

Legislative Council Service

Information Memorandum

DATE: May 14, 2018

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Raúl E. Burciaga

SUBJECT: INTERIM COMMITTEE REMINDERS — 2018

The information below is a summary of reminders for all interim committees.

Tentative Interim Calendar

Each year, the New Mexico Legislative Council (Council) directs the Legislative Council Service (LCS) to develop an interim committee calendar with minimal meeting day conflicts for voting members. The LCS has also tried to keep the number of meeting days for each committee to the same number as in recent years to help reduce conflicts and to stay within budget.

Committees are expected to terminate their work on or before December 1. Any requests for changes to the proposed meeting days are subject to review and approval by the Council.

Voting and Committee Action

Generally, committees take action through consensus for less controversial issues, e.g., when requesting additional information from presenters, LCS staff or others. Formal committee action for things like approval of minutes or endorsement of proposed legislation should be done by majority vote. Once a quorum has been established, it is maintained unless challenged by a voting member of the committee or disclosed by a roll call. In the absence of a quorum, the committee can meet as a special subcommittee but cannot take formal committee action other

than hearing matters previously scheduled and reporting to the full committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting. A special subcommittee can convene in one of two ways: 1) counting advisory members and legislators attending the meeting as one of their five extra days to attain the number required for a quorum but only to act as a special subcommittee; or 2) a chair, co-chair or vice chair plus four voting members (two from each house representing each of the two political parties having the most members in each house).

Blocking Provision

For most committees, no action shall be taken by the committee if a majority of the total membership from either house on the committee rejects the action. However, this "blocking provision" does not apply to the Mortgage Finance Authority Act Oversight Committee, the New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee or the Tobacco Settlement Revenue Oversight Committee.

Meeting Outside the State Capitol

Travel outside the State Capitol for interim committees is limited to July, August and September. Council policy states that Council-created committees and committees whose work plans are subject to Council approval shall not meet outside the State Capitol after September 30 without Council approval.

Attending Other Committee Meetings

For meetings beginning on or after July 1, a legislator may be reimbursed for attending up to five meeting days of an interim committee of which the legislator is not a member, provided that approval is obtained from the speaker or the president pro tempore. These additional days are subject to the availability of funds. The legislator must first contact the Office of the Speaker or the Office of the President Pro Tempore, which will notify the LCS to ensure that the number of extra meeting days for the legislator has not already been met and to ensure that the approval is given in advance of the meeting.