

Revised: October 31, 2025

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
FIFTH MEETING
of the
MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**November 5, 2025
State Capitol, Room 309
Santa Fe**

Wednesday, November 5

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
 —Senator Harold Pope, Chair
 —Representative Debra M. Sarinaña, Vice Chair
- 9:05 a.m. (1) **Veterans' Services Department Update and Session Priorities**
 —Jamison Herrera, Secretary, Veterans' Services Department
- 9:30 a.m. (2) **Update from United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) New Mexico Health Care System**
 —Breton Weintraub, M.D., Executive Director, VA New Mexico Healthcare System
- 10:30 a.m. (3) **Veteran Assistance Programs and The Food Depot**
 —Jill Dixon, Executive Director, The Food Depot
- 11:15 a.m. (4) **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination in New Mexico**
 —J.D. Nance, Chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau, Resource Protection Division, Department of Environment (NMED)
 —Eric Chapman, Ph.D., Science Coordinator, Office of Strategic Initiatives, NMED
- 12:00 noon **Public Comment***
- 12:10 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. (5) **Update on New Mexico State Parks**
 —Toby Velasquez, Director, State Parks Division, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
- 1:45 p.m. (6) **Veterans Justice Initiative Program**
 —Clark Pennington, Executive Director, First Responders Action Group

2:30 p.m. (7) **Department of Military Affairs Update and Session Priorities**
—Major General Miguel Aguilar, Adjutant General, New Mexico National
Guard (invited)

3:00 p.m. (8) **Discussion of Navajo Code Talker Museum and Consideration of
Legislation for Endorsement**
—Committee Members

4:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

*Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Additional Information" section of the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee [web page](#).