

from the first Tuesday in February to the second Tuesday in November. However, because it conflicts with House Bill 290, which requires physical residence in the school district before running for a school board position, I will not sign this bill into law.

S 277 AMEND OPTOMETRY ACT

March 18, 1997

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 6

I have this day VETOED and am returning SENATE BILL 277, as amended, with certificate of correction, enacted by the Forty-Third Legislature, First Session, 1997.

I believe as Governor, I have the responsibility to ensure that the quality of care that our citizens have come to rely upon is maintained and/or improved. The evidence presented to date, which supports the arguments both for and against this bill, is so diametric that I cannot in good conscience sign this bill. As advances in medicine and the medical practice continue to accelerate, New Mexico and other states will seek to set policies that reflect these changes. As we make these changes, we cannot sacrifice the integrity of our medical system and the safety of our people.

S 342 REPEAL MEDICAID ESTATE RECOVERY ACT

April 9, 1997

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 27

I have this day VETOED and am returning SENATE BILL 342, enacted by the Forty-Third Legislature, First Session, 1997.

Under federal law, the New Mexico Human Services Department's Medicaid program must seek reimbursement from the estates of certain deceased Medicaid beneficiaries, as a creditor of their estates. The Medicaid Recovery Act was enacted in the 1994 Legislative Session in order to comply with this federal mandate. Senate Bill 342 attempts to restrict the department's authority to seek such estate recoveries by repealing this important cost recovery tool.