



**MINUTES  
of the  
THREE HUNDRED THIRD MEETING  
of the  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
July 31, 2006  
Santa Fe**

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The three hundred third meeting of the Legislative Council was called to order on Monday, July 31, 2006, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol by Speaker Ben Lujan, Co-Chair.

**Present**

Rep. Ben Lujan, Co-Chair  
Rep. Donald E. Bratton  
Sen. Carlos R. Cisneros  
Sen. Kent L. Cravens  
Sen. Dianna J. Duran  
Sen. Joseph A. Fidel  
Rep. Ted Hobbs  
Sen. Timothy Z. Jennings  
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom  
Rep. Rick Miera  
Sen. Michael S. Sanchez  
Rep. Jeannette O. Wallace

**Special Advisory Members Present**

Sen. John T.L. Grubestic  
Rep. Irvin Harrison  
Sen. Cisco McSorley  
Sen. Lidio G. Rainaldi  
Rep. Joe M Stell  
Rep. Teresa A. Zanetti

**Staff**

Paula Tackett, Director, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Kathy Pacheco-Dofflemeyer, Assistant Director for Administration, LCS  
John Yaeger, Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, LCS  
Raúl Burciaga, Assistant Director for Drafting Services, LCS  
Jeret Fleetwood, Locator Coordinator, LCS

**Absent**

Sen. Ben D. Altamirano, Co-Chair  
Sen. Pete Campos  
Sen. Stuart Ingle  
Rep. Terry T. Marquardt  
Rep. W. Ken Martinez  
Sen. Leonard Lee Rawson  
Rep. Sheryl Williams Stapleton  
Rep. Donald L. Whitaker

**Special Advisory Members Absent**

Rep. Justine Fox-Young  
Sen. Mary Jane M. Garcia  
Rep. James Roger Madalena  
Sen. Steven P. Neville  
Rep. Al Park  
Sen. William H. Payne  
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella  
Sen. John Arthur Smith

Representatives Lundstrom and Bratton were appointed as voting members in place of Representatives Stapleton and Marquardt and Senators Duran and Cisneros were appointed as voting members in place of Senators Rawson and Altamirano for the duration of the meeting.

On a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the minutes of the June 28, 2006 meeting of the Legislative Council were approved as submitted.

### **Interim Committees**

The work plan, meeting dates and a budget of \$30,619.55 for voting members and \$5,695.95 for advisory members for the Capital Outlay Subcommittee were approved as submitted.

In addition to Thomas A. Donnelly and Richard E. Olson, who were previously appointed co-chairs, the following appointments of public members were made by the council to the Legislative Structure and Process Study Task Force:

Max Coll	Judy K. Jones
Linda M. Davis	Willard Lewis
Charles Dorame	David McCumber
Marie Eaves	Brian McDonald
F. Chris Garcia	Murray Ryan
William R. Humphries	Anthony Williams
Tommy Jewell	

Speaker Lujan noted that in selecting individuals to serve on the task force, he and President Pro Tempore Altamirano tried to include people who not only had some knowledge of the legislative process but would also be objective.

In response to a question from Senator Jennings about the geographical representation of the members of the task force, Paula Tackett indicated that the legislative members serving on the task force came from across the state.

Speaker Lujan also reminded the council that other members may still be added to the task force.

Representative Lundstrom presented the council with a letter on behalf of the Economic and Rural Development and Telecommunications Committee regarding the 2006 Assets Learning Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. She explained that the conference, to be held September 19-21, would focus on individual development accounts and requested that voting members of the committee be authorized to receive per diem and travel reimbursement to attend the conference.

In response to a question, Ms. Tackett explained that approval is required if more than four members of a committee wish to attend an out-of-state conference.

On a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, voting members of the Economic and Rural Development and Telecommunications Committee were authorized to attend the 2006 Assets Learning Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Ms. Tackett explained to the council that \$250,000 had been authorized by the council for the expenses of advisory members at interim committees, but that it was possible that additional funding might become necessary. She noted that during the 2005 interim, expenses for advisory members were roughly \$300,000. Ms. Tackett indicated that council approval was required to use additional funds from the legislative interim expenses account.

On a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the council authorized the transfer of additional funds from the legislative interim expenses account for the expenses of interim committee advisory members, if necessary.

### **Recommendations of Directors' and Chief Clerks' Salaries**

Speaker Lujan explained to the council that he, Representative Hobbs, Representative Miera, President Pro Tempore Altamirano and Senator Ingle had met regarding the salaries of the directors of the LCS, Legislative Finance Committee and Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) as well as the House and Senate Chief Clerks. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the council adopted the recommendations.

### **Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee**

Raúl Burciaga provided the council with an update on the status of the Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee. He explained that funds for modeling three to five different health coverage models, to determine how best to increase the number of individuals with insurance in New Mexico, had been vetoed from the FY 2007 budget. Mr. Burciaga went on to indicate that the committee is requesting the council to authorize \$100,000, which the Governor's Office pledged to match, for the models. He also provided the council with a basic time line for the committee's work, noting that it plans to make recommendations, based on the models, public input and discussion, to the 2008 legislature.

The council discussed various aspects of health care in New Mexico, particularly the lack of accessible health care for those living in rural areas of the state and those closer to New Mexico's border with other states and Mexico. Council members requested that the committee include coverage for mental and behavioral health, dental and vision services, as well as consideration of the underinsured and underserved.

Members indicated that the committee should consider rural and urban issues, workforce shortages, cost shifting to the private sector, state and international border access and various other health care policy issues. Mr. Burciaga advised the council that health care policy is generally reviewed in terms of cost, quality and access. He pointed out that the legislature had already funded two studies on health care costs, pushed numerous initiatives for quality through licensing and credentialing of providers and funding the development of health care facilities and health care professional training. This study, however, was specific to financial and actuarial

analysis that would identify the costs in providing coverage — a subset of access — to 400,000 New Mexicans through public-private partnerships. Representative Zanetti suggested that perhaps the request for proposals (RFP) should be deferred to consider other aspects of health care policy in New Mexico. Ms. Tackett noted that developing RFPs, such as the one for the health coverage models, takes a significant amount of time, which is why the Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee, including legislative members, wants to move forward with this particular focus on coverage to allow sufficient time during the 2007 interim to consider the study results and make recommendations for the 2008 session.

Mr. Burciaga indicated that he would discuss the council's concerns with the committee and ensure that in developing the scope of work, the policy issues raised by the council would be included.

Senator Michael S. Sanchez noted that New Mexico's ranking of second in the nation for the percentage of uninsured is a pressing issue and recommended that the RFP process should proceed.

On a motion made and seconded, the council authorized \$100,000 for health care models for the Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee, with Senator Cravens voting NO.

### **Staff Reports**

Ms. Tackett explained to the council that four prospective committee room chairs were in a nearby office and requested that members briefly test them and provide Kathy Pacheco-Dofflemeyer with their preferences.

Ms. Tackett introduced four LCS staff members to the council: Staff Attorney Doris Faust, Intern Lindsey Bilovesky and Legal Interns Ed Mazell and Mark Bolton.

Ms. Tackett explained to the council that November 15 is Georgia O'Keeffe's birthday and that the Tourism Department has an event planned for that day in the State Capitol Rotunda. However, she explained, First Lady Barbara Richardson, as chair of the birthday function, was requesting the use of the Senate chambers for the event due to better acoustics.

The council authorized the use of the Senate chambers on November 15 for events related to Georgia O'Keeffe's birthday.

Representative Zanetti requested that staff provide the council with a briefing on the *Zuni* lawsuit at a future meeting.

Senator McSorley noted that the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee has been directed by the council to study election fraud, which will likely require an additional meeting day for the committee. He explained that adding an extra meeting date in November would create a conflict for members of the committee who serve on the LESC and noted that the committee may request that the council approve a December meeting.

There being no further business, the council adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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