

**2019 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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Work Plan

The Economic and Rural Development Committee (ERDC) was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council on April 29, 2019. During the 2019 interim, and as time permits, the ERDC will explore and discuss major areas and specific issues affecting economic and rural development as follows:

A. the film industry, including a discussion pertaining to development of in-state jobs and workforce and of video game production;

B. professional and occupational licenses, including discussions of:

1. restrictions on obtaining licenses;
2. comparisons to other states;

3. the levels of occupational regulation; and
 4. removal of limitations on reciprocity;
- C. the hemp industry, including an update on regulatory and industry developments and increasing creation of value-added products;
- D. Spaceport America, including a discussion of initiatives, recent activities and economic effects of the relocation of Virgin Galactic headquarters to New Mexico;
- E. broadband, including:
1. an update on development progress and plans, including cybersecurity, from the New Mexico Finance Authority, the General Services Department, the Public Regulation Commission and the Department of Information Technology; and
 2. telehealth and telemedicine development;
- F. airports, including federal subsidies and capital improvements to increase tourism and travel to rural airports;
- G. rural electric cooperatives, including a discussion of possibilities to foster self-governance, in response to 2019 House Memorial 61;
- H. liquor licenses, including equitable expansion of dispenser's license availability and issues concerning breweries and distilleries;
- I. developments pertaining to industrial rail transloading facilities;
- J. the federal decennial census, including a discussion of information accuracy;
- K. state investment fees and the feasibility of a consolidated state investment agency;
- L. economic development tools, including:
1. opportunity zones;
 2. the federal new markets tax credit;
 3. industrial revenue bonds;
 4. tax increment financing;

5. foreign-trade zones;
 6. public improvement districts;
 7. gross receipts tax increment programs;
 8. the Local Economic Development Act;
 9. public-private partnerships;
 10. other local authorities; and
 11. methods to encourage businesses to relocate overseas operations to New Mexico;
- M. reports from state agencies and political subdivisions, which may include:
1. current and proposed programs and 2020 legislative priorities of the Economic Development Department, including the development of rules for administering the Local Economic Development Act and reporting on the Rapid Workforce Development Fund and its effectiveness in training and preparing employees and recruiting companies to the state;
 2. current and proposed programs and 2020 legislative priorities of the Workforce Solutions Department, the Regulation and Licensing Department, the Tourism Department, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and the Taxation and Revenue Department;
 3. updates from the Workers' Compensation Administration and the State Workforce Development Board; and
 4. a report from the Public Education Department on how schools encourage elementary school students to consider and prepare for adult employment;
- N. recreational marijuana, including benefits and costs of legalization;
- O. alumni associations, including a discussion of economic development through alumni outreach;
- P. cloud seeding, including an overview and discussion of economic effects;
- Q. energy sector issues, which may include:
1. small business opportunities and challenges in oil and gas production;

2. hydraulic fracturing and natural gas venting and flaring;
 3. carbon capture and sequestration, including power plants;
 4. the future of oil and gas production, including the impact of electric-powered vehicles;
 5. electric vehicles, power stations and equitable cost allocation for infrastructure;
 6. solar and wind energy development; and
 7. renewable energy and associated rural employment and equipment manufacturing opportunities;
- R. outdoor recreation development opportunities, which may include:
1. state park maintenance and improvements;
 2. opportunities in rural and tribal communities; and
 3. ecotourism;
- S. opportunities and challenges regarding drone manufacturing and testing;
- T. economic effects of Facebook, Inc. and Intel Corporation expansions;
- U. options to improve the business climate for entrepreneurs and small businesses, including developing or expanding support programs;
- V. opportunities and challenges pertaining to protecting the health and sustainability of productive farms, ranches and forests;
- W. opportunities and challenges pertaining to public banking;
- X. a report from the Economic Development Innovation Task Force pursuant to 2019 House Memorial 16;
- Y. economic-development-related legislation, including legislation to encourage the growth of certain businesses and to streamline occupational permit processes;
- Z. potential effects of increasing minimum wages on businesses in small communities;
and
- AA. additional topics relating to rural and economic development in the state.

**Economic and Rural Development Committee
2019 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 12	Santa Fe
July 1-2	Las Cruces
August 14-16	Las Vegas, Taos
October 28-30	Farmington
November 12-14	Santa Fe