

**2025 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. Nicholas A. Paul
Sen. Jay C. Block	Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Rep. Art De La Cruz	Rep. Luis M. Terrazas

Advisory Members

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

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 2025 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;
- 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 education 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 New Mexico can take to improve quality of life for military and veteran families;

K. examine processes related to tax incentives or discounts for services provided by local and state government for the benefit of veterans;

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

M. examine various issues relating to veterans and taxes;

N. examine housing issues near New Mexico's military installations;

O. examine meeting educational needs for military bases;

P. receive testimony regarding the Military Base Impact Fund;

Q. receive testimony on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and updates regarding the cleanup process of the Ogalalla Aquifer;

R. study the impact of cuts to federal funding on active-duty service members, veterans and their families;

S. examine the budget shortfall at the Veterans' Services Department to identify ways to ensure adequate staffing; and

T. examine home modification assistance for veterans.

**Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee
2025 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 4	Santa Fe
July 15	Albuquerque
August 13	Las Cruces
October 14	Gallup
November 5	Santa Fe