MINUTES
of the
FIFTH MEETING
of the
ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEE

October 20-21, 2026
State Capitol, Room 322
Santa Fe

The fifth meeting of the Economic and Rural Development and Policy Committee was called to order by Representative Doreen Gallegos, chair, on October 20, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 322 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos, Chair
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Sen. Pat Boone
Sen. Crystal Brantley (10/21)
Rep. Martha Garcia
Rep. Anita Gonzales (10/20)*
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom (10/20)*
Rep. Marian Matthews
Sen. Micaelita Debbie O'Malley (10/21)
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto (10/20)
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Sen. Linda Serrato
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

Absent
Sen. Angel M. Charley, Vice Chair
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Jay C. Block
Rep. Nicole Chavez
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez
Sen. Antonio Maestas
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. Sarah Silva
Rep. Martin R. Zamora

Advisory Members
Sen. Natalie Figueroa
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Sen. Steve D. Lanier (10/20)
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Sen. William E. Sharer
Sen. Heather Berghmans
Rep. Catherine J. Cullen
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. Jenifer Jones
Rep. Raymundo Lara
Rep. Charlotte Little
Rep. Stefani Lord
Rep. Jimmy G. Mason
Rep. Rod Montoya
Rep. Mark B. Murphy
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez
Sen. Nicole Tobiassen
Sen. James G. Townsend

Guest Legislator
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson

(Attendance dates are noted for those members not present for the entire meeting.)

*Appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives or the president pro tempore of the senate as a voting member for this meeting only.

Staff
Lisa Rivera Morrison, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Erin Bond, Researcher, LCS
Marisa Garcia-Hart, Records Officer, LCS

Minutes Approval
Because the committee will not meet again this year, the minutes for this meeting have not been officially approved by the committee.

Guests
The guest list in the meeting file.

Handouts
Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast
The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Tuesday, October 20

Welcome and Introductions (9:39 a.m.)
Representative Gallegos called the meeting to order, and committee members introduced themselves.

Insurance: Availability and Rising Costs for New Mexico Residents

Homeowners Insurance: Risks, Mitigation, Challenges and Opportunities (9:43 a.m.)
Michael Richmond-Crum, senior director, Personal Lines and Counsel, American Property Casualty Insurance Association; Julie Rochman, retired president and chief

executive officer (CEO), Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety; and Mike Morris, agent, State Farm, discussed how the prices of home insurance are set. They noted that factors such as inflated construction and repair costs and increased losses due to wildfires have driven insurance prices up in recent years and advised homeowners and legislators to take action to reduce insurance costs.

Auto Insurance: Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Protection, Coverage Challenges and Solutions (10:49 a.m.)

Chelsea Stallings, southwest regional vice president, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies; Raymond Calderon, agent, Farmers Insurance; and Ann Maloney Conway, insurance defense attorney, Jennings Haug Keleher McLeod Waterfall LLP, reviewed how case law relating to auto insurance confuses consumers and causes an increase in uninsured and underinsured motorists. They offered options to reduce confusion, such as creating a standard form for consumers and developing statutes to match case law. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=10/20/2026&ItemNumber=1.

Stand Insurance: An Innovative Approach to Addressing the Affordability of Property Insurance in Disaster-Prone Areas (11:37 a.m.)

Dan Preston, CEO and co-founder, Stand Insurance, and Ahmed Zaeem, chief of staff, Stand Insurance, spoke on how Stand Insurance can model a property and simulate a house fire on the property. Based on the results of the simulation, the model suggests repairs or changes that may decrease the cost of insuring the home. They proposed that Stand Insurance could be used as part of a property insurance hardening program housed at the Office of Superintendent of Insurance. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=10/20/2026&ItemNumber=2.

Patient's Compensation Fund (1:11 p.m.)

Christian Myers, chief actuary, Office of Superintendent of Insurance; Troy Clark, president and CEO, New Mexico Hospital Association; and William Ritchie, M.D., orthopedist, New Mexico Orthopaedic Associates, reviewed the Patient's Compensation Fund's impacts on medical malpractice claims and insurance rates in New Mexico since House Bill 99 (2026) went into effect. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=10/20/2026&ItemNumber=3.

Legislative Framework — Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) (2:31 p.m.)

Greg Trujillo, executive director, PERA, and Anthony Montoya, general counsel, PERA, reviewed the PERA's role in managing and investing state employee retirement funds. They noted possible reforms to the PERA, including making a one-time appropriation to increase the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to attempt to match inflation, addressing fund solvency, providing tax relief for pension recipients and expanding automatic COLAs. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=10/20/2026&ItemNumber=4.

Approval of Minutes (3:08 p.m.)

On a motion made and passed unanimously, the committee adopted the minutes of the September 8-9, 2026 meeting.

Cannabis Update (3:09 p.m.)

Clay Bailey, superintendent, Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD), and Kevin Graham, general counsel, RLD, discussed cannabis licensing and revenues from April 1, 2022 to August 31, 2026. They noted the Cannabis Control Division's work in compliance via New Mexico Seed-to-Sale, inspections by compliance officers and investigations by the Enforcement Bureau of the RLD. Representative Gallegos thanked the superintendent for his service. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=10/20/2026&ItemNumber=5.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 3:44 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:26 a.m. Ethan Watson, director, LCS, introduced himself as the new director of the LCS. Representative Gallegos welcomed him to the meeting and expressed a desire for swifter legislation drafting.

Investment and Finance In New Mexico (9:31 a.m.)

Conrad Ciccotello, Ph.D., senior consultant, Charles River Associates, and former professor, University of Denver, and David W. Blass, partner, Simpson Thacher and Bartlett LLP, reviewed the financial and legal underpinnings of public equity and how

private equity can finance businesses or attempt to create value via restructuring companies. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=10/20/2026&ItemNumber=6.

Scaling Work with Indigenous Entrepreneurs Report (10:35 a.m.)

Elizabeth J. Kuutilla, CEO and chief economic development officer, University of New Mexico (UNM) Rainforest Innovations; Cecilia Becenti, economic development specialist, UNM Rainforest Innovations; and Vanessa Roanhorse, CEO, Roanhorse Consulting, spoke on diversifying New Mexico's economy by supporting entrepreneurs and the importance of tribal liaisons in the New Mexico Tribal Entrepreneurship Enhancement Program. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=10/20/2026&ItemNumber=7.

Support for Entrepreneurs Across New Mexico (11:12 a.m.)

Lindsey Kay, president and CEO, Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team (WESST), and Javier Rios, chief programs officer, WESST, discussed how WESST assists entrepreneurs and small businesses in New Mexico, including with lending programs and training programs on business essentials. They requested that the legislature create a $600,000 annual matching fund to help WESST and small businesses access federal funds. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=10/20/2026&ItemNumber=8.

Residential Property Tax Classification and Modernization of Local Tax Collection (11:48 a.m.)

Ricco Miguel Garcia, public policy, Airbnb, discussed Airbnb's legislative priorities: protecting the residential property tax classification for New Mexico homeowners who use their homes as short-term rentals and establishing a statewide requirement for booking platforms to collect local lodging taxes at the point of sale. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=10/20/2026&ItemNumber=9.

Representative Gallegos thanked Representatives Matthews and Murphy for their service on the committee and in the legislature.

Universal Child Care (1:11 p.m.)

Hailey Heinz, Ph.D., director, Policy, Research and Quality Initiatives, Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD); Ismael Torres, chief economist, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC); and Kelly Klundt, deputy director of administration, LFC, reviewed the ECECD's work in developing and funding universal child care in New Mexico. Mr. Torres and Ms. Klundt cautioned that the current rate of spending likely means that the Early Childhood Education and Care Fund will peak in 2030 and be emptied by 2048 unless the legislature takes action in the next three legislative sessions. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=10/20/2026&ItemNumber=10.

Economic and Structural Barriers Limiting Housing Production (1:57 p.m.)

Miles Conway, CEO and executive vice president, New Mexico Home Builders Association, and Josh Rogers, partner, Titan Development, discussed the challenges that builders and developers face that may contribute to New Mexico's housing shortage, such as taxation on materials, labor and the builder's fees and inflated construction costs requiring higher rents than rural New Mexico residents can afford. They introduced the Housing Abundance Coalition and its policy recommendations for the 2027 legislative session. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=10/20/2026&ItemNumber=11.

Recommendations to Promote Transparency, Fairness and Workforce Protections While Promoting Industrial Growth (2:38 p.m.)

Bronwen Murray, executive director, Colorado and New Mexico Locals, Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, and Myra Lacy, graduate student, Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University, spoke on the work performed by the New Mexico Film and Media Task Force as requested by House Memorial 17 (2026). They recommended that the New Mexico Film Office take actions to protect child safety and welfare, as there are documented cases of an individual taking payments to assist child actors' careers without delivering services. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=10/20/2026&ItemNumber=12.

Consideration of Legislation for Endorsement (2:52 p.m.)

Representative Serrato discussed legislation on artificial intelligence regulation that she intends to introduce during the 2027 legislative session.

Public Comment (3:14 p.m.)

A list of individuals who made public comment is available in the meeting file.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.