

2025 Session: Water and Natural Resources Committee-relevant legislation

Passed by both chambers and signed by governor:

HOUSE BILL (HB) 41 — PUBLIC PROJECT FUND APPROPRIATIONS (Rep. Cates)

- Appropriating \$6,250,000 to the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund for fiscal year 2026 and subsequent fiscal years to provide matching funds for federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 projects and to carry out the purposes of the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Act.

HB 91 — PUBLIC UTILITY RATE STRUCTURES (Rep. Ortez, Rep. Roybal Caballero, Sen. Stewart, Rep. Lujan)

- Allowing for additional rate structures; and
- restricting a public utility from establishing unreasonable differences as to rates of service between localities or classes of service, except in the case of economic development rates and rates designed to retain load or reduce energy cost burden on low-income customers.

HB 93 — ADVANCED GRID TECHNOLOGY PLANS (Rep. Ortez, Sen. Padilla, Rep. Roybal Caballero)

- Providing for inclusion of Advanced Grid Technology (AGT) projects by public utilities when filing an application for approval of grid modernization projects by the Public Regulation Commission and in integrated resource plans and reports of distribution cooperative utilities;
- allowing utilities to recover from customers costs for AGT projects; and
- permitting the generation and distribution of self-sourced power.

HB 113 — ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM AND TRUST FUND (Rep. Lujan, Rep. Szczepanski, Rep. Sanchez, Rep. Borrego, Sen. Cervantes)

- Providing funding for projects that support the welfare of domestic cats and dogs;
- creating the Animal Welfare Program Fund; and
- requiring the Department of Finance and Administration to promulgate rules to administer the fund and submit a report on the program each year to the Legislative Finance Committee.

HB 128 — NEW MEXICO FINANCE AUTHORITY (NMFA) LOCAL SOLAR ACCESS FUND (Rep. Szczepanski, Sen. Pope, Rep. Roybal Caballero, Rep. Lujan, Rep. Joseph Franklin Hernandez)

- Creating the Local Solar Access Fund in the NMFA to provide grants for solar energy systems.

HB 137 — STRATEGIC WATER SUPPLY ACT (Rep. Herrera, Sen. Muñoz, Rep. Montoya, Rep. Lara, Sen. Brandt)

- Creating the Strategic Water Supply Program and the Strategic Water Supply Fund;
- authorizing the Department of Environment (NMED) and the Office of the State Engineer to enter into contracts and award grants for projects involving brackish water that enhance the state's fresh water resources; and
- providing Strategic Water Supply Program eligibility requirements and requirements before a person drills or recompletes existing wells to appropriate waters.

HB 140 — "HAZARDOUS WASTE CONSTITUENT" DEFINITION (Rep. Chandler, Sen. Steinborn)

- Amending the definition of "hazardous waste" in the Hazardous Waste Act; and
- authorizing the Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) to adopt rules for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances that are designated hazardous waste.

HB 159 — ENERGY PROJECT SITING AND MILITARY BASES (Rep. Sariñana, Sen. Pope, Rep. Alan T. Martinez)

- Requiring developers or owners of renewable energy or other projects to notify the chair of the Military Base Planning Commission of the submission of a notice of proposed construction or alteration to the Federal Aviation Administration.

HB 175 — FOREST AND WATERSHED BUFFER PROJECTS (Rep. Vincent, Rep. Ortez, Rep. Terrazas, Rep. Dow)

- Amending the Forest and Watershed Restoration Act to include projects for buffers in and around wildland-urban interfaces eligible for funding from the Forest Land Protection Revolving Fund.

***HB 206 — NMFA WATER PROJECT FUND PROJECTS** (Rep. Herrera, Rep. Lundstrom, Rep. Lara, Rep. Ortez, Rep. Zamora)

- Authorizing the NMFA to make loans or grants from the Water Project Fund for certain water projects.

HB 212 — PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES PROTECTION ACT (Rep. Ferrary, Rep. Sariñana, Rep. Hochman-Vigil, Rep. Cates, Sen. Steinborn)

- Authorizing the EIB to adopt rules prohibiting certain products that contain an intentionally added per- or polyfluoroalkyl substance; and
- requiring disclosure and testing of such products sold or distributed in the state.

HB 240 — DRINKING WATER SYSTEM GRANTS AND LOANS (Rep. Herrera, Rep. Ortez, Rep. Hochman-Vigil, Rep. Gonzales, Rep. Silva)

- Allowing the NMFA to provide grants for construction or rehabilitation of drinking water facilities and requiring the NMFA and the NMED to provide annual reports on the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund.

HB 291 — RECYCLING AND STATE'S CIRCULAR ECONOMY (Rep. Andrea Romero, Sen. Steinborn and Rep. Lujan)

- Amending the Recycling and Illegal Dumping Act to promote the state's circular economy; and
- requiring the EIB to adopt procedures for a person to submit rules to the EIB for adoption.

HB 295 — TAX ON PROPERTY OWNED BY NM RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY (RETA) (Rep. Small, Rep. Parajón)

- Making improvements on land owned by the RETA exempt from property tax as long as the RETA holds title to the property.

*HB 308 — REMOVE MRGCD FROM LOCAL ELECTION ACT (Rep. Lente, Rep. Armstrong, Sen. Woods)

- Removing conservancy districts from the Local Election Act; and
- providing timing and other procedures for conservancy district elections.

HB 361 — ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT (EMNRD) CONVERSION OF CERTAIN WELLS (Rep. Andrea Romero)

- Providing that the EMNRD may authorize the conversion of an oil or gas well into an energy storage or geothermal facility.

HB 431 — APPOINTMENT OF WATERSHED BOARDS (Rep. Dow, Rep. Armstrong, Rep. Herrera)

- Amending the Watershed District Act to provide for the appointment of, instead of elections for, boards of directors of watershed districts.

HB 458 — CARBON DIOXIDE STORAGE STEWARDSHIP ACT (Rep. Dixon, Sen. Sharer, Rep. Chatfield, Rep. Small and Sen. Lanier)

- Creating a fund, providing rulemaking authority to the Oil Conservation Division of the EMNRD and permitting transfer of stewardship of carbon dioxide storage to the state.

HB 553 — TIMBER GRADING ACT (Rep. Vincent, Sen. Gonzales, Rep. Mason, Rep. Gallegos and Rep. Dixon)

- Providing for in-state structural timber grading certificates and the use of timber graded and labeled in-state.

SENATE BILL (SB) 5 — GAME COMMISSION REFORM (Sen. Campos, Sen. Wirth, Rep. McQueen, Sen. Brantley, Rep. Small)

Partial Veto

- Reforming the State Game Commission appointment process and setting term limits;
- ~~adding requirements for appointment and removal of commissioners; requiring notice of hearing to commissioners facing removal and opportunity to be heard; providing the State Ethics Commission with the right of action in district courts to remove a commissioner and direct right of appeal of the district court's decision to the State Supreme Court;~~
- creating the State Wildlife Commission Nominating Committee;
- renaming the Department of Game and Fish as the Department of Wildlife and the State Game Commission as the State Wildlife Commission;
- expanding the management of wildlife; and
- providing for licensing fee adjustments to account for inflation, adding licensing fees and types and providing discounts for residents who receive SNAP benefits.
- The governor said regarding her partial veto that the provision she struck displaced her constitutional authority to remove a commissioner.

SB 7 — STORM WATER SERVICE AS MUNICIPAL UTILITY (Sen. Sharer)

- Authorizing municipalities to acquire, operate and maintain a municipal utility to provide for storm water service and charge a fee or advance payment for the storm water service.

SB 8 — VETERINARY MEDICAL LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (Sen. Woods, Rep. Lujan, Sen. Boone, Rep. Gonzales, Rep. Vincent)

- Enacting and establishing selection criteria and eligibility requirements for the Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment program, allowing cancellation of contracts in certain circumstances and requiring annual reporting by the Higher Education Department.

SB 9 — PIPELINE SAFETY ACT VIOLATIONS CIVIL PENALTY (Sen. Soules)

- Enhancing civil penalties for violation of the Pipeline Safety Act to conform to federal guidelines for oil and gas operations.

SB 21 — POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM ACT (Sen. Wirth, Rep. Ortez, Sen. Gonzales)

- Providing for certain Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) rules relating to regulation of pollution and allowing for the denial of permits that would contribute to water contaminant levels in excess of downstream state or tribal water quality standards;
- creating the Neglected and Contaminated Sites Fund and revising the Water Quality Management Fund; and
- providing for general permit coverage for multiple dischargers, requiring permits for discharges into waters of the United States and requiring the WQCC to adopt rules for the discharge program.

SB 23 — OIL AND GAS ROYALTY RATE CHANGES (Sen. Muñoz, Sen. Stefanics, Rep. McQueen, Rep. Javier Martínez)

- Setting the royalty rate on future oil and gas development leases on certain state trust lands to enhance revenue for beneficiaries.

*SB 31 — ZERO-INTEREST NATURAL DISASTER LOANS (Sen. Campos, Rep. Sanchez, Rep. Gonzales, Rep. Vincent)

- Establishes the Natural Disaster Revolving Fund and appropriates funds to provide zero-interest loans to political subdivisions of the state and electric cooperatives approved for Federal Emergency Management Agency public assistance following a federally declared natural disaster.

***SB 33 — WILDFIRE PREPARED ACT** (Sen. Stefanics, Rep. Vincent, Rep. Ortez, Rep. Gonzales)

- Adding members and duties to the Fire Planning Task Force; and
- creating the Wildfire Prepared Program and the Wildfire Prepared Fund.

SB 37 — STRATEGIC WATER RESERVE FUND (Sen. Stefanics, Rep. Dixon, Rep. McQueen, Sen. Wirth)

- Creating the Strategic Water Reserve Fund to be administered by the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) to assist in water management and conservation efforts designed to support aquifer recharge or reduce ground water depletion; and
- allowing the ISC to prioritize water transactions that provide supplementary benefits.

SB 48 — COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND (Sen. Stewart, Rep. Szczepanski)

- Creating the Community Benefit Fund to fund projects that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase electric grid capacity, resilience or reliability through grid modernization, increase electricity from renewable energy resources or reduce the use of combustion engine vehicles.

SB 100 — INDEBTEDNESS LIMIT OF ARROYO FLOOD CONTROL (Sen. Tobiassen, Rep. Borrego)

- Increasing the limit of outstanding indebtedness of the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority.

SB 101 — INCREASE CERTAIN LIVESTOCK FEES (Sen. Woods, Sen. Muñoz, Rep. Chatfield)

- Increasing fees for services relating to livestock.

SB 169 — STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SITE READINESS (Sen. Padilla, Rep. Dixon, Rep. Joshua A. Hernandez, Sen. Brandt, Rep. Garratt)

- Enacting the Strategic Economic Development Site Readiness Act to allow the Economic Development Department (EDD) to enter into contracts with public or private partners for site characterization studies of proposed economic development sites;
- creating the Strategic Economic Development Site Advisory Committee and setting duties;
- requiring action from the secretary of economic development after reviewing site characterization studies that have been reviewed by the committee; and
- creating the Site Readiness Fund and requiring annual reporting by the EDD.

SB 357 — ESSENTIAL SERVICES DEVELOPMENT ACT (Sen. Hamblen, Sen. Thornton, Rep. Chandler, Sen. Paul)

- Allowing state support for infrastructure projects that allow access to internet, energy, water and wastewater services primarily for residential purposes.

*SB 383 — FLOOD RECOVERY BONDS AND GROSS RECEIPTS (Sen. Ezzell)

- Providing for the issuance of flood recovery revenue bonds for rebuilding, repairing, replacing and improving municipal property damaged by a flood; and
- creating a municipal flood recovery gross receipts tax for payment of bonds.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 1 — FOREST RESTORATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Sen. Padilla)

- Requesting the EMNRD and the EDD to jointly study and make recommendations to expedite forest restoration through economic development in New Mexico.

SENATE MEMORIAL (SM 2) — WILDFIRE STUDY GROUP (Sen. Woods)

- Requesting the New Mexico Legislative Council to direct the creation of a Wildfire Study Group to develop a comprehensive approach to address and mitigate wildfires.

SM 19 — NEW MEXICO MEAT, CHEESE AND PRODUCE IN SCHOOLS (Sen. Brantley, Sen. Boone, Sen. Ezzell, Sen. Woods)

- Requesting the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and the Public Education Department (PED) to convene a work group to develop a plan in which 50% of beef, cheese and milk served in public schools originates from and is processed in-state.

SM 22 — K-12 WATER CONSERVATION CURRICULUM (Sen. Gonzales)

- Requesting the PED to study the feasibility of developing a Water Conservation and Management curriculum to be incorporated in K-12 education.

March 20, 2025

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 11

The Honorable Mimi Stewart, President Pro Tempore
and Members of the New Mexico State Senate
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

President Pro Tempore Stewart and Members of the Senate:

I appreciate the Legislature's efforts on SENATE BILL 5, as amended ("SB 5"), which enacts substantial reforms to the Department of Game and Fish, the State Game Commission, and our wildlife laws. Unfortunately, however, in the Legislature's zeal to further weaken the chief official of a coordinate branch of the government, SB 5 has spawned a serious problem that threatens to cripple the State Game Commission.

Currently, members of the Commission may be promptly removed by the Governor. *See* N.M. Const. art. V, § 5; NMSA 1978, § 17-1-2 (1991). As drafted, it appears SB 5 requires that commissioners may only be removed after the State Ethics Commission files an action in district court, with the possibility of an appeal to the Supreme Court.¹ The same goes for determining whether a vacancy on the Commission exists. This change unnecessarily complicates and lengthens the removal process. Given the many pressing matters addressed by district courts and the Supreme Court, it would take years to remove even the most blatantly incompetent or corrupt individuals—allowing those individuals to continue to hinder or corrupt the Commission in the interim.

Good governance demands accountability and responsiveness. Requiring lengthy judicial proceedings for removal (or determining the existence of a vacancy) could paralyze the Commission's work in situations where prompt action is needed to address gross misconduct or ensure proper functioning. The proposed process is cumbersome and undermines the Executive's ability to uphold the integrity of the Commission in a timely manner.

¹ Both the Attorney General and the State Ethics Commission have pointed out that this provision is poorly drafted and creates quite a bit of ambiguity—which will inevitably lead to costly litigation when a member of the Commission is removed. *See Fiscal Impact Report*, Legislative Fin. Comm. (Mar. 8, 2025), <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/firs/SB0005.PDF>. This is another issue with SB 5.

As our Supreme Court observed long ago:

[T]he Constitution makers thought that a person who could be trusted to fill the office of Governor could be trusted to deal fairly with office holders whom he [or she] was empowered to appoint, and that cases might arise where prompt action was necessary for the public good, and that it was not wise to tie the hands of the Governor when such action might well work to the detriment of the state.

State ex rel. Ulrick v. Sanchez, 1926-NMSC-060, ¶ 41, 32 N.M. 265, 255 P. 1077. I agree. Rather than tie our hands with a lengthy and complex legal process, we should continue to allow the person that New Mexican voters entrusted to “take care that the laws be faithfully executed,” N.M. Const. art. V, § 4, to promptly hold members of the State Game Commission accountable.

To be clear, this concern has nothing to do with me, as I am nearing the end of my second consecutive term in Office, and I doubt this issue will arise before I depart. My concern is for the public good. And the public is best served without the confusing, lengthy, and costly removal process contained in SB 5.

Thankfully, it is unnecessary to veto SB 5 in toto. As SB 5 appropriates money, it is subject to line-item veto pursuant to Article IV, Section 22 of the New Mexico Constitution. *See* Letter from Elizabeth A. Glenn, Deputy Attorney General, to Raul E. Burciaga, Director of the Legislative Council Service (Mar. 16, 2011), 2011 WL 1587745.

Accordingly, I this day SIGN and RETURN:

SENATE BILL 5, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Seventh Legislature, First Session, 2025, except the following item or items, part or parts, which I hereby veto pursuant to the authority granted me in Article IV, Section 22 of the New Mexico Constitution:

On page 5, I have vetoed the semi-colon and the language following the semi-colon on line 4, all of lines 5-17, and the word “appealed” through the word “court” on line 18. This is necessary to remove the offending provision discussed above. With this language stricken, I am pleased to sign SB 5 into law. My signature on SB 5 is contingent upon the effectiveness of this line-item veto. If this line-item veto is determined to be invalid or void by a court of law, then my signature shall be null and void and this veto shall be interpreted to apply to SB 5 as a whole.

Respectfully yours,

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Passed by both chambers and NOT signed by governor:

HOUSE BILL (HB) 191 — WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION AND PREPAREDNESS FUNDS

(Rep. Small)

Vetoed

- Amending the Forest Conservation Act and creating the Wildfire Suppression Fund and the Post-Wildfire Fund.

HB 219 — SLOT CANYON RIVERLANDS STATE PARK (Rep. Small, Sen. Steinborn,

Rep. Ferrary)

Vetoed

- Providing for the development and designation of Slot Canyon Riverlands State Park as a new state park; and
- restricting the sale, trade, barter or exchange of holdings in certain parcels of the park.

HB 284 — FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND THE LIVESTOCK CODE (Rep. McQueen,

Sen. Woods)

Pocket Vetoed

- Allowing fertility control, relocation and adoption of free-roaming horses in certain cases;
- allowing the implementation of free-roaming horse herd management on certain land;
- requiring the New Mexico Livestock Board to approve the qualifications of a free-roaming horse expert; and
- prohibiting the slaughter or export for slaughter of free-roaming horses.

SENATE BILL (SB) 109 — PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION (PRC) AND

SUPPORTING AGENCY (Sen. Soules)

Pocket Vetoed

- Distinguishing between the PRC and the agency that supports the commission; and
- clarifying agency duties.

SB 142 — GRID MODERNIZATION ROADMAP (Sen. Muñoz, Rep. Dixon)

Vetoed

- Requiring the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department and the PRC to develop a roadmap for grid modernization; and
- adding school districts and charter schools as eligible locations for proposed projects.

April 11, 2025

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 23

The Honorable Javier Martínez, Speaker of the House and
Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Honorable Speaker Martínez and Members of the House:

I have decided to veto HOUSE APPROPRIATION & FINANCE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL 191 (“HB 191”), which would have created two wildfire-related permanent funds, only one of which the Legislature “funded” with a meager one-time \$12 million appropriation.

The wildfire suppression fund is a good idea on its face. However, the Legislature did not provide any money for it, instead requiring all federal reimbursements for wildfire suppression costs or out-of-state assignments for state crews to be deposited into the fund. Given the snail’s pace of federal reimbursements—which have only gotten slower in recent months—relying on that funding stream does not set this program up for success. I will, however, require the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department’s Forestry Division and the State Fire Marshal’s Office to collaborate on outreach to the public to educate homeowners on effective means to minimize the risk to private property from wildfires.

The post-wildfire fund received only a one-time \$12 million appropriation. Put simply, that is not nearly enough money to even put a dent in post-fire recovery operations. For example, the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management estimates that the cost for post-fire recovery from fires and related floods in 2024 will exceed \$200,000,000 for Ruidoso alone.

Notably, however, I did sign Senate Bill 33, the Wildfire Prepared Act. That bill created a Fire Planning Task Force that will develop guidelines and eligibility criteria for the Wildfire Prepared Program over the next several months. The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department will be able to submit a budget request for a grant program and staff to administer the program, achieving similar objectives to HB 191.

I fully support a revamped process to fund both pre- and post-wildfire maintenance. I hope the Legislature will provide a meaningful way to accomplish that goal during the 2026 legislative session.

Because of these issues, and pursuant to my authority under Article IV, Section 22 of the New Mexico Constitution, I have vetoed HOUSE APPROPRIATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL 191, enacted by the Fifty-Seventh Legislature, First Session, 2025.

Respectfully yours,

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.
Date: _____ 2025

By _____
Secretary of State

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.
Date: _____ 2025

By _____
Chief Clerk of the House

April 11, 2025

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 24

The Honorable Javier Martínez, Speaker of the House and
Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Honorable Speaker Martínez and Members of the House:

I have decided to veto HOUSE BILL 219, as amended, which would direct the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department's State Parks Division to create Slot Canyon Riverlands State Park in Doña Ana County. Our state parks are already woefully understaffed and undermaintained. The lack of park rangers in our existing parks is already a matter of great concern. Adding another state park will only spread already stretched resources even further. Although capital outlay funds were allocated to this endeavor, developing projects and spending the money within the specified timeframe will require additional, unfunded staff support.

Because of these issues, and pursuant to my authority under Article IV, Section 22 of the New Mexico Constitution, I have vetoed HOUSE BILL 219, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Seventh Legislature, First Session, 2025.

Respectfully yours,

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____ 2025

By _____
Secretary of State

April 11, 2025

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 26

The Honorable Mimi Stewart, President Pro Tempore
and Members of the New Mexico State Senate
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

President Pro Tempore Stewart and Members of the Senate:

I have decided to veto SENATE BILL 142, as amended (“SB 142”), which amends provisions governing the Grid Modernization Roadmap and Grant Program. Let me say at the outset that I support the efforts to develop a roadmap and strategies that would modernize our State’s electric grid. This legislation, however, duplicates efforts that are already underway to achieve this goal. Currently, the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department is working to address this and has already issued a Grid Modernization Roadmap that has been used to inform and guide the grid modernization work. I appreciate the bill’s attempt to provide for further development of our State’s grid. I believe, however, that this bill would add more bureaucracy to the process and will hinder the crucial work that is already being done to get the State of New Mexico’s electrical grid where it needs to be.

Because of these issues, and pursuant to my authority under Article IV, Section 22 of the New Mexico Constitution, I have vetoed SENATE BILL 142, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Seventh Legislature, First Session, 2025.

Respectfully yours,

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____ 2025

By _____
Secretary of State

Water and Natural Resources Committee-related legislation that did NOT pass or passed one chamber and its last location:

HJM 4 — DIRECT AIR CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY (Rep. Dixon, Rep. Andrea Romero)

Last location: Senate Rules Committee

- Requesting the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology to study the costs and benefits of sequestering carbon dioxide emissions through direct air capture technology and recommend statutory or rule changes to facilitate the development of the industry in the state to address the climate crisis and create jobs.

HJM 5 — PROTECTIONS FOR THE UPPER PECOS WATERSHED (Rep. Gonzales, Sen. Stefanics, Rep. Sanchez, Rep. Lujan, Rep. Szczepanski)

Last location: Senate Rules Committee

- Requesting the legislature to support proposed federal administrative action and permanent protection for the Upper Pecos watershed to safeguard critical water resources, the local economy, the environment and cultural heritage.

HB 13 — DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND ELECTRIFICATION PLANS
(Rep. Hochman-Vigil, Sen. Trujillo, Rep. Ortez)

Last location: Senate Tax, Business and Transportation Committee

- Establishing distribution system planning requirements for electric public utilities;
- providing for electric public utilities to recover costs for beneficial electrification programs; and
- requiring annual reports on beneficial electrification.

HB 32 — ELECTRIC OR ALTERNATIVE FUEL SCHOOL BUSES (Rep. Sariñana, Sen. Soules, Rep. Gurrola, Rep. Lujan, Sen. Stewart)

Last location: House Calendar

- Providing an option for school districts to replace school buses with electric buses or buses using zero emission alternative fuels; and
- allowing school districts to enter into agreements for the use of their electric school buses as electrical energy storage for providing grid services or for use by schools in emergencies or to reduce daily electrical demand.

HB 208 — HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE VOTER REGISTRATION (Rep. Dow, Rep. Vincent, Rep. Chatfield, Rep. Murphy, Rep. Duncan)

Last location: Senate Rules Committee

- Allowing qualified electors applying for hunting or fishing licenses to register to vote at the Department of Game and Fish.

HB 222 — FRACTURING FLUID DISCLOSURE AND USE (Rep. Andrea Romero, Sen. Steinborn, Rep. G. Andrés Romero)

Last location: House Calendar

- Requiring disclosures of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing and downhole operations;
- prohibiting the use of hydraulic fracturing fluids, drilling fluids and proppants that contain per- or polyfluoroalkyl substances; and
- prohibiting the use of undisclosed chemicals in downhole operations.

HB 258 — NATURAL GAS CAPTURE REQUIREMENTS (Rep. McQueen, Rep. Ortez, Sen. Jaramillo)

Last location: House Calendar

- Providing natural gas capture requirements and exceptions for operators of an oil and gas well or a natural gas gathering system.

HB 289 — GEOTHERMAL PROJECTS DEVELOPMENT FUND (Rep. Roybal Caballero, Sen. Stefanics, Rep. Lujan)

Last location: Senate Calendar

- Amending the Geothermal Projects Development Fund by allowing other entities to participate in the bidding process as allowed in the Procurement Code.

HB 330 — LAND GRANT-MERCED AND ACEQUIA INFRASTRUCTURE ACT (Rep. Miguel P. García, Sen. Jaramillo, Rep. Javier Martínez)

Last location: Senate Finance Committee

- Enacting the Land Grant-Merced and Acequia Infrastructure Act;
- creating the Land Grant-Merced and Acequia Infrastructure Trust Fund, Land Grant-Merced Infrastructure Project Fund and Acequia Infrastructure Project Fund; and
- increasing severance tax bond issuance for the Colonias Infrastructure Project Fund and the Tribal Infrastructure Project Fund.

HB 348 — WATER LAW VIOLATION PENALTY (Rep. Ortez, Rep. McQueen, Rep. Cates, Sen. Townsend)

Last location: Senate Calendar

- Increasing the maximum penalty for a violation of water law; and
- allowing the state engineer to annually increase penalties to account for inflation.

HB 394 — CLEAN ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD (Rep. Lujan, Rep. Borrego, Rep. Silva)

Last location: Senate Rules Committee

- Creating the State Energy Advisory Board in the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, assigning members and prescribing duties.

HB 427 — REAL-TIME WATER QUALITY MONITORING (Rep. Cadena)

Last location: Senate Calendar

- Amending the Water Project Finance Act to promote the use of real-time monitoring data to track and monitor the quality of the state's drinking water.

HB 435 — RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY SITING RULES (Rep. McQueen, Sen. Stefanics)

Last location: House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee

- Requiring the Public Regulation Commission to promulgate and implement rules governing the siting of renewable energy generation, storage and intrastate transmission facilities.

HB 457 — GEOLOGIC CARBON DIOXIDE SEQUESTRATION ACT (Rep. Dixon, Sen. Sharer, Rep. Chatfield, Rep. Small, Sen. Lanier)

Last location: Senate Conservation Committee

- Enacting the Carbon Dioxide Sequestration Act;
- providing for unitization of formations for subsurface sequestration of carbon dioxide; and
- creating the Oil Conservation Division Systems and Hearings Fund and establishing fees.

SB 4 — CLEAR HORIZONS AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (Sen. Stewart, Rep. Ortez, Rep. Andrea Romero)

Last location: Senate Finance Committee

- Establishing greenhouse gas emissions limits and requiring emissions reporting;
- providing that state agencies apply climate equity principles to policy and rule development; and
- expanding duties of the Environmental Improvement Board.

SB 34 — OUTDOOR LIGHT REQUIREMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS (Sen. Stefanics, Rep. McQueen, Rep. Chandler, Sen. Wirth)

Last location: Senate Conservation Committee

- Revising the requirements for shielding outdoor light fixtures;
- adding exemptions for roadway, safety and temporary outdoor lighting; and
- removing exemptions for outdoor fixtures with automatic shutoff devices and certain signs.

SB 156 — LOW-INCOME UTILITY USERS (Sen. Stefanics, Rep. Ortez, Rep. Andrea Romero, Sen. Wirth, Rep. Roybal Caballero)

Last location: Senate Calendar

- Defining "low-income customer" in the Public Utility Act;
- exempting low-income customers from rate riders for new interconnected customers; and
- providing instructions for the qualification of low-income customers.

SM 3 — BEAVER POPULATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (Sen. Wirth, Sen. Hamblen)

Last location: Senate Calendar

- Requesting that the Department of Game and Fish, the Forestry Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Environment and the State Land Office, in consultation with representatives from soil and water conservation districts, acequia associations, farmers and ranchers, to jointly develop a statewide beaver management plan.