60-1, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 1.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 61A Am. Jur. 2d Pollution Control § 1 et seq.  
39 C.J.S. Health § 21.

### **§ 4-60-2. Definitions.**

Wherever used in the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act [4-60-1 to 4-60-15 NMSA 1978], unless a different meaning clearly appears in the context, the following terms, whether used in the singular or plural, shall be given the following respective interpretations:

- A. "municipality" means any incorporated municipality in New Mexico;
- B. "county" means any organized or incorporated county in New Mexico;
- C. "project" means any land, interest in land, building, structure, facility, system, fixture, improvement, appurtenance, machinery, equipment or any combination thereof, or any interest in any one or more of the foregoing located outside a municipality in the county, or in the county and an adjoining county if part of the project is located in the county and the balance of the project is located in an adjoining county at a location contiguous thereto whether or not presently in existence or under construction, used by any individual, partnership, firm, company, corporation (including a public utility), association, trust, estate, political subdivision, state agency or any other legal entity, or its legal representative, agent or assigns, substantially for the reduction, abatement or prevention of pollution, including, but not limited to, the removal of pollutants, contaminants or foreign substances from land, air or water or for treatment of any substance in a processed material which otherwise would cause pollution when such material is used;
- D. "governing body" means the board of county commissioners;
- E. "property" means any land, improvements thereon, buildings and any improvements

thereto, machinery and equipment of any and all kinds, whether or not presently in existence or under construction, necessary to the project or projects or substantially related to the project or projects, operating capital and any other personal properties deemed necessary or substantially related to the project or projects, in connection with the said project or projects;

F. "mortgage" means a mortgage or a mortgage and deed of trust, or the pledge and hypothecation of any assets as collateral security; and

G. "pollution" means any form of environmental pollution including, but not limited to, water pollution, air pollution, pollution caused by solid waste disposal, thermal pollution, radiation, contamination or noise pollution.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-60-2, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 2.

### **§ 4-60-3. Legislative intent.**

It is the intent of the legislature by the passage of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act [4-60-1 to 4-60-15 NMSA 1978] to authorize counties to acquire, own, lease or sell projects for the purpose of reducing, abating or preventing pollution, including, but not limited to, removing pollutants, contaminants or foreign substances from land, air or water, or removing or treating any substance in a processed material which otherwise would cause pollution when such material is used, to protect and promote the health, welfare and safety of the citizens of this state and its habitat and wildlife, with the resultant higher level of employment and economic activity and stability. It is not intended hereby to authorize any county itself to operate any manufacturing, industrial or commercial enterprise. The provisions of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act shall be liberally construed in conformity with this intent.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-60-3, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 3.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. - 61A Am. Jur. 2d Pollution Control §§ 420, 425, 457 to 462.

### **§ 4-60-4. Additional powers conferred on counties.**

In addition to any other powers which it may now have, each county shall have the following powers:

A. to acquire, whether by construction, purchase, gift or lease, one or more projects which shall be located within this state and which shall be located outside a municipality in the county or in the county and an adjoining county if part of the project is located in the county and the balance of the project is located in an adjoining county at a location contiguous thereto;

B. to sell or lease or otherwise dispose of any or all of its projects upon such terms and conditions as the governing body may deem advisable and as shall not conflict with the provisions of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act [4-60-1 to 4-60-15 NMSA 1978]; and

C. to issue revenue bonds for the purpose of defraying the cost of acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, improving, maintaining, equipping or furnishing any project or projects and to secure the payment of such bonds, all as hereinafter provided. No county shall have the power to operate any project as a business or in any manner except as lessor thereof or seller thereof under an agreement of sale.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-60-4, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 4.

### **§ 4-60-5. Bonds issued to finance projects.**

Bonds issued by a county under authority of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act [4-60-1 to 4-60-15 NMSA 1978] shall not be the general obligation of such county within the meaning of Article 9, Sections 12 and 13 of the constitution of New Mexico. The bonds shall be payable solely out of the revenue derived from the project or projects or from the sale or lease of the project or projects to finance which the bonds are issued. Bonds and interest coupons issued under authority of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act shall never constitute an indebtedness of the county within the meaning of any state constitutional provision or statutory limitation, and shall never constitute nor give rise to a pecuniary liability of the county or a charge against its general credit or taxing powers, and such fact shall be plainly stated on the face of each such bond. Such bonds may be executed and delivered at any time, and from time to time, may be in such form and denominations, may be of such tenor, may be in registered or bearer form either as to principal or interest or both, may be payable in such installments and at such time or times not exceeding thirty years from their date, may be payable at such place or places, may bear interest at such rate or rates, payable at such place or places and evidenced in such manner, and may contain such provisions not inconsistent herewith, all as shall be provided in the resolution and proceedings of the governing body whereunder the bonds shall be authorized to be issued. Any bonds issued under the authority of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act may be sold at public or private sale in such manner and from time to time as may be determined by the governing body to be most advantageous, and the county may pay all expenses, attorneys', engineering and architects' fees, premiums and commissions which the governing body may deem necessary or advantageous in connection with the authorization, sale and issuance thereof. All bonds issued under the authority of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act and all interest coupons applicable thereto shall be construed to be negotiable.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-60-5, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 5.

## **§ 4-60-6. Security for bonds.**

The principal of and interest on any bonds issued under the authority of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act [4-60-1 to 4-60-15 NMSA 1978] shall be secured by a pledge of the revenues out of which such bonds shall be made payable, may be secured by a mortgage covering all or any part of the project or projects from which the revenues so pledged may be derived and may be secured by a pledge of the lease or the agreement of sale of such project or projects. The resolution and proceedings under which such bonds are authorized to be issued or any such mortgage may contain other agreements and provisions including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, provisions respecting the fixing and collection of all revenues from any project or projects covered by such proceedings or mortgage, the terms to be incorporated in the lease of such project or projects, the maintenance and insurance of such project or projects, the creation and maintenance of special funds from the revenues from such project or projects and the rights and remedies available in event of default to the bondholders or to the trustee under a mortgage, all as the governing body shall deem advisable and as shall not be in conflict with the provisions of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act; provided, that in making any such agreements or provisions, a county shall not have the power to obligate itself except with respect to the project or projects and the application of the revenues therefrom and shall not have the power to incur a pecuniary liability or a charge upon its general credit or against its taxing powers. The resolution and proceedings authorizing any bonds hereunder and any mortgage securing such bonds may provide the procedure and remedies in the event of default in payment of the principal of or the interest on such bonds or in the performance of any agreement. No breach of any such agreement shall impose any pecuniary liability upon a county or any charge upon its general credit or against its taxing powers.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-60-6, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 6.

## **§ 4-60-7. Requirements respecting lease or agreement of sale.**

Prior to the leasing, selling or other disposition of any project or projects, the governing body shall determine and find the following:

A. the amount necessary in each year to pay the principal of and the interest on the bonds proposed to be issued to finance part or all of the cost of such project or projects; and

B. the amount necessary to be paid each year into any reserve fund which the governing body may deem it advisable to establish in connection with the retirement of the proposed bonds and maintenance of the project or projects; and in the case of an agreement of lease or sale unless the terms under which each such project is to be leased or sold provide that the lessee or the purchaser shall maintain the project or

projects and carry all proper insurance with respect thereto, the estimated cost of maintaining the project or projects in good repair and keeping it or them properly insured. The determinations and findings of the governing body required to be made in the preceding sentence shall be made and set forth in a resolution constituting part of the proceedings under which the proposed bonds are to be issued; and prior to the issuance of such bonds, the county shall lease or sell the project or projects to a lessee or purchaser under an agreement conditioned upon completion of the project or projects and providing for payment to the county of such rentals or payments as, upon the basis of such determinations and findings, will be sufficient:

(1) to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds issued to finance the project or projects;

(2) to build up and maintain any reserve deemed by the governing body to be advisable in connection therewith; and

(3) to pay the costs of maintaining the project or projects in good repair and keeping it or them properly insured, unless the agreement of lease or sale obligates the lessee or purchaser to pay for the maintenance and insurance of the project or projects.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-60-7, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 7.

#### **§ 4-60-8. Refunding bonds.**

Any bonds issued hereunder and at any time outstanding may at any time and from time to time be refunded by a county by the issuance of its refunding bonds in such amounts as the governing body may deem necessary. The amount of such refunding bonds may be the same as, less than or more than the outstanding principal amount of the bonds being refunded, but shall not exceed an amount which, after including amounts legally available from other sources and income to be received from the investment of such refunding bond proceeds and amounts from other legally available sources, is sufficient to pay promptly as the same become due either at normal maturity dates or at prior redemption dates as the governing body may determine, the principal of the bonds so to be refunded, all unpaid accrued and unaccrued interest thereon to the normal maturity dates of such bonds or to selected prior redemption dates thereof any redemption premiums and any commissions and all estimated costs incidental [incidental] to the issuance of such bonds and to such refunding as may be determined by the governing body to be necessary or advisable. Any such refunding may be effected whether the bonds to be refunded shall have then matured or shall thereafter mature, either by sale of the refunding bonds and the application of the proceeds thereof for the payment of the bonds to be refunded thereby, or by exchange of the refunding bonds for the bonds to be refunded thereby; provided that the holders of any bonds so to be refunded shall not be compelled without their consent to surrender their bonds for payment or exchange prior to the date on which they are payable or, if they are called for redemption, prior to the date on which they are by their terms subject to



redemption. Any refunding bonds issued under the authority of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act [4-60-1 to 4-60-15 NMSA 1978] shall be payable solely from the revenues out of which other bonds issued under the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act may be payable or solely from those amounts derived from an escrow as herein provided, including amounts derived from the investment of refunding bond proceeds and other legally available amounts also as herein provided, or from any combination of the foregoing sources, and shall be subject to the provisions contained in the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act and may be secured in accordance with the provisions of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act.

Proceeds of refunding bonds shall either be applied immediately to the retirement of the bonds being refunded or be placed in escrow in a commercial bank or trust company which possesses and is exercising trust powers. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act or in any other statute, such escrowed proceeds may be invested in short-term securities, long-term securities or both. Except to the extent inconsistent with the express terms of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act, the resolution and other proceedings under which the bonds to be so refunded were issued, including any mortgage or trust indenture given to secure the same, shall govern the establishment of any escrow in connection with such refunding and the investment and reinvestment of any escrowed proceeds.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-60-8, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 8.

#### **§ 4-60-9. Use of proceeds from sale of bonds.**

The proceeds from the sale of any bonds issued under authority of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act [4-60-1 to 4-60-15 NMSA 1978] shall be applied only for the purpose for which the bonds were issued; provided, that any accrued interest and premiums received in any such sale shall be applied to the payment of the principal of or the interest on the bonds sold; and provided further, that if for any reason any portion of such proceeds shall not be needed for the purpose for which the bonds were issued, then such balance of said proceeds shall be applied to the payment of the principal of or the redemption premium, if any, and interest on said bonds, and provided further, that any portion of the proceeds from the sale of said bonds, including refunding bonds, or any accrued interest and premium received in any such sale, may, in the event the money currently will not be needed or cannot be effectively used to the advantage of the county for the purposes herein provided, be invested, in accordance with the procedures and subject to any restrictions established by the resolution and other proceedings under which the bonds are issued, in any securities without limitation except as expressly provided to the contrary in Section 8 [4-60-8 NMSA 1978] of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act, if such investment will not interfere with the use of such funds for the primary purposes as herein provided. The cost of acquiring any project or projects shall be deemed to include the following:

A. the actual cost of the construction of any part of a project or projects which shall be

constructed, including architects', attorneys' and engineers' fees;

B. the purchase price of any part of a project or projects that may be acquired by purchase;

C. the actual cost of the extension of any utility to the project site or sites, all expenses in connection with the authorization, sale and issuance of the bonds to finance such acquisition; and

D. the interest on any bonds issued by the same county for the same or any other project or projects for a reasonable time prior to construction, during construction and for not exceeding six months after completion of construction.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-60-9, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 9.

### **§ 4-60-10. No contribution by county.**

No county shall have the power to pay out of its general funds or otherwise contribute any part of the costs of acquiring a project and shall not have the power to use land already owned by the county, or in which the county has an equity, for construction thereon of a project or any part thereof, unless the county is fully reimbursed for the value of the land as may be determined by a current appraisal, or unless the county leases the land at an annual rental fee of not less than five percent of the appraised value. The entire cost of acquiring any project must be paid out of the proceeds from the sale of bonds issued under the authority of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act [4-60-1 to 4-60-15 NMSA 1978]; provided, that this provision shall not be construed to prevent a county from accepting donations of property to be used as a part of any project or money to be used for defraying any part of the cost of any project.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-60-10, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 10.

### **§ 4-60-11. Bonds made legal investments.**

Bonds issued under the provisions of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act [4-60-1 to 4-60-15 NMSA 1978] shall be legal investments for savings banks and insurance companies organized under the laws of this state and shall be eligible for pledging as collateral for public deposits.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-60-11, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 11.

### **§ 4-60-12. Exemption from taxation.**

The bonds authorized by the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act [4-60-1 to 4-

60-15 NMSA 1978] and the income from said bonds, all mortgages or other security instrument [instruments] executed as security for said bonds, all lease agreements made pursuant to the provisions hereof and revenue derived from any lease or sale by the county thereof shall be exempt from all taxation by New Mexico or any subdivision thereof.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-60-12, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 12.

### **§ 4-60-13. Proceedings for issuance and sale of bonds; no notice or publication required.**

Issuance and sale of bonds pursuant to the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act [4-60-1 to 4-60-15 NMSA 1978] shall be authorized by resolution adopted by the governing body of the county issuing said bonds, which resolution shall determine the maximum aggregate principal amount, maximum maturity and maximum interest rate of the bonds to be issued thereunder, and may provide for determinations to be made by resolution or resolutions adopted by said governing body with respect to the issuance of a lesser aggregate principal amount of bonds, the designation or substitution of a trustee for bondholders or depository or escrow agent for bonds proceeds, the issuance of bonds in one or more series and, with respect to any series of bonds, the principal amount, maturity or maturities, sinking fund provisions, redemption provisions, price or prices which may be at, above or below par, and interest rate or rates of the bonds of such series. The agreement of lease or sale securing the bonds of any series, and the execution and delivery thereof, may be authorized by resolution adopted by said governing body.

No notice, consent or approval by any governmental body or public officer shall be required as a prerequisite to the sale or issuance of any bonds or the making of a mortgage under the authority of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act, except as provided in that act.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-60-13, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 13.

### **§ 4-60-14. Construction of act.**

Neither the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act [4-60-1 to 4-60-15 NMSA 1978] nor anything herein contained shall be construed as a restriction or limitation upon any powers which a county might otherwise have under any laws of this state, but shall be construed as cumulative; and the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act shall not be construed as requiring an election by the voters of a county prior to the issuance of bonds hereunder by such county, and all other laws of the state relative to public contracts and properties shall have no application to projects or bonds issued under the provisions of the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act.

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-60-14, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 14.

### **§ 4-60-15. Limitation.**

Nothing contained in the County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act [4-60-1 to 4-60-15 NMSA 1978] shall be construed as repealing or amending the Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act [3-59-1 to 3-59-14 NMSA 1978].

History: 1978 Comp., § 4-60-15, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 16.

Emergency clauses. - Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 19, makes the act effective immediately. Approved March 6, 1978.

Validating clauses. - Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 15, provides that any action heretofore taken by any county which would have been valid if the act were in full force and effect when such action was taken is declared valid.

Severability clauses. - Laws 1978, ch. 181, § 17, provides for the severability of the act if any part or application thereof is held invalid.

## **Article 61**

### **Small Counties Assistance**

#### **§ 4-61-1. Short title.**

Sections 1 through 3 [4-61-1 to 4-61-3 NMSA 1978] of this act may be cited as the "Small Counties Assistance Act."

History: Laws 1982, ch. 44, § 1.

Effective dates. - Laws 1982, ch. 44, § 6, makes the act effective on July 1, 1982.

#### **§ 4-61-2. Definitions.**

As used in the Small Counties Assistance Act [4-61-1 to 4-61-3 NMSA 1978]:

A. "population" means the official population shown by the most recent federal decennial census or, if there is a change in boundaries after the date of the census, "population" for each affected unit shall be the most current estimated population for that unit provided in writing by the bureau of business and economic research at the university of New Mexico; provided that after five years from the first day of the calendar

year of the most recent federal decennial census, that census shall not be used, and "population" for the period from that date until the date when the next following official final decennial census population data are available shall be the most current estimated population provided in writing by the bureau of business and economic research at the university of New Mexico; and

B. "qualifying county" means a county that has:

(1) for the property tax year preceding the calendar year in which any distribution under the Small Counties Assistance Act is made to the county, imposed a property tax rate for general county purposes at least equal to the property tax rate authorized under Subparagraph (a) of Paragraph (1) of Subsection B of Section 7-37-7 NMSA 1978 as limited by Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978;

(2) by July 1 of the property tax year in which any distribution under the Small Counties Assistance Act is made to the county, received a written certification from the director of the property tax division of the taxation and revenue department that the county assessor of that county has implemented an acceptable program of maintaining current and correct property values for property taxation purposes as required by Section 7-36-16 NMSA 1978, or has submitted to the director an acceptable plan for the implementation of such a program; and

(3) on July 1 of the year in which any distribution under the Small Counties Assistance Act is made to the county, a population of not more than forty-two thousand five hundred.

History: Laws 1982, ch. 44, § 2; 1983, ch. 214, § 3; 1986, ch. 32, § 6; 1987, ch. 205, § 1.

The 1983 amendment substituted "forty-two thousand five hundred" for "thirteen thousand" in Subsection B(3).

The 1986 amendment, in Subsection B, deleted "maximum" before "property tax rate" and inserted "at the maximum rate authorized by that paragraph, as limited by Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978" in Paragraph (1) and deleted "subject to the provisions of Section 7-36-21.1 NMSA 1978" after "Section 7-36-16 NMSA 1978" in Paragraph (2).

The 1987 amendment, effective June 19, 1987, substituted "a property tax rate for general county purposes at least equal to the property tax rate authorized under Subparagraph (a) of Paragraph (1) of Subsection B of Section 7-37-7 NMSA 1978" for "the property tax rate for general county purposes authorized under Paragraph (1) of Subsection B of Section 7-37-7 NMSA 1978 at the maximum rate authorized by that paragraph."

Effective dates. - Subsection B of Laws 1983, ch. 214, § 10, makes § 3 of the act effective on July 1, 1984.

Laws 1986, ch. 32 contains no effective date provision, but, pursuant to N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23, is effective on May 21, 1986.

### **§ 4-61-3. Small counties assistance fund; distribution.**

A. The "small counties assistance fund" is created within the state treasury.

B. On July 1, 1982 and on July 1 of each year thereafter, the local government division of the department of finance and administration shall certify to the state treasurer the population of the state and the population of each county in the state.

C. On September 1, 1982 and on September 1 of each year thereafter, the local government division of the department of finance and administration shall certify to the state treasurer the following revenue amounts received by each qualifying county in the fiscal year ended on the preceding June 30:

(1) federal Taylor Grazing Act payments;

(2) property taxes for general county purposes imposed under the Property Tax Code [Articles 35 to 38 of Chapter 7 NMSA 1978] and taxes imposed under the Oil and Gas Ad Valorem Production Tax Act [Chapter 7, Article 32 NMSA 1978] and the Oil and Gas Production Equipment Ad Valorem Tax Act [Chapter 7, Article 34 NMSA 1978] for general county purposes;

(3) federal payments in lieu of taxes;

(4) federal forest reserve payments; and

(5) federal general revenue sharing payments.

D. On or before September 15, 1982 and on or before September 15 of each year thereafter, the state treasurer shall distribute to each qualifying county from the small counties assistance fund an amount certified to him by the director of the local government division of the department of finance and administration. The distribution to a qualifying county shall be an amount equal to the amount by which the product of multiplying a county's population by twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) exceeds thirty percent of the total of the revenue amounts certified for that county under Subsection C of this section subject to the following:

(1) if the calculated distribution exceeds one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000), it shall be reduced to one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000);

(2) if the calculated distribution for a first class county is:

(a) zero or less than zero or that county has a population of not more than twelve thousand five hundred, it shall be one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000); or

(b) greater than zero but less than one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000), it shall be increased to one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000);

(3) if the calculated distribution for a class C county is greater than zero but less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), or that county has a population of not more than twelve thousand five hundred, it shall be increased to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000); and

(4) if the calculated distribution for a class B county is greater than zero but less than seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000), or that county has a population of not more than twelve thousand five hundred it shall be increased to seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000).

E. If the balance in the small counties assistance fund as of the preceding August 31 is less than the sum of the distributions to be made to qualifying counties, then the director of the local government division of the department of finance and administration shall reduce each qualifying county's calculated distribution by a percentage computed by dividing the amount by which the fund is insufficient by the sum of all the calculated distributions, and he shall certify the reduced amounts as the qualifying counties' distributions.

F. Any interest accruing from the temporary investment of the small counties assistance fund prior to September 15 shall be credited to the general fund.

G. Immediately after distribution to qualifying counties from the small counties assistance fund, but no later than September 20 of each year, the unexpended or unencumbered balance in the fund shall revert to the general fund.

History: Laws 1982, ch. 44, § 3; 1983, ch. 214, § 4; 1984, ch. 24, § 1; 1987, ch. 205, § 2; 1988, ch. 104, § 1.

Cross-references. - As to distributions from tax administration suspense fund to small counties assistance fund, see 7-1-6.5 NMSA 1978.

The 1983 amendment, in Subsection D, substituted "fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000)" for "fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000)" twice in the second sentence.

The 1984 amendment added "and if the calculated distribution is zero and that county has a population of not more than eleven thousand five hundred it shall be fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000)" at the end of the second sentence in Subsection D.

The 1987 amendment, effective June 19, 1987, designated the formerly undesignated second paragraph of Subsection D as present Subsection E; redesignated former

Subsections E and F as present Subsections F and G; and, in Subsection D, added Paragraphs (1) through (4) and, in the second sentence in the introductory paragraph, substituted "subject to the following" for language relating to adjustments in the distribution.

The 1988 amendment, effective May 18, 1988, substituted "or" for "and" following "less than zero" and substituted "twelve thousand five hundred" for "eleven thousand five hundred" in Subsection D(2)(a) and inserted "or that county has a population of not more than twelve thousand five hundred" in Subsections D(3) and D(4).

Effective dates. - Laws 1982, ch. 44, § 6, makes the act effective on July 1, 1983.

Subsection A of Laws 1983, ch. 214, § 10, makes §§ 1, 2 and 4 to 7 of the act effective on July 1, 1983.

Laws 1984, ch. 24, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on February 16, 1984. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

Temporary provisions. - Laws 1984, ch. 24, § 3, provides that the local government division of the department of finance and administration shall certify to the taxation revenue department the amount calculated for distribution to qualifying counties in September 1984 pursuant to the Small County Assistance Act and provides that if that amount is greater than the amount available in the small counties assistance fund in August 1984, a distribution pursuant to 7-1-6.1 NMSA 1978 shall be made to the small counties assistance fund in the seventy-third fiscal year in an amount equal to the difference between the calculated distribution and the amount available in the fund.

Appropriations. - Laws 1987, ch. 159, § 1 appropriates \$100,000 from the small counties assistance fund to the local government division of the department of finance and administration for expenditure in the seventy-fifth fiscal year to provide emergency operating funds to Mora county, and further provide that any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of the seventy-fifth fiscal year shall revert to the small counties assistance fund.

Laws 1987, ch. 159, § 2 makes the act effective immediately. Approved April 7, 1987.

Taylor Grazing Act. - The Taylor Grazing Act is compiled in the United States Code as Title 43, § 315 et seq.

## **Article 62**

### **Revenue Bonds**

#### **§ 4-62-1. Counties; revenue bonds authorized.**



In addition to any other law authorizing a county to issue revenue bonds, a county may issue utility bonds, utility revenue bonds, joint utility revenue bonds, joint utility bonds, sales tax revenue bonds, gasoline tax revenue bonds and project revenue bonds.

History: Laws 1983, ch. 158, § 1.

Effective dates. - Laws 1983, ch. 158, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.

### **§ 4-62-2. Procedure for issuing bonds.**

The bonds authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of Section 1 [4-62-1 NMSA 1978] of this act shall be issued in accordance with the terms of Sections 3-31-1 through 3-31-12 NMSA 1978, as the same may from time to time be amended, except that no county shall issue revenue bonds pledging revenues the county does not collect or receive.

History: Laws 1983, ch. 158, § 2.

Effective dates. - Laws 1983, ch. 158, contains no effective date provision, but was enacted at the session which adjourned on March 19, 1983. See N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23.