

**MINUTES
of the
THIRD MEETING
of the
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**August 25-26, 2025
New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
801 Stephen Moody Street SE
Albuquerque**

The third meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order by Representative Debra M. Sariñana, chair, on Monday, August 25, 2025, at 9:55 a.m. at the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NMSBVI) in Albuquerque.

Present

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
Sen. Heather Berghmans, Vice Chair
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (8/26)
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. William P. Soules
Sen. Nicole Tobiassen (8/25)

Absent

Rep. Anita Gonzales
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton

Advisory Members

Sen. Jay C. Block (8/26)
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Rep. Charlotte Little (8/26)

Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Sen. Larry R. Scott
Rep. Sarah Silva
Sen. James G. Townsend
Sen. Linda M. Trujillo

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

Staff

Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
William Mason, Staff, LCS
Joanne Montague, Senior Legislative Librarian, LCS

Guests

The guest list is 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 under the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Monday, August 25

Welcome and Introductions (9:55 a.m.)

Representative Sariñana welcomed everyone to the meeting. Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

Welcome and Status Update (9:58 a.m.)

Heather Miller, Ph.D., superintendent, NMSBVI, and Justin Burks, facilities and capital projects coordinator, NMSBVI, welcomed the committee and provided updates on the school's Albuquerque and Alamogordo campuses. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

Securing Artificial Intelligence to Strengthen Cybersecurity (10:19 a.m.)

Srinivas Mukkamala, Ph.D., chief executive officer (CEO), Securin; member, Board of Regents, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology; and member, Board of Directors, El Paso Electric, presented on the importance of using and securing artificial intelligence for cybersecurity purposes.

Sandia National Laboratories Status Update (11:18 a.m.)

Laura McGill, director, Sandia National Laboratories, gave an update on recent developments at the lab and discussed the lab's impact on economic development in New Mexico. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Modeling Electric Grid Resistance to Wildfire (12:58 p.m.)

Brian Pierre, manager, Electric Power Systems Research, Sandia National Laboratories, presented on Sandia National Laboratories' research in planning and modeling the interactions between power grids and wildfires. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

The Federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) for Broadband: Prospects for Upcoming Years and Needed State Response (1:40 p.m.)

Jeff Lopez, director, Office of Broadband Access and Expansion; Judd Hinkle, CEO, Smith Bagley, Inc.; and Guy Turley, chief operating officer, Smith Bagley Inc., discussed the history and function of affordability subsidies for telecommunications in the United States. Mr. Hinkle and Mr. Turley presented a proposal for New Mexico to sponsor broadband subsidies in order to take up shortfalls in federal funding. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Public Comment (2:28 p.m.)

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

Cybersecurity Office Status Update (2:35 p.m.)

Raja Sambandam, state chief information security officer, presented on the Cybersecurity Office's activities and achievements in fiscal year 2025. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=6>.

Executive Session (3:20 p.m.)

On a motion duly made and seconded, the committee entered a closed executive session regarding cybersecurity within state entities.

Tour of NMSBVI (4:18 p.m.)

Members of the committee and staff toured the NMSBVI.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 26

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:08 a.m.

Sandia National Laboratories — Quantum Industry Collaborations and Educational Outreach (9:08 a.m.)

Jake Douglass, quantum business development lead, Sandia National Laboratories, and Megan Ivory, experimental quantum physicist, Sandia National Laboratories, discussed quantum

computing programs and public-private collaboration in quantum technologies at Sandia National Laboratories. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=7>.

Status of the Technology and Innovation Division of the Economic Development Department and the Quantum Initiative (10:06 a.m.)

Nora Sackett, director, Technology and Innovation Division, Economic Development Department, presented on the division's activities and provision of grants and other support for advanced technology investment in New Mexico.

Approval of Minutes (10:45 a.m.)

On a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the July 29-30, 2025 meeting were approved without changes.

Technology Readiness Gross Receipts (TRGR) Initiative (10:48 a.m.)

David Kistin, manager, Technology and Economic Development, Sandia National Laboratories; Candice Siebenthal, program manager, Feynman Center for Innovation, Los Alamos National Laboratory; and Kyle Guin, CEO and co-founder, VastVision Technologies, discussed the TRGR program, which provides funding to New Mexico technology companies working in partnership with the national labs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=9>.

Tour of Sandia National Laboratories (12:30 p.m.)

Members of the committee and staff toured Sandia National Laboratories.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.