

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL 222

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

AN ACT

RELATING TO JURISDICTION; REQUIRING TRAFFIC CITATIONS TO BE  
FILED IN THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE VIOLATION IS ALLEGED TO HAVE  
BEEN COMMITTED.

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 35-3-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1968,  
Chapter 62, Section 51, as amended) is amended to read:

"35-3-6. JURISDICTION--TERRITORIAL LIMITS.--

A. The territorial jurisdiction of a magistrate is  
coextensive with the magistrate district in which the  
magistrate serves. A magistrate also has jurisdiction in any  
criminal action involving violation of a law relating to motor  
vehicles arising in a magistrate district adjoining at any  
point that in which the magistrate serves and within magistrate  
trial jurisdiction; provided that the defendant ~~[is entitled to~~

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1 ~~a change of venue to the district where the cause of action~~  
2 ~~arose if the defendant so moves at, or within fifteen days~~  
3 ~~after, arraignment]~~ consents to a change of venue from the  
4 magistrate district where the cause of action arose.

5 B. A magistrate has jurisdiction to sit in any  
6 action arising in any other magistrate district when designated  
7 for a specific period of time by a district judge because of  
8 the unavailability of a magistrate in that magistrate district.  
9 A magistrate acting in another magistrate district by  
10 designation pursuant to this subsection shall include the cases  
11 heard by designation in the magistrate's own reports to the  
12 administrative office of the courts, indicating on the reports  
13 that the magistrate's jurisdiction is by designation.

14 C. In a criminal action in which a magistrate has  
15 territorial jurisdiction over the offense pursuant to this  
16 section, the magistrate court has personal jurisdiction over  
17 the defendant for the purpose of service of process upon the  
18 defendant wherever the defendant resides or may be found within  
19 the state.

20 D. In a civil action arising within the  
21 magistrate's territorial jurisdiction, the magistrate court has  
22 personal jurisdiction over the defendant for the purpose of  
23 service of process upon the defendant wherever the defendant  
24 resides or may be found within the state.

25 E. The territorial limitations of magistrate

1 court jurisdiction shall not apply to actions to enforce  
2 judgments entered in the magistrate district and writs issued  
3 in aid of those actions."

4 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
5 provisions of this act is July 1, 2015.

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