

**2017 APPROVED  
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE  
for the  
ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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**2017 Approved Work Plan**

The Economic and Rural Development Committee (ERDC) was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council on June 5, 2017. During the 2017 interim, and as time permits, the ERDC proposes to explore and discuss major areas and specific issues affecting economic and rural development as follows:

- A. business development resources and state-supported strategies;
- B. workforce development and education, including:
  - 1. the importance of a mixed delivery early childhood development system; and
  - 2. developing vocational education;

- C. infrastructure, utilities and basic needs in New Mexico communities, including:
  - 1. broadband deployment in rural communities;
  - 2. energy infrastructure, including plans for future development and renewable energy;
  - 3. rural access to health care and health care industry employment; and
  - 4. building business infrastructure for rural grocery stores and retail or service-oriented businesses under the Local Economic Development Act or other government-sponsored initiatives;
  
- D. regulation and licensing, including:
  - 1. revisions to the Procurement Code to provide preferences for small businesses;
  - 2. barriers to occupancy of vacant buildings in rural communities;
  - 3. recommendations from the Construction Industries Division of the Regulation and Licensing Department and other stakeholders on how to streamline permitting and inspection processes at the state and local levels; and
  - 4. the effects of state personnel staffing levels on the issuance of permits and licenses;
  
- E. taxes and financial incentives, including:
  - 1. a report on the Native fuel tax;
  - 2. tax credits and incentives for businesses and related economic impacts; and
  - 3. a report on the lodger's tax;
  
- F. reports from state agencies and political subdivisions, including:
  - 1. the work of the Jobs Council;
  - 2. current and proposed programs and 2018 legislative priorities of the Economic Development Department and its associated divisions;
  - 3. current and proposed programs and 2018 legislative priorities of the Workforce

Solutions Department, including detailed reporting on the Rapid Workforce Development Fund and its effectiveness in training and preparing employees and recruiting companies to the state;

4. current and proposed programs and 2018 legislative priorities of the Regulation and Licensing Department and its associated divisions;
  5. current and proposed programs and 2018 legislative priorities of the Tourism Department;
  6. updates and legislative priorities of the Taxation and Revenue Department;
  7. the initiatives and recent activities of Spaceport America;
  8. an update from the Independent Hearing Office on its effectiveness in efficiently resolving tax disputes;
  9. a report from the Legislative Finance Committee on duplicative state agency services and overlapping regulations; and
  10. efforts and opportunities to coordinate newly proposed state agency programs;
- G. additional topics relating to rural and economic development in the state, including:
1. economic opportunities around the Gallup transportation loading facility;
  2. the future of copper mining;
  3. value-added agricultural industries;
  4. capital outlay needs of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad; and
  5. New Mexico's legal environment for businesses and opportunities for reform; and
- H. proposed economic-development-related legislation.

**Economic and Rural Development Committee  
2017 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 15	Santa Fe
July 26-27	Ruidoso
August 31-September 1	Cimarron
September 14-15	Truth or Consequences; Santa Teresa (joint meeting with the Mortgage Finance Authority Act Oversight Committee)
October 2-3	Hernandez; Chama
November 6-7	Santa Fe