

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

A JOINT RESOLUTION

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 1 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO ALLOW COUNTIES TO PETITION THE LEGISLATURE AND CONGRESS TO FORM A NEW STATE OR JOIN AN ADJOINING STATE.

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

SECTION 1. It is proposed to amend Article 1 of the constitution of New Mexico by adding a new section to read:

"In accordance with the provisions of Subsection A or B of this section, the legislature, as requested by the counties, in cooperation with the properly constituted authority of any adjoining state, is empowered to change, alter and redefine the state boundaries, such change, alteration and redefinition to become effective only upon approval of the congress of the United States.

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1 A. Counties wishing to form a new state will be
2 deemed to have obtained the consent of the legislature if the
3 following conditions are met and the same presented for
4 certification to the secretary of state:

5 (1) at least fifteen percent of the qualified
6 electors in each of at least three contiguous counties sign a
7 petition requesting the consent of the legislature to allow the
8 qualified electors of those counties to petition congress to be
9 admitted to the union as a new state; and

10 (2) the county commission of each of those
11 counties unanimously resolves to join with no less than two
12 other contiguous counties to form a new state and to petition
13 congress for admittance to the union as a new state.

14 B. Counties wishing to join an adjoining state will
15 be deemed to have obtained the consent of the legislature if
16 the following conditions are met and the same presented for
17 certification to the secretary of state:

18 (1) at least fifteen percent of the qualified
19 electors in each of at least three contiguous counties, one of
20 which must share a border with an adjoining state, sign a
21 petition requesting the consent of the legislature to allow the
22 qualified electors of those counties to petition congress,
23 after first petitioning and obtaining the consent of the
24 legislature of the adjoining state to become part of the
25 adjoining state; and

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(2) the county commission of each county
unanimously resolves to join with no less than two other
contiguous counties, one of which must share a border with an
adjoining state, and petition congress after first petitioning
and obtaining the consent of the legislature of the adjoining
state to become part of the adjoining state."

SECTION 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution
shall be submitted to the people for their approval or
rejection at the next general election or at any special
election prior to that date that may be called for that
purpose.