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Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver Applauds Passage of Same-Day and Automated Voter Registration

SANTA FE – Today, the New Mexico House of Representatives passed a bill that will improve New Mexico’s voter registration processes and help more eligible voters participate in their democracy. Senate Bill 672, sponsored by Senator Daniel Ivey-Soto, Senator Linda Lopez, and Representative Linda Trujillo, previously passed the Senate 24-16 and today passed the House 45-22. The bill will now return to the Senate for concurrence after amendments were added during the House floor debate.

“Registering to vote and casting a ballot still remains an obstacle for too many eligible voters and that’s why we need to continue improving our democratic processes,” said Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver. “Automated voter registration increases registration rates while helping to clean up voter rolls and saving the state money. This bill codifies New Mexico’s current automated voter registration system and will expand it to other state agencies beyond the MVD.”

Secretary Toulouse Oliver continued, “we will now join the 17 other states and the District of Columbia that offer same-day voter registration options to eligible voters. It’s simply easier for New Mexicans to fit voting into their busy lives when they can register and vote on the same day. I’ve long supported automated voter registration and same-day voter registration policies and I’m proud to see this bill heading to the governor’s desk. Many thanks to Senators Daniel Ivey-Soto and Linda Lopez and Representatives

Linda Trujillo and Daymon Ely, along with countless good government advocates, for their diligent work on this bill.”

Senate Bill 672 will allow eligible voters to register to vote or update their voter registration and then be issued a ballot for that election through Election Day, with different provisions for general and special elections. Voters will not be allowed to change party affiliations if they are updating their registrations on the same day they vote. These same-day registration services will only be performed by an authorized registration officer. Eligible voters will need to provide a physical form of identification if they wish to register or update their registration. With these procedures in place, New Mexico will join 17 other states and the District of Columbia – including our Western neighbors Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah – in offering same-day voter registration options to eligible voters.

The bill also expands upon existing procedures that already allow for automated voter registration through the MVD in New Mexico. Further, SB 672 requires the Human Services Department (HSD) and other state agencies to develop procedures to allow eligible voters to be registered to vote or have their existing voter record updated through their interaction with HSD or other state agencies.

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