2022 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

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Work Plan

The Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council on April 26, 2022. The committee proposes to hear testimony regarding:

1. broadband development progress and challenges for various sectors of the state, including presentations from:

    A. the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion, including analysis of implementation by Legislative Finance Committee staff and the governor's broadband advisor;

    B. the Connect New Mexico Council regarding the broadband grant program;

    C. municipal and county governments regarding broadband challenges and status;

    D. institutions of higher education, the Council of University Presidents, the New Mexico Association of Community Colleges and New Mexico Independent Community Colleges;

    E. the Public Education Department, including with regard to technology deficits in rural schools;

    F. the Higher Education Department;

    G. the New Mexico Association of REALTORS;

H. the New Mexico Hospital Association;

I. various law enforcement agencies;

J. the Public School Capital Outlay Council on the development of a statewide education technology infrastructure network pursuant to Laws 2021, Chapter 49; and

K. tribal governments;

2. telemedicine: how to make it an effective tool throughout the state and the technology required;

3. science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and the potential to develop STEM education hubs at the high school level, including after-school robotics clubs or teams;

4. the information technology (IT) industry trend known as "Web3", which includes decentralized applications to form cryptoeconomic protocols based on blockchains or decentralized networks of peer-to-peer servers, and what Web3 may mean for state agencies and educational institutions;

5. recruitment of women and other underrepresented members of the population into coding camps and other precursor training for technology-based jobs;

6. energy production and transmission, market opportunities, emerging technologies and evolving best practices, including:

A. technologies and practices used in oil and gas production to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other industry actions to combat climate change;

B. innovations in electric power generation from the use of in-system water pressure within water utilities or through the use of thermochemical or pyrolysis reactions to recycle plastic wastes;

C. hydrogen technology and carbon capture; and

D. emerging geothermal and subterranean heat exchange technology;

7. the proposed Holtec International spent nuclear fuel rod storage facility between Carlsbad and Hobbs;

8. general economic development initiatives related to science, technology and telecommunications, including a status update regarding the development of the New Mexico Innovation Triangle;

9. intellectual property development at research institutions in New Mexico, including new and emerging technology and entrepreneurial programs at the state's universities, and an examination of the various funds established by the state for research and development;

10. the status of state IT projects, including the Department of Information Technology's and the Legislative Finance Committee's reports on program management and presentations from implementing agencies for large IT projects;

11. space industry development and opportunities;

12. telecommunications regulation in New Mexico;

13. updates on Sandia National Laboratories and Los Alamos National Laboratory;

14. modern technology and methods in farming and nutrient enhancement in food products;

15. updates on public safety programs, including E911 and a mobile public radio system;

16. the development of banking technology and how cryptocurrencies affect the cannabis industry;

17. the Water Data Act and technology aimed at improving water efficiency and management to mitigate water scarcity;

18. state planning for cybersecurity;

19. internet-based misinformation and radicalization efforts and approaches that law enforcement may be able to employ to identify and prevent violence instigated by those efforts, including employment of artificial intelligence;

20. reforestation and fire recovery science;

21. the activities of NM IDEA and the New Mexico Technology Council; and

22. successes in career technical education.

Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee
2022 Approved Meeting Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 2	Santa Fe
July 7-8	Albuquerque
August 8-9	Socorro/Truth or Consequences
September 1-2	Hobbs
October 27-28	Farmington
November 16-17	Santa Fe