

2026 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Members

Sen. Harold Pope, Chair	Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Vice Chair	Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Sen. Jay C. Block	Rep. Luis M. Terrazas
Rep. Art De La Cruz	Sen. Rex Wilson

Advisory Members

Sen. Pat Boone	Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Sen. Craig W. Brandt	Rep. Angelita Mejia
Rep. Catherine J. Cullen	Sen. Gabriel Ramos
Rep. Joy Garratt	Rep. Andrea Reeb
Rep. Stefani Lord	

Work Plan

The Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee was first created by statute for the 2009 interim. The committee was permanently reauthorized by statute during the 2010 regular legislative session. The committee has various statutory duties, including making an annual report; recommending any necessary legislation to the next session of the legislature; and requesting necessary action to the United States Congress, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the United States Department of Defense. The committee is required to conduct meetings in several geographically dispersed areas of the state and to conduct hearings relating to military issues and veterans' issues.

During the 2026 interim, as time permits, the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee will:

- A. receive updates from New Mexico's military installations;
- B. study issues relating to female veterans;
- C. receive updates regarding college credit for military service from the Higher Education Department and the Veterans' Services Department;
- D. receive testimony regarding jobs and business opportunities for veterans, as well as assistance from organizations such as the New Mexico Veteran Chamber of Commerce and the federal Small Business Administration;
- E. study long-term care options for veterans;
- F. study transportation to and from medical providers for veterans, particularly those living in rural areas of the state;

G. receive testimony pertaining to educational opportunities and outreach offered by state educational institutions and public community colleges to veteran students;

H. examine options for the prevention of homelessness and support for homeless veterans in areas throughout the state;

I. receive testimony regarding health care options both within the Veterans Administration system and outside of it, including behavioral health care, suicide prevention and treatment for posttraumatic stress disorder;

J. examine actions the legislature can take to improve quality of life for military and veteran families;

K. examine issues relating to New Mexico's active duty, reserve and National Guard military personnel, veterans and military families;

L. examine various issues relating to veterans and taxes, including processes related to tax incentives or discounts for services provided by local and state government for the benefit of veterans;

M. examine housing and infrastructure issues near New Mexico's military installations;

N. examine meeting educational needs for military bases;

O. receive testimony regarding the Military Base Impact Fund;

P. receive testimony on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances around military installations in New Mexico;

Q. study the impacts of federal military policy changes on local and overseas service members, including the United States Space Force's presence in New Mexico;

R. examine methods of collaborating with the Military Base Planning Commission, the Kirtland Partnership Committee and other programs serving military members and veterans in New Mexico;

S. examine home modification assistance for veterans;

T. hear testimony on the demographics of service members and veterans;

U. examine the effects of school programs such as the Reserve Officers' Training Corps and Purple Star Schools; and

V. receive testimony on the state of veterans parks in New Mexico.

**Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee
2026 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 15	Santa Fe
June 26	Clovis
August 14	Silver City and Truth or Consequences
September 15	Alamogordo
October 16	Albuquerque