



The Legislature  
of the  
State of New Mexico

52nd Legislature, 1st Session

LAWS 2015

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSE BILL 89

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE YVETTE HERRELL

**POCKET VETOED**



ENDORSED BY THE COURTS, CORRECTIONS  
AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

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AN ACT  
RELATING TO COURT ADMINISTRATION; CREATING THE LANGUAGE ACCESS  
FUND TO PROVIDE FOR LANGUAGE ACCESS SERVICES IN THE COURTS.

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

SECTION 1. A new section of Chapter 34, Article 9 NMSA  
1978 is enacted to read:

"LANGUAGE ACCESS FUND--CREATED.--

A. There is created in the state treasury the  
"language access fund" to be administered by the  
administrative office of the courts.

B. All balances in the language access fund may be  
expended only upon appropriation by the legislature to the  
administrative office of the courts for the purpose of paying  
the costs of:

- (1) court interpreters;
- (2) operating and staffing the New Mexico  
center for language access to accomplish its mission to  
provide and support programs that will help courts obtain,  
improve or increase the availability of language access  
services;
- (3) operating and staffing language access  
services for the administrative office of the courts;
- (4) training for the purpose of enhancing  
language access services in the courts; and

1 (5) additional activities deemed necessary  
2 by the director of the administrative office of the courts to  
3 meet constitutional and statutory requirements for language  
4 access services in court and for court-related activities.

5 C. All fees and other revenue collected by the New  
6 Mexico Center for language access and interest earned on money  
7 in the language access fund shall be credited to the fund.  
8 Payments shall be made upon certification by judicial agencies  
9 of eligible amounts. No part of the fund shall revert at the  
10 end of any fiscal year.

11 D. Payments from the language access fund shall be  
12 made upon vouchers issued and signed by the director of the  
13 administrative office of the courts or the director's designee  
14 upon warrants drawn by the secretary of finance and  
15 administration."

16 SECTION 2. Section 34-9-11 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1993,  
17 Chapter 106, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

18 "34-9-11. JURY AND WITNESS FEE FUND CREATED--  
19 ADMINISTRATION--DISTRIBUTION.--

20 A. There is created in the state treasury the  
21 "jury and witness fee fund" to be administered by the  
22 administrative office of the courts.

23 B. All balances in the jury and witness fee fund  
24 may be expended only upon appropriation by the legislature to  
25 the administrative office of the courts for the purpose of

1 paying the costs of:

- 2 (1) jurors and prospective jurors;
- 3 (2) witnesses of fact or character
- 4 subpoenaed by the court, the prosecution or the defense;
- 5 (3) expert witnesses for grand juries and
- 6 magistrate courts; and
- 7 (4) defending persons whom the court has
- 8 ordered the public defender to represent, when those persons
- 9 do not meet the public defender's indigency standards.

10 C. All jury fees that the courts collect from

11 parties requesting civil juries, except for jury demand fees

12 as set forth in Section 35-6-1 NMSA 1978, and interest earned

13 on money in the jury and witness fee fund shall be credited to

14 the fund. Payments shall be made upon certification by

15 judicial agencies of eligible amounts. No part of the fund

16 shall revert at the end of any fiscal year.

17 D. Payments from the jury and witness fee fund

18 shall be made upon vouchers issued and signed by the director

19 of the administrative office of the courts or the director's

20 designee upon warrants drawn by the secretary of finance and

21 administration." \_\_\_\_\_

S/ DON TRIPP  
DON TRIPP, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

S/ DENISE RAMONAS  
DENISE RAMONAS, CHIEF CLERK  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

S/ JOHN A. SANCHEZ  
JOHN A. SANCHEZ, PRESIDENT  
SENATE

S/ LENORE M. NARANJO  
LENORE M. NARANJO, CHIEF CLERK  
SENATE

Approved by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

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SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO