

**MINUTES
of the
SIXTH MEETING
of the
COURTS, CORRECTIONS AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

**October 16-17, 2025
State Capitol, Room 322
Santa Fe**

The sixth meeting of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee was called to order by Senator Joseph Cervantes, chair, on October 16, 2025 at 9:14 a.m. in Room 322 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Chair
Rep. Christine Chandler, Vice Chair
Rep. Marianna Anaya (10/16)
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Rep. Nicole Chavez
Sen. Antonio Maestas (10/16)
Sen. Cindy Nava
Rep. Andrea Reeb
Rep. Andrea Romero (10/17)
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez (10/16)

Advisory Members

Rep. John Block
Rep. Cynthia Borrego
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Sen. Steve D. Lanier
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (10/17)
Sen. Micaelita Debbie O'Malley
Rep. Reena Szczepanski (10/17)
Sen. Linda M. Trujillo

Absent

Sen. Crystal Brantley
Rep. William A. Hall II
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil
Rep. Angelica Rubio

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Heather Berghmans
Sen. Katy Duhigg
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Sen. Natalie Figueroa
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Rep. Stefani Lord
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Rep. Sarah Silva
Rep. Nathan P. Small
Sen. Mimi Stewart
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton
Sen. Peter Wirth

Guest Legislator

Sen. Linda M. López (10/17)

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

Staff

Nancy Martinez, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Sean Dolan, Staff Attorney, LCS
Simon Suzuki, Staff Attorney, LCS
Domenica Nieto, Research Assistant, LCS
Gabriel Suazo, Intern, 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 on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Thursday, October 16**Welcome and Introductions (9:14 a.m.)**

Senator Cervantes welcomed members of the committee and the public to the meeting.

Redux: Felon in Possession — Fourth Time a Charm? (9:18 a.m.)

Kim Chavez-Cook, appellate defender, Public Defender Department; Douglas Hughes Carver, executive director, New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC); Keri Thiel, deputy director, NMSC; Marcus J. Montoya, president, New Mexico District Attorney Association, and district attorney, Eighth Judicial District; and Quentin Ray, vice president, New Mexico District Attorney Association, and district attorney, Ninth Judicial District, presented their perspectives on the effectiveness of raising penalties for a felon in possession of a firearm, including data regarding charging and prosecutions under statute. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/16/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

Armed with Data — Modern Arms for Fighting Crime (10:38 a.m.)

W. Tory Weisler, chief, New Mexico State Police, described the efforts being made to gather and integrate data regarding crime in the state, including traffic violations. He discussed potential funding requests that may be made in the upcoming legislative session to address data issues and explained the collection and use of data and recruitment of officers.

Applicant Comparisons at the Court of Appeals Following the Legislature's Salary Increase (11:59 a.m.)

Karl Reifsteck, director, Administrative Office of the Courts, provided updated data regarding judicial officer job classifications, the pay schedule and compensation and the effect on the number of applications received. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/16/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Icing ICE? State's Authority to Regulate Proposed Expansion of ICE Detention in Hobbs (1:14 p.m.)

Billy Jimenez, deputy attorney general, State Department of Justice; James Grayson, chief deputy attorney general, State Department of Justice; and Sam Cobb, mayor, City of Hobbs, discussed the legality of limitations on county and local contracts with the federal government for detention facilities.

Harm to Who? Self and/or Others (Senate Bill 166 (2025 Regular Session)) (2:24 p.m.)

Senator Maestas presented an overview of Senate Bill 166 (2025) and discussed the background of the bill, implications of the bill and the potential for the bill to be reintroduced in the 2026 session. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/16/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Committee Discussion (3:42 p.m.)

The committee held an open discussion on potential committee endorsement of legislation, agenda topics for the next meeting and medical and social worker compacts.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:02 p.m.

Friday, October 17

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:34 a.m.

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and *Kevin S.* — Arbitrator Orders More Than Words on Paper? (9:35 a.m.)

Valerie Sandoval, acting secretary, CYFD; Kathy Kunkel, deputy secretary, CYFD; F. Michael Hart, partner, Martinez, Hart, Sanchez & Romero (*Kevin S.* plaintiff's counsel); and Therese Yanan, executive director, Native American Disability Law Center (*Kevin S.* plaintiff's counsel), discussed the current state of the *Kevin S.* settlement, including what steps have

recently been taken, what still needs to be worked on and issues related to implementation. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/16/2025&ItemNumber=6>.

Approval of Minutes (11:47 a.m.)

The committee approved the minutes of the September 22-24, 2025 meeting.

Committee Discussion (12:10 p.m.)

The committee held an open discussion on topics for the last meeting and discussed the process for committee endorsement of legislation.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.