



THIRTY-SIXTH BIENNIAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

**NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AND
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE**

NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE

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CONTENTS

OVERVIEW

The 2022-2024 Biennium in Brief	
Interims	3
Sessions	4

THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Membership	9
Historical Background	11
Duties	11
Policy Changes	13
Interim Committees	
Permanent	
Legislative Education Study Committee	17
Legislative Finance Committee	18
Statutory and New Mexico Legislative Council-Created	
Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee	23
Economic and Rural Development and Policy Committee	27
Indian Affairs Committee	32
Interim Legislative Ethics Committee	38
Investments and Pensions Oversight Committee	38
Land Grant Committee	41
Legislative Health and Human Services Committee	44
Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee	49
Mortgage Finance Authority Act Oversight Committee	51
New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee	52
Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee	55
Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee	57
Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee	60
Tobacco Settlement Revenue Oversight Committee	62
Water and Natural Resources Committee	64
Subcommittees, Task Forces and Special Interim Bodies	
Capitol Security Subcommittee	77
Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force	77
Senate Rules Committee	80
Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee	80
Appointments to Other Bodies	
Capitol Buildings Planning Commission	87
Commission on Uniform State Laws	88
Education Commission of the States	88
Additional Appointments	89

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE

Duties	93
Policies	94
Staff	94
Staff Changes	96
Activities	97
Library	98
Publications	98
Legislative Information System	101
Legislative Printing Services	102

Joint Mail Room and Bill Room	102
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS, CAPITOL ART FOUNDATION AND INFORMATION AND TOUR SERVICES	
Buildings and Grounds	107
Capitol Art Foundation	107
Information and Tour Services	108
APPENDIX	
Statement of Appropriations and Expenditures of the Legislative Council Service Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023 and Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024	113
Legislative Council policy revisions and creations	114
Parental Leave Policy	123
Anti-Harassment Policy 2022	125
Legislative Staff Code of Conduct 2023	131

OVERVIEW

The 2022-2024 Biennium in Brief

During the course of the 2022-2024 biennium, the legislature convened for two regular sessions and zero special sessions, and legislators served on 50 interim committees, subcommittees, task forces and other working bodies. Among the notable changes for this biennium, the Rural Economic Opportunities Task Force was not re-created, and the name of the Economic Development and Policy Committee was changed to the Economic and Rural Development and Policy Committee.

Interims

With the COVID-19 pandemic in the rearview mirror, the 2022 interim signaled a return to normalcy for the New Mexico Legislature. For the first time since the 2019 interim, all interim committees met in person and were allowed to travel around the state. However, many of the technological adjustments that were made to enable the legislative process to function during the pandemic remained and were augmented. For example, the ability to webcast out-of-town meetings was greatly improved and allowed for public participation. Also, improvements were made to the cameras, sound systems and message boards in the House and Senate chambers.

With the focus no longer on the pandemic, interim committees in 2022 heard presentations on and addressed pressing issues such as gun violence, the lack of affordable housing, diversification of the state's economy, improving access to and the delivery of behavioral health care, health care provider shortages, revenue stabilization through rainy-day and permanent funds to reduce the reliance on volatile oil and gas revenues, transportation infrastructure needs, climate change and water management.

A significant technological undertaking occurred in October 2022 with the announcement that the Legislative Council Service had entered into a contract for the development of a new legislative drafting and information system. The project, expected to take three years to implement, will be specifically designed for the entire New Mexico Legislature to integrate the legislative process.

The 2023 interim continued in sync with where the 2022 interim left off. Interim committees concentrated on various topics affecting the state, including wildfire recovery and mitigation, child welfare reform, firearm safety and regulation, the rapid growth of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity concerns, an increase in the homeless population, expanding the health care workforce, methods to support and maintain New Mexico industries, strengthening the workforce, water augmentation and renewable energy initiatives.

Around the Roundhouse during the 2023 interim, work continued on the development of the new legislative drafting and information system, named the Roundhouse Legislation and Publication System (RLPS), with staff from different legislative agencies engaging in meetings with representatives from the system's developer. In addition, work began on upgrading committee rooms with new sound systems and cameras to further improve the legislature's webcasting capabilities.

The 2023 interim did feature a sea change for the legislature amid efforts to modernize how it functions. As members of the last state legislature in the country to not pay a salary to its legislators, a number of New Mexico legislators over the years had noted that the demands of juggling legislative duties with their other employment had become increasingly difficult. In response, the New Mexico Legislative Council commissioned a study in July 2023 on the feasibility of providing legislative staff

and district offices. At the October 2023 legislative council meeting, the study results were shared, with three potential staffing methods identified: regional staff for members, district staff for members or a hybrid approach.

In the ensuing months, the chief clerks, chiefs of staff and the Legislative Council Service director convened a working group to establish policies and guidelines for district offices and staff. In June 2024, the New Mexico Legislative Council adopted Legislative Council Policy 27 that would allow each legislator to hire a legislative aide to work in a district office, to include salary and benefits, information technology equipment and software, office space, furniture and supplies. Also under the policy, each legislative caucus would be allowed to hire a district office liaison to provide coordination among the legislator, district office, leadership office and the Legislative Council Service. While there were still many details to be ironed out regarding the timing of hiring aides and liaisons and establishing offices, it was determined that the Legislative Council Service would provide administrative and logistical human resources, information technology and accounting support for legislative aides and district liaisons.

Sessions

Some legislative sessions adhere to a narrative, while others just happen. They begin and end without too much fanfare or a defining moment. Still others feature too many storylines to neatly shoehorn into one notion or quote. The 2023 legislative session probably comes closest to the last category.

Just before session convened, things became scary. In early January, reports emerged of gunshots being fired into the homes and offices of several Albuquerque-area politicians, including a state senator and the incoming speaker of the house. In a bizarre twist, just days before the session began, the suspect apprehended in connection to those shootings was a primary election challenger to an incumbent member of the House of Representatives. Needless to say, the session began with nerves a bit more on edge than is typical.

Election years always bring a few new faces to the legislature. After the 2022 election, 17 new members of the House were set to be sworn in. Sort of. In October, an incumbent senator from Albuquerque resigned and a member of the House was appointed as his replacement. That same House member was also the only name on the ballot for the November election, and his resignation from the House created another vacancy. Most years, it would be simple enough to appoint someone to the seat and be done with it. However, redistricting created, in essence, two separate districts: one in effect for the Fifty-Fifth Legislature, and another (featuring some different precincts) in effect for the Fifty-Sixth Legislature. Thus, a member was appointed in December to serve the remainder of the term related to the Fifty-Fifth Legislature, resulting in a term that lasted only a few weeks. In the meantime, changes to the makeup of the Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners meant that another member was appointed to serve in the Fifty-Sixth Legislature. Twists and turns indeed.

Of course, newly elected or appointed members were only part of the shift in the legislative landscape as a number of changes occurred in the leadership of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House of Representatives elected a new speaker, and both caucuses elected completely new leadership teams. While the president pro tempore of the senate was reelected, a new senate majority

whip and a new senate chief clerk were elected.

Once all of the twists and turns leading to the session played out, the work of the First Session of the Fifty-Sixth Legislature was more or less straightforward.

The single greatest influence on the 2023 legislative session was the influx of increased revenue, almost entirely attributed to oil and gas development in the southeastern region of the state, totaling an estimated \$3.6 billion in "new money". Spending such a massive windfall does not tend to be a problem for public bodies; doing in a manner responsive to the state's needs is the trick. To that end, the legislature had its work cut out for it.

First and foremost, each legislature must develop and pass a budget. The record amount of new money resulted in a \$9.6 billion budget, a 13% increase over the previous year that featured significant increases in funding for public education, higher education, Medicaid, law enforcement and roads. The legislature also took advantage of the financial windfall to create a pair of funds for conservation projects and to keep a healthy amount of money in reserves. A robust \$1.2 billion capital outlay package was also passed.

The other major piece of fiscal legislation passed by the legislature was a \$1.1 billion tax package. The bill offered taxpayer rebates, child income tax credits, increased liquor taxes and expanded film production tax credits. However, citing concern over an unpredictable economy, the governor used her line-item veto power to eliminate most of the bill's provisions.

During the spring and summer of 2022, the largest wildfire in state history, which notably started as a prescribed burn by the United States Forest Service, scorched almost 350,000 acres in northern New Mexico. One of the legislature's first acts was to make \$100 million in zero-interest loans available to communities affected by the fire and waiting for federal compensation. In another fire-related measure, the legislature prohibited prescribed burns during high wind events.

In the end, the legislature passed 246 bills, with the governor signing 211. Other important measures passed by the legislature in 2023 included changes to elections and voting rights, reproductive and gender-affirming health care protections, two measures regarding access to firearms and a prohibition on the storage of certain types of radioactive waste.

Two high-profile measures that failed to pass were a pair of proposed constitutional amendments, one to provide salaries for legislators and the other changing various aspects of legislative sessions.

Legislative sessions are sometimes punctuated by a defining moment: a flashpoint that long-time members of the legislative community recall, with varying degrees of clarity, years later. Many other sessions come and go without much fanfare, as the legislature sets about its work. Given its role as the appropriating body of state government, almost all sessions revolve around money in one way or another. However, few sessions were as thoroughly dominated by money as the 2024 legislative session was. For decades, the oil and gas industry has been the dominant factor in the legislature's approach to appropriating money. Lean years feature discussions about trimming budgets and sweeping funds in pursuit of solvency. Boom years are all about spending extra money. 2024 was a boom year, and it was all about the money.

Another year of massive oil and gas industry-related income resulted in about \$3.5 billion in

new money for the state. Many times in the past, the legislature's tendency has been to establish a healthy reserve, then spend the rest as quickly as possible. However, a legislative branch more mindful of the volatile nature of the oil and gas industry has taken a more measured approach in recent years, establishing trust funds and various other accounts to help insulate the state when oil and gas revenue declines. For example, the Higher Education Trust Fund and the New Mexico Match Fund were both created in 2024.

That said, in 2024 the legislature still developed a record-setting \$10.2 billion budget, a 6.8% increase over the previous year, and sent it to the governor. It featured measures to address affordable housing (and, by extension, homelessness), literacy initiatives, public safety recruitment and retention and additional funding for some of the funds created by the legislature in 2023.

One other major component of most sessions is a tax package. With much of the tax package passed in 2023 being vetoed by the governor, the bill passed in 2024 encompassed two years' worth of tax policy changes. Those changes included a restructuring of the state's personal income tax brackets, tax credits for advanced energy and geothermal projects and electric vehicles and tax credits for families recovering from a devastating 2022 wildfire in northern New Mexico.

The last big money-related measure developed each year by the legislature is a capital outlay package. The 2024 version, totaling \$1.5 billion, included significant appropriations for higher education institutions, tribal projects, transportation projects, public safety, water and wastewater projects and parks and recreation.

Of course, each session the legislature sends scores of bills that do not necessarily have anything to do with money to the governor. In 2024, the legislature passed a pair of firearm bills (a seven-day waiting period for firearm sales and a ban on guns near polling places), set standards for clean fuels, created standards for meat inspections and changed graduation requirements for high school students.

Another mainstay of a legislative session is the high-profile bills that fail to pass. One such bill, concerning paid family and medical leave, passed the Senate but failed to pass in the House of Representatives when a number of members in the majority joined with all of the minority members in voting against the bill. Bills to create a trust fund for tribal education and a strategic water supply also failed to pass.

THE
NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The New Mexico Legislative Council

2023, 2024

<i>LC Membership 2023</i>	<i>LC Membership 2024</i>
<i>Voting</i>	<i>Voting</i>
Rep. Javier Martínez, Co-Chair, Albuquerque	Rep. Javier Martínez, Co-Chair, Albuquerque
Sen. Mimi Stewart, Co-Chair, Albuquerque	Sen. Mimi Stewart, Co-Chair, Albuquerque
Rep. Gail Armstrong, Magdalena	Rep. Gail Armstrong, Magdalena
Sen. Gregory A. Baca, Belen	Sen. Gregory A. Baca, Belen
Sen. Craig W. Brandt, Rio Rancho	Sen. Craig W. Brandt, Rio Rancho
Rep. Gail Chasey, Albuquerque	Rep. Gail Chasey, Albuquerque
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg, Albuquerque	Sen. Katy M. Duhigg, Albuquerque
Rep. T. Ryan Lane, Aztec	Rep. Alan T. Martinez, Rio Rancho
Sen. Steven P. Neville, Aztec	Rep. Rod Montoya, Farmington
Rep. Greg Nibert, Roswell	Sen. Steven P. Neville, Aztec
Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque	Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque
Rep. Andrea Romero, Santa Fe	Rep. Andrea Romero, Santa Fe
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Albuquerque	Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Albuquerque
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr., Jemez Pueblo	Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr., Jemez Pueblo
Rep. Reena Szczepanski, Santa Fe	Rep. Reena Szczepanski, Santa Fe
Sen. Peter Wirth, Santa Fe	Sen. Peter Wirth, Santa Fe
<i>Special Advisory</i>	<i>Special Advisory</i>
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan	Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown, Carlsbad	Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown, Carlsbad
Sen. Pete Campos, Las Vegas	Sen. Pete Campos, Las Vegas
Rep. Christine Chandler, Los Alamos	Rep. Christine Chandler, Los Alamos
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Las Cruces	Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Las Cruces
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos, Las Cruces	Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos, Las Cruces
Rep. Joy Garratt, Albuquerque	Rep. Joy Garratt, Albuquerque
Rep. Susan K. Herrera, Embudo	Rep. Susan K. Herrera, Embudo
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil, Albuquerque	Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil, Albuquerque
Sen. Stuart Ingle, Portales	Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock	Rep. Matthew McQueen, Santa Fe
Rep. Alan T. Martinez, Rio Rancho	Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew, Lovington
Rep. Matthew McQueen, Santa Fe	Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm, Albuquerque
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew, Lovington	Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Albuquerque
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm, Albuquerque	Rep. Nathan P. Small, Dona Ana
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Albuquerque	Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Albuquerque
Rep. Nathan P. Small, Dona Ana	
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Albuquerque	
<i>Staff</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Raúl E. Burciaga	Raúl E. Burciaga
Amy Chavez-Romero	Anesa Serna-Espinoza
Shawna Casebier	Shawna Casebier
Anesa Serna-Espinoza	Jeret Fleetwood
Jeret Fleetwood	

The New Mexico Legislative Council is a 16-member permanent joint interim committee of the legislature. Its primary function is to serve as an interim board of directors for the legislature. It also directs general operations of the Legislative Council Service (LCS).

As a matter of policy, all members of the legislature serve as advisory members of the council. They are invited to all meetings of the council and, upon request, are furnished a copy of the minutes

after approval.

The law concerning the council reads as follows.

2-3-1. NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CREATED.--There is created a legislative joint committee of the house and senate to be designated "the New Mexico legislative council", composed of sixteen members, eight from the house and eight from the senate. The president pro tempore and the minority floor leader of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives and the minority floor leader of the house shall automatically be members of the council. Six of the remaining members shall be appointed from the house of representatives by the speaker; provided that, if the minority is entitled to more than one member, the additional minority members shall be appointed by the speaker only from recommendations made by the minority floor leader, although the speaker shall retain the right to reject any such recommendations; and six of the remaining members shall be appointed from the senate by the committees' committee or, if the appointments are made in the interim, by the president pro tempore after consultation with and agreement of a majority of the members of the committees' committee. If the minority is entitled to more than one member, one of the remaining six members shall be appointed by the senate minority floor leader. The appointed members of the council shall be appointed from each house so as to give the two political parties having the most members in each house the same total proportionate representation on the council as prevails in that house; providing that in the computation, major fractions shall be counted as whole numbers, and in no event shall either of the two major parties have less than one member from each house. The members shall be appointed for terms of two years or less expiring on the first day of the regular session held in odd-numbered years. The term of any member shall terminate when such member ceases to be a member of the legislature. Provided, however, that members of the council reelected to the legislature shall continue to serve as members of the council until their successors are appointed. Vacancies on the council may be filled for the unexpired term by appointment from the house or senate respectively by the respective appointing authority which makes the original appointments and subject to the same recommendations; provided such new members must be from the same body of the legislature and the same party from which their predecessors were appointed. The council shall elect such other officers as may be deemed necessary from among its own members. The officers shall be elected for terms coterminous with their membership on the council. The speaker and the president pro tempore shall be co-chairmen of the council. No action shall be taken by the council if a majority of the total membership from either house on the council rejects such action. This 1978 amendment shall not be construed to cut short the term of any member already appointed to the council.

Historical Background

As originally constituted in 1951, the New Mexico Legislative Council was a standing committee of the legislature and consisted of nine members. The lieutenant governor, as president of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives were automatic members. The remaining seven members — three from the senate and four from the house — were appointed by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house. Not more than two members appointed from each chamber could belong to the same political party. Senate members served for four years and house members for two years.

In 1955, the membership of the council was increased to 13, providing for two additional members from each chamber. The 1955 amendment also revised the bipartisan requirement to give political parties the same proportionate representation on the council that prevailed in each chamber.

The council was made a permanent joint interim committee in 1957. The lieutenant governor was removed as a member and replaced by the president pro tempore of the senate. The appointing authority was changed to conform with the rules by which standing committees of the respective chambers are appointed. The terms of all members were set at two years.

In 1978, the membership was increased to 16 members, providing equal representation from each chamber, and procedures were established for selection of minority members. Changes in voting procedures were also made whereby no action could be taken by the council if a majority of the total membership from either chamber rejected the action.

Duties

The duties of the New Mexico Legislative Council range in scope from directing the staff of the LCS to exercising the exclusive control of the buildings and grounds of the State Capitol and Capitol North annex.

Specifically, the duties of the New Mexico Legislative Council set out in statute are as follows.

2-3-3. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL--POWERS--DUTIES.--It is the duty of the New Mexico legislative council to:

A. adopt rules and regulations for the administration of Chapter 2, Article 3 NMSA 1978 in the conduct of the affairs of the legislative council service;

B. formulate policies for the operation and conduct of the business of the legislative council service and generally to supervise all of the activities of the council service;

C. carry out the purposes of the legislative council service as hereafter set forth;

D. create committees of legislators to study major problems during the periods when the legislature is not in session; provided that:

(1) no member of the council shall serve as an officer on an interim committee appointed or created by the council;

(2) all committees created by the council shall terminate on or before December 1 of the year in which they are created unless the council subsequently

extends the life of the committee for not more than one month;

(3) the minority party shall be represented on all council-created committees in the proportion the minority party is represented in each house;

(4) the relationship of the size of the house and senate shall be taken into consideration in determining the number of members from each house appointed to an interim committee created by the council; and

(5) members shall be appointed to council-created committees by the same appointing authorities that appoint the council members from each house and subject to the same recommendations. The council shall name committee officers from among the committee members so appointed;

E. adopt rules of procedure for all committees created by the council, including a rule that no action shall be taken by a committee if a majority of the total membership from either house on the committee rejects such action; provided that no member of the legislature shall ever be excluded from any meeting of any committee appointed by the council; and

F. refrain from advocating or opposing the introduction or passage of legislation.

2-3-4. CONTROL OF BUILDING HOUSING LEGISLATURE, ADJACENT UTILITY PLANT AND SURROUNDING GROUNDS.--Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 6, Articles 1 and 2, NMSA 1953, the exclusive control, care, custody and maintenance of the building in which the legislature is housed, the adjacent utilities plant and the surrounding grounds are transferred from the capitol buildings improvement commission, and the capitol custodian commission, to the legislative council.

In addition, the members of the New Mexico Legislative Council serve as ex-officio members of the Commission on Intergovernmental Cooperation. The duties of the commission are set out in Section 11-2-2 NMSA 1978 as follows.

A. to carry forward the participation of this state as a member of the council of state governments;

B. to encourage and assist the legislative, executive, administrative and judicial officials and employees of this state to develop and maintain friendly contact by correspondence, by conference and otherwise, with officials and employees of the other states, of the federal government and of local units of government;

C. to endeavor to advance cooperation between this state and other units of government whenever it seems advisable to do so by formulating proposals for, and by facilitating:

(1) the adoption of compacts;

(2) the enactment of uniform or reciprocal statutes;

- (3) the adoption of uniform or reciprocal administrative rules and regulations;
- (4) the informal cooperation of governmental offices with one another;
- (5) the personal cooperation of governmental officials and employees with one another, individually;
- (6) the interchange and clearance of research and information; and
- (7) any other suitable process;

D. in short, to do all such acts as will, in the opinion of this commission, enable this state to do its part or more than its part in forming a more perfect union among the various governments in the United States and in developing the council of state governments for that purpose.

Policy Changes

Policies that were changed or created during the biennium include:

- ◆ Legislative Council Policy 4, regarding legislator reimbursement for certain meetings, amended at the council meeting on June 26, 2023;
- ◆ Legislative Council Policy 15, regarding the Interim Legislative Ethics Committee, amended at the council meeting on December 12, 2022;
- ◆ Legislative Council Policy 27, regarding the creation of legislative district offices and staff, created at the council meeting on June 24, 2024 and effective on and after July 1, 2024;
- ◆ a Parental Leave Policy, adopted at the council meeting on October 11, 2022;
- ◆ a revised Anti-Harassment Policy, amended at the council meeting on December 12, 2022; and
- ◆ a revised New Mexico Legislative Staff Code of Conduct, which was distributed on January 29, 2023.

See the [Appendix](#) for the full text of these policies.

PERMANENT INTERIM COMMITTEES

Legislative Education Study Committee

2023, 2024

<i>LESC Membership 2023</i>	<i>LESC Membership 2024</i>
<i>Voting</i>	<i>Voting</i>
Rep. G. Andrés Romero, Chair, Albuquerque	Rep. G. Andrés Romero, Chair, Albuquerque
Sen. William P. Soules, Vice Chair, Las Cruces	Sen. William P. Soules, Vice Chair, Las Cruces
Rep. Brian G. Baca, Los Lunas	Rep. Brian G. Baca, Los Lunas
Sen. Craig W. Brandt, Rio Rancho	Sen. Craig W. Brandt, Rio Rancho
Rep. Joy Garratt, Albuquerque	Rep. Joy Garratt, Albuquerque
Rep. Raymundo Lara, Chamberino	Rep. Raymundo Lara, Chamberino
Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya, Los Lunas	Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya, Los Lunas
Sen. Harold Pope, Albuquerque	Sen. Harold Pope, Albuquerque
Sen. Mimi Stewart, Albuquerque	Sen. Mimi Stewart, Albuquerque
<i>Advisory</i>	<i>Advisory</i>
Rep. John Block, Alamogordo	Rep. John Block, Alamogordo
Rep. Ambrose Castellano, Serafina	Rep. Ambrose Castellano, Serafina
Rep. Candy Spence Ezzell, Roswell	Rep. Candy Spence Ezzell, Roswell
Rep. Natalie Figueroa, Albuquerque	Rep. Natalie Figueroa, Albuquerque
Sen. David M. Gallegos, Eunice	Sen. David M. Gallegos, Eunice
Rep. Yanira Gurrola, Albuquerque	Rep. Yanira Gurrola, Albuquerque
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Silver City	Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Silver City
Rep. Susan K. Herrera, Embudo	Rep. Susan K. Herrera, Embudo
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock	Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock
Rep. Jenifer Jones, Deming	Rep. Jenifer Jones, Deming
Rep. T. Ryan Lane, Aztec	Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque
Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque	Rep. Tara L. Lujan, Santa Fe
Rep. Tara L. Lujan, Santa Fe	Rep. Willie D. Madrid, Chaparral
Rep. Willie D. Madrid, Chaparral	Sen. Antonio Maestas, Albuquerque
Sen. Antonio Maestas, Albuquerque	Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque
Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque	Rep. Cristina Parajón, Albuquerque
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi	Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Albuquerque	Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Albuquerque
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque	Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Albuquerque	Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Albuquerque
Rep. Nathan P. Small, Dona Ana	Rep. Nathan P. Small, Dona Ana
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Albuquerque	Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Albuquerque

The Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) was originally created in 1965, and members are appointed pursuant to the statutory authority contained in Section 2-10-1 NMSA 1978.

The LESC conducts a continuing study of all education in New Mexico, the laws governing such education and the policies and costs of the New Mexico educational system. As a permanent interim committee, the LESC publishes a separate report of its work, findings and recommendations.

Legislative Finance Committee

2023, 2024

LFC Membership 2023

Voting

Sen. George K. Muñoz, Chair, Gallup
Rep. Nathan P. Small, Vice Chair, Dona Ana
Rep. Gail Armstrong, Magdalena
Rep. Brian G. Baca, Los Lunas
Sen. Pete Campos, Las Vegas
Rep. Jack Chatfield, Mosquero
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon, Albuquerque
Rep. Harry Garcia, Grants
Sen. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Ranchos De Taos
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Silver City
Rep. Derrick J. Lente, Sandia Pueblo
Sen. Steven P. Neville, Aztec
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez, Santa Fe
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Albuquerque
Sen. William E. Sharer, Farmington
Sen. Pat Woods, Broadview

Designees

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan
Sen. Craig W. Brandt, Rio Rancho
Rep. Christine Chandler, Los Alamos
Rep. Gail Chasey, Albuquerque
Sen. Crystal Diamond Brantley, Elephant Butte
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Las Cruces
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos, Las Cruces
Sen. David M. Gallegos, Eunice
Sen. Ron Griggs, Alamogordo
Rep. Susan K. Herrera, Embudo
Sen. Martin Hickey, Albuquerque
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil, Albuquerque
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock
Rep. T. Ryan Lane, Aztec
Rep. Raymundo Lara, Chamberino
Rep. Stefani Lord, Sandia Park
Rep. Alan T. Martinez, Rio Rancho
Rep. Greg Nibert, Roswell
Rep. Kristina Ortey, Taos
Rep. Andrea Reeb, Clovis
Rep. G. Andrés Romero, Albuquerque
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr., Jemez Pueblo
Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Las Cruces
Rep. Reena Szczepanski, Santa Fe
Sen. Bill Tallman, Albuquerque
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas, Santa Clara
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Albuquerque

Standing Advisory

Rep. Anthony Allison, Fruitland
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown, Carlsbad
Sen. William F. Burt, Alamogordo
Rep. Art De La Cruz, Albuquerque
Rep. Joy Garratt, Albuquerque
Rep. Pamela Herndon, Albuquerque
Rep. Tara Jaramillo, Socorro
Rep. Tara L. Lujan, Santa Fe
Rep. Rod Montoya, Farmington
Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew, Lovington
Rep. Joseph Sanchez, Alcalde

The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) was established as a fiscal and management arm of the legislature in 1957. The committee makes budgetary recommendations to the legislature for funding state government, higher education and public schools. The committee also prepares legislation addressing financial and management issues of state government. The LFC conducts public hearings,

*LFC Membership
2024*

Voting

Sen. George K. Muñoz, Chair, Gallup
Rep. Nathan P. Small, Vice Chair, Dona Ana
Rep. Gail Armstrong, Magdalena
Rep. Brian G. Baca, Los Lunas
Sen. Pete Campos, Las Vegas
Rep. Jack Chatfield, Mosquero
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon, Albuquerque
Rep. Harry Garcia, Grants
Sen. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Ranchos De Taos
Rep. Derrick J. Lente, Sandia Pueblo
Sen. Steven P. Neville, Aztec
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez, Santa Fe
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Albuquerque
Sen. William E. Sharer, Farmington
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr., Jemez Pueblo
Sen. Pat Woods, Broadview

Designees

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan
Sen. Craig W. Brandt, Rio Rancho
Sen. Crystal Brantley, Elephant Butte
Rep. Christine Chandler, Los Alamos
Rep. Gail Chasey, Albuquerque
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Las Cruces
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos, Las Cruces
Sen. David M. Gallegos, Eunice
Sen. Ron Griggs, Alamogordo
Rep. Susan K. Herrera, Embudo
Sen. Martin Hickey, Albuquerque
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil, Albuquerque
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock
Rep. Raymundo Lara, Chamberino
Rep. Stefani Lord, Sandia Park
Rep. Alan T. Martinez, Rio Rancho
Rep. Kristina Ortez, Taos
Rep. Andrea Reeb, Clovis
Rep. G. Andrés Romero, Albuquerque
Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Las Cruces
Rep. Reena Szczepanski, Santa Fe
Sen. Bill Tallman, Albuquerque
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas, Santa Clara
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Albuquerque
Sen. Peter Wirth, Santa Fe

Standing Advisory

Rep. Anthony Allison, Fruitland
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown, Carlsbad
Sen. William F. Burt, Alamogordo
Rep. Art De La Cruz, Albuquerque
Rep. Joy Garratt, Albuquerque
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Silver City
Rep. Pamelya Herndon, Albuquerque
Rep. Tara Jaramillo, Socorro
Rep. Tara L. Lujan, Santa Fe
Rep. Rod Montoya, Farmington
Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew, Lovington
Rep. Joseph Sanchez, Alcalde
Rep. Harlan Vincent, Ruidoso Downs

usually once a month during the interim, to consider its budget recommendations and to pursue current finance and management issues of state government.

As a permanent interim committee, the LFC publishes a separate report of its work.

**STATUTORY AND NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL-CREATED INTERIM COMMITTEES**

Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee

2023, 2024

<i>CCJ Membership 2023</i>	<i>CCJ Membership 2024</i>
<i>Voting</i>	<i>Voting</i>
Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Co-Chair, Las Cruces	Rep. Christine Chandler, Chair, Los Alamos
Rep. Christine Chandler, Co-Chair, Los Alamos	Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Vice Chair, Las Cruces
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan	Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu, Albuquerque	Rep. Janelle Anyanonu, Albuquerque
Sen. Gregory A. Baca, Belen	Sen. Gregory A. Baca, Belen
Rep. Gail Chasey, Albuquerque	Rep. Gail Chasey, Albuquerque
Sen. Antonio Maestas, Albuquerque	Sen. Antonio Maestas, Albuquerque
Rep. Alan T. Martinez, Rio Rancho	Rep. Alan T. Martinez, Rio Rancho
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill, Albuquerque	Sen. Greg Nibert, Roswell
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle, Roswell	Sen. Bill B. O'Neill, Albuquerque
Rep. Andrea Reeb, Clovis	Rep. Andrea Reeb, Clovis
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm, Albuquerque	Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm, Albuquerque
Rep. Andrea Romero, Santa Fe	Rep. Andrea Romero, Santa Fe
Rep. Angelica Rubio, Las Cruces	Rep. Angelica Rubio, Las Cruces
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Albuquerque	Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Albuquerque
<i>Advisory</i>	<i>Advisory</i>
Rep. John Block, Alamogordo	Rep. John Block, Alamogordo
Rep. Cynthia Borrego, Albuquerque	Rep. Cynthia Borrego, Albuquerque
Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena, Mesilla	Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena, Mesilla
Rep. Ambrose Castellano, Serafina	Rep. Ambrose Castellano, Serafina
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg, Albuquerque	Sen. Katy M. Duhigg, Albuquerque
Sen. Daniel A. Ivey-Soto, Albuquerque	Rep. William A. Hall II, Aztec
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock	Rep. Jared A. Hembree, Roswell
Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque	Sen. Daniel A. Ivey-Soto, Albuquerque
Rep. Stefani Lord, Sandia Park	Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock
Rep. Tara L. Lujan, Santa Fe	Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque
Rep. Willie D. Madrid, Chaparral	Rep. Stefani Lord, Sandia Park
Sen. Mimi Stewart, Albuquerque	Rep. Tara L. Lujan, Santa Fe
Rep. Reena Szczepanski, Santa Fe	Rep. Willie D. Madrid, Chaparral
Sen. Peter Wirth, Santa Fe	Sen. Cliff Pirtle, Roswell
<i>Staff</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Nancy Martinez	Sen. Mimi Stewart, Albuquerque
Sean Dolan	Rep. Reena Szczepanski, Santa Fe
Domenica Nieto	Sen. Peter Wirth, Santa Fe
Yessica Marquina	<i>Staff</i>
	Nancy Martinez
	Sean Dolan
	Simon Suzuki
	Domenica Nieto

The Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee was created for the current biennium by the New Mexico Legislative Council on May 1, 2023 and again on March 25, 2024.

During the 2023 interim and as time permits, the committee proposed to examine the following topics and receive presentations that address or include:

(1) courts:

- ♦ an update from the Administrative Office of the Courts;

◆ updates from the judiciary, including from the supreme court, the dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law and the chair of the Appellate Judges Nominating Commission;

◆ an update from the Public Defender Department, including discussion of:

- caseloads;
- staffing and staff training; and
- programs, budgets and budget priorities in each district and

legislative priorities;

◆ an update from the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Administrative Office of the District Attorneys and the New Mexico District Attorney Association, including discussion of:

- caseloads;
- staffing and staff training; and
- programs, budgets and budget priorities in each district and

legislative priorities;

◆ justice reinvestment opportunities for the Administrative Office of the Courts, public defenders and district attorneys;

◆ peer support and divergence; and

◆ sufficient court funding;

(2) corrections oversight:

◆ discussion of staff oversight;

◆ an update from the New Mexico Sentencing Commission;

◆ an update from the Corrections Department, including discussion of:

- staffing and staff training;
- programs, budgets, budget priorities and legislative priorities; and
- probation and parole;

◆ a report on a review of DWI arrests, booking and post-arrest protocol (House Memorial 74 (2023)); and

◆ a report regarding changes to improve compliance of local, county, state and federal jails and detention and correctional facilities with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (House Memorial 40 (2023));

(3) criminal law and criminal justice reform:

◆ criminal justice reform and recommended legislation, including:

- probation and parole reform;
- pretrial detention;
- fines and fees reform; and
- justice reinvestment;

◆ a study and redraft of the Criminal Code by the New Mexico Sentencing Commission; and

- ◆ an update from the Office of the Attorney General;
- (4) policing and law enforcement;
- (5) gun safety;
- (6) the Children, Youth and Families Department, regarding the *Kevin S.* settlement discussion regarding codification;
- (7) topic requests by committee members, including:
 - ◆ legislative history and interpretation;
 - ◆ intergovernmental tribal agreements;
 - ◆ Administrative Office of the Courts specialty courts;
 - ◆ the Children's Code Task Force;
 - ◆ guardianship oversight;
 - ◆ data integration;
 - ◆ the Gateway Center;
 - ◆ the Veterans Integration Centers;
 - ◆ methadone clinics;
 - ◆ overcrowded jails;
 - ◆ police shootings;
 - ◆ gun safety, including what other states have done to address gun safety;
 - ◆ sexual and domestic violence in relation to landlords and tenants;
 - ◆ the Children, Youth and Families Department Juvenile Advisory Council;
 - ◆ parole reform (Senate Bill 84 (2023));
 - ◆ the Constitutional Revision Commission;
 - ◆ legislative pay;
 - ◆ the separation of powers;
 - ◆ probation and parole technical violations;
 - ◆ an evaluation of vetoed bills;
 - ◆ detainment for federal immigration violations (Senate Bill 172 (2023));
 - ◆ the processes of selecting and retaining judges;
 - ◆ public safety and pretrial detention;
 - ◆ language access in state courts;
 - ◆ a tour of Crossroads for Women;
 - ◆ the process by which New Mexico can access an annual \$25 million federal grant to address post-separation child and intimate partner abuse cases appearing in family and domestic violence courts;
 - ◆ the "Let Them Play" bill relating to provisions concerning student athletics (Senate Bill 384 (2023));
 - ◆ the use of a search warrant for a blood draw on a person charged with a misdemeanor DWI, which is not allowed under current law, and whether to allow the use of such search warrants for a first, second or third offense;
 - ◆ a presentation regarding pretrial detention, including updated data on re-offenders and habitual offenders;

- ♦ an explanation of recent changes to the use of the Arnold tool by the Second Judicial District Court;
- ♦ an update regarding officer vacancies in the Albuquerque Police Department;
- ♦ a comprehensive discussion of behavioral health services and responses to criminal activity;
- ♦ a presentation regarding the fentanyl epidemic, including updated data for fentanyl-related deaths;
- ♦ a presentation from the Administrative Office of the Courts regarding the processing of outstanding warrants;
- ♦ a presentation regarding infant fatalities occurring while a child is under the care of the Children, Youth and Families Department and a discussion of oversight options for that department;
- ♦ a presentation regarding issues associated with the legalization of recreational marijuana, including jurisdictional issues for minors found in possession of marijuana at school, marijuana as contraband and driving while under the influence of marijuana;
- ♦ a presentation from the New Mexico Livestock Board regarding livestock theft;
- ♦ construction of a regional behavioral health facility to address behavioral health needs;
- ♦ an examination of chaptered bills;
- ♦ police training reform;
- ♦ a discussion of fines and fees;
- ♦ juvenile life without parole;
- ♦ foster youth identification cards;
- ♦ gun legislation to address liability for manufacturers; and
- ♦ firearm accessibility and preventive measures;

(8) legislation for committee consideration; and

(9) as necessary, examination of other issues relevant to courts, corrections and justice and criminal justice reform. Please note that the aforementioned categories are for organizational purposes only, and specific presentation items may fall within more than one category.

During the 2024 interim and as time permits, the committee proposed to examine the following topics and receive presentations that address or include:

- (1) the intersection of the justice system with mental illness and addiction:
 - ♦ existing legal authority: What is working? What is not working?;
 - ♦ state and local programs;
 - ♦ treatment and resources;
 - ♦ assisted outpatient treatment;
 - ♦ diversion, including specialty courts;
 - ♦ competency; and
 - ♦ civil commitment;
- (2) regulation of panhandling;

(3) other items that will potentially be addressed at the upcoming special session, to the extent known;

(4) gun safety;

(5) artificial intelligence:

- ◆ expanding use and potential abuse; and
- ◆ potential regulatory frameworks;

(6) criminal justice issues:

- ◆ probation and parole;
- ◆ the Corrections Department;
- ◆ county and municipal jails; and
- ◆ data collection and gaps;

(7) DWI tests and motor vehicle crimes;

(8) the health care system: vertical integration and related issues;

(9) housing: legal barriers and landlord-tenant relations;

(10) workers' compensation;

(11) governmental ethics;

(12) election issues;

(13) New Mexico Supreme Court issues and initiatives, such as the rural justice initiative;

(14) legislation for committee consideration; and

(15) as necessary, examination of other issues relevant to courts, corrections and justice and criminal justice reform.

Economic and Rural Development and Policy Committee

2023, 2024

The Economic Development and Rural Development and Policy Committee was created for the current biennium by the New Mexico Legislative Council on May 1, 2023 and again on March 25, 2024.

During the 2023 interim, and as time permits, the committee proposed to explore and discuss major areas and specific issues affecting economic development and policy as follows.

Broadband and Economic Development

The committee proposed to hear updates on:

- (1) broadband implementation progress made by the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion and the Connect New Mexico Council;
- (2) updates on broadband projects throughout New Mexico; and
- (3) internet coverage in rural areas.

Statewide and Local Economic Development Initiatives

The committee proposed to hear updates from the Economic Development Department on:

- (1) currently available economic development incentives and programs developed from recently passed legislation;
- (2) the development, use and cost of the state's economic development incentives;

*ERDPC Membership
2023*

Voting

Sen. Carrie Hamblen, Chair, Las Cruces
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos, Vice Chair, Las Cruces
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu, Albuquerque
Rep. Gail Armstrong, Magdalena
Rep. Ambrose Castellano, Serafina
Sen. Crystal Diamond Brantley, Elephant Butte
Sen. Ron Griggs, Alamogordo
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Silver City
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez, Rio Rancho
Rep. Jenifer Jones, Deming
Rep. Charlotte Little, Albuquerque
Rep. Tara L. Lujan, Santa Fe
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom, Gallup
Sen. Antonio Maestas, Albuquerque
Rep. Jimmy G. Mason, Artesia
Sen. George K. Muñoz, Gallup
Rep. Kristina Orteiz, Taos
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle, Roswell
Rep. Linda Serrato, Santa Fe
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr., Jemez Pueblo
Rep. Martin R. Zamora, Clovis

Advisory

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan
Rep. Anthony Allison, Fruitland
Rep. Cynthia Borrego, Albuquerque
Sen. William F. Burt, Alamogordo
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg, Albuquerque
Rep. Mark Duncan, Kirtland
Rep. Joy Garratt, Albuquerque
Rep. Pamelya Herndon, Albuquerque
Rep. Susan K. Herrera, Embudo
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock
Rep. Derrick J. Lente, Sandia Pueblo
Rep. Willie D. Madrid, Chaparral
Rep. Alan T. Martinez, Rio Rancho
Rep. Marian Matthews, Albuquerque
Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya, Los Lunas
Rep. Rod Montoya, Farmington
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm, Albuquerque
Rep. Andrea Romero, Santa Fe
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Albuquerque
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Cerrillos
Rep. Reena Szczepanski, Santa Fe
Sen. Bill Tallman, Albuquerque

Staff

Erin Bond
Martin Fischer
Nicole Waguespack
Ian Stroud

*ERDPC Membership
2024*

Voting

Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos, Chair, Las Cruces
Sen. Carrie Hamblen, Vice Chair, Las Cruces
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu, Albuquerque
Rep. Gail Armstrong, Magdalena
Sen. Crystal Brantley, Elephant Butte
Rep. Ambrose Castellano, Serafina
Sen. Ron Griggs, Alamogordo
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez, Rio Rancho
Rep. Jenifer Jones, Deming
Rep. Charlotte Little, Albuquerque
Rep. Tara L. Lujan, Santa Fe
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom, Gallup
Rep. Jimmy G. Mason, Artesia
Rep. Kristina Orteiz, Taos
Rep. Martin R. Zamora, Clovis

Advisory

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan
Rep. Anthony Allison, Fruitland
Rep. Cynthia Borrego, Albuquerque
Sen. William F. Burt, Alamogordo
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg, Albuquerque
Rep. Mark Duncan, Kirtland
Rep. Joy Garratt, Albuquerque
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Silver City
Rep. Pamelya Herndon, Albuquerque
Rep. Susan K. Herrera, Embudo
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock
Rep. Derrick J. Lente, Sandia Pueblo
Rep. Willie D. Madrid, Chaparral
Sen. Antonio Maestas, Albuquerque
Rep. Alan T. Martinez, Rio Rancho
Rep. Marian Matthews, Albuquerque
Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya, Los Lunas
Rep. Rod Montoya, Farmington
Sen. George K. Muñoz, Gallup
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle, Roswell
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm, Albuquerque
Rep. Andrea Romero, Santa Fe
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Albuquerque
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr., Jemez Pueblo
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Cerrillos
Rep. Reena Szczepanski, Santa Fe
Sen. Bill Tallman, Albuquerque

Staff

Erin Bond
Martin Fischer
Erika Falance

(3) areas for improvement in different regions of the state, community outreach and legislative action;

(4) improving New Mexico's ability to attract businesses; and

- (5) the economic development needs of rural New Mexico.

Issues Impacting Local and Small Businesses

The committee proposed to discuss the following issues related to small business:

- (1) challenges and opportunities posed by and methods of prioritizing site readiness; and methods of reducing the cost of opening a small business;
- (2) new regulations and requirements regarding taxes, employees and sick leave;
- (3) workforce development, recruitment, training and employee retention, including competitive and affordable wages;
- (4) challenges to, successes of and opportunities for state assistance for minority and LGBTQ+ businesses;
- (5) methods of supporting employees with disabilities;
- (6) changes to the workforce and hiring post-COVID-19 pandemic;
- (7) the Catastrophic Business Relief Fund;
- (8) challenges facing labor and employers in New Mexico;
- (9) potential impacts of establishing a public bank;
- (10) hotel and mall renovation tax credits;
- (11) the COVID-19 pandemic's influence on small businesses and the impact of legislative action, including the Small Business Recovery and Stimulus Act;
- (12) the role of the gig economy in New Mexico;
- (13) reducing brain drain and retaining the next generation in New Mexico's workforce;
- (14) challenges and opportunities in New Mexico's medical economy for rural health care providers;
- (15) the economic impact of nonprofit organizations and mitigating the effects of minimum wage increases on nonprofit contracts;
- (16) the economic effects of affordable housing; and
- (17) the types and impacts of tax increment development districts.

Updates from the Workforce Solutions Department

The committee proposed to hear updates from the Workforce Solutions Department on:

- (1) programs for small businesses;
- (2) barriers that prevent employees from accessing unemployment benefits;
- (3) fiscal challenges faced by the department and possible avenues of legislative action;
- (4) paid family and medical leave;
- (5) the department's proposed Local News Fellowship Program;
- (6) unemployment fraud and recovery of overpaid unemployment insurance benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- (7) the effect of changes to federal work requirements for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

Economic Impacts of Adult-Use Cannabis

The committee proposed to hear:

- (1) reports from the Regulation and Licensing Department on the process of applying

for different cannabis licenses and the number of licenses obtained;

- (2) how recreational cannabis businesses can benefit from statewide and regional resources;
- (3) challenges faced by the cannabis industry, such as banking oversight, legislative impacts, grower expansion and issuance of licenses;
- (4) a presentation on cannabis farming; and
- (5) using recreational cannabis revenue to fund state programs.

Opportunities Available for the Film Industry, the Outdoor Economy and Creative Industries

The committee proposed to discuss:

- (1) the potential of the creative industries economy and the implementation of House Bill 8 (2023);
- (2) the economic impact and possible overpayment of film tax credits and ways to grow the industry and workforce throughout the state;
- (3) indigenous filmmaking and filming on tribal land; and
- (4) outdoor recreation opportunities and development throughout New Mexico.

Impact of Transportation Infrastructure on State and Local Economies

The committee proposed to receive reports on:

- (1) New Mexico's ports of entry and their economic impacts to the state;
- (2) industrial logistics in the movement of goods via air, rail, truck and interstate;
- (3) the economic impact of short line railroads; and
- (4) the relationship between transportation infrastructure and tribal, state and local economies.

Farming and Livestock Industries as Economic Generators

The committee proposed to receive updates on:

- (1) state meat inspectors assigned to the New Mexico Livestock Board;
- (2) reinstatement of a meat processing plant in eastern New Mexico;
- (3) the economic impact of drought on farming and ranching and technological methods of mitigation;
- (4) managing water resources for long-term economic well-being;
- (5) the impact of veterinarian shortages on agriculture; and
- (6) developing lumber microindustries in rural New Mexico.

Renewable Energy as an Economic Generator

The committee proposed to hear presentations on:

- (1) the development of a renewable energy industry and economy while transitioning from extractive industries and modernizing the grid;
- (2) hydrogen production, including green hydrogen production in rural areas, pink hydrogen and blue hydrogen;
- (3) renewable energy investment and needs assessment;
- (4) the development of geothermal energy;
- (5) fostering New Mexico's energy transmission economy; and

(6) implementation of the Energy Transition Act and the mitigation of economic effects on local economies.

Educational Institutions and Economic Development

The committee proposed to hear presentations on:

- (1) job training programs at community colleges throughout the state and how community colleges serve their regions;
- (2) the Central New Mexico Community College Women in Trades program;
- (3) the economic benefits of the medical field from New Mexico's medical schools;
- (4) career and technical education in public schools;
- (5) the impact of the Opportunity Scholarship; and
- (6) collaborative efforts between the Higher Education Department, Workforce Solutions Department and the Health Care Authority Department to track and prepare students for employment trends.

Restaurant, Brewery and Distillery Industry Needs

The committee proposed to discuss:

- (1) the challenges and needs of the New Mexico wine industry;
- (2) the challenges and successes of small distilleries and breweries; and
- (3) the impacts of House Bill 255 (2021) on liquor licenses.

Economic Impact of Federal Installations

The committee proposed to hear presentations on the economic impact of military bases and national laboratories on state and local economies.

During the 2024 interim, and as time permits, the committee proposed to explore and discuss major areas and specific issues affecting economic development and policy as follows:

- (1) updates from government agencies involved in economic development, including:
 - ◆ the Economic Development Department;
 - ◆ the Workforce Solutions Department;
 - ◆ the Regulation and Licensing Department;
 - ◆ the New Mexico Department of Agriculture;
 - ◆ the Tourism Department;
 - ◆ the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department;
 - ◆ the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA);
 - ◆ the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA);
 - ◆ the General Services Department;
 - ◆ the Department of Environment;
 - ◆ the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion; and
 - ◆ the Office of the State Engineer;
- (2) economic development initiatives and priorities in communities around the state;
- (3) current and developing energy economies in New Mexico, including:
 - ◆ clean technologies and energy economies;
 - ◆ tribal energy development around the state;
 - ◆ site readiness and meeting the energy needs of New Mexico companies;

- ♦ regional transmission organizations; and
 - ♦ the implementation of the Energy Transition Act;
 - (4) agricultural industries as economic generators;
 - (5) challenges facing recreational cannabis businesses and the Cannabis Control Division of the Regulation and Licensing Department;
 - (6) developing outdoor recreation economies, including:
 - ♦ state parks; and
 - ♦ dark skies initiatives;
 - (7) internships, apprenticeships and workforce development programs;
 - (8) higher education initiatives relating to business and workforce development;
 - (9) challenges and opportunities facing New Mexico industries and small businesses,
- including:

- ♦ the gaming industry;
- ♦ the tourism and hospitality industry;
- ♦ the restaurant, bar and food service industry;
- ♦ the manufacturing industry;
- ♦ the medical industry; and
- ♦ the creative industries;
- (10) infrastructure development, including utilities, transportation and broadband;
- (11) housing, evictions and construction;
- (12) the relationships between the economy and the environment, including:
 - ♦ water as an economic driver;
 - ♦ weather stations; and
 - ♦ pore space in carbon capture;
- (13) medical malpractice;
- (14) paid family and medical leave;
- (15) the Border Industrial Complex and tradeports;
- (16) the proposed catastrophic business relief loan fund; and
- (17) the use of artificial intelligence.

Indian Affairs Committee

2023, 2024

The Indian Affairs Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council for the current biennium on May 1, 2023 and again on March 25, 2024.

The committee proposed to address the following topics affecting Native Americans during the 2023 interim, including updates that include or address the following.

- (1) State-Tribal Relations:
 - ♦ presentations from Native American liaisons or similarly tasked individuals from state executive agencies regarding outreach efforts, challenges and successes;

<i>IAC Membership 2023</i>	<i>IAC Membership 2024</i>
<i>Voting</i>	<i>Voting</i>
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Chair, Church Rock	Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Chair, Church Rock
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Vice Chair, Tohatchi	Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Vice Chair, Tohatchi
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan	Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan
Rep. Anthony Allison, Fruitland	Rep. Anthony Allison, Fruitland
Rep. John Block, Alamogordo	Rep. John Block, Alamogordo
Rep. Tara Jaramillo, Socorro	Rep. Tara Jaramillo, Socorro
Rep. Charlotte Little, Albuquerque	Rep. Charlotte Little, Albuquerque
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna, Corrales	Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill, Albuquerque	Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle, Roswell
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle, Roswell	Sen. Nancy Rodriguez, Santa Fe
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez, Santa Fe	Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Albuquerque
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Albuquerque	Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque	Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr., Jemez Pueblo
Sen. William E. Sharer, Farmington	Rep. Martin R. Zamora, Clovis
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr., Jemez Pueblo	
Rep. Martin R. Zamora, Clovis	
<i>Advisory</i>	<i>Advisory</i>
Rep. Gail Chasey, Albuquerque	Rep. Gail Chasey, Albuquerque
Rep. Harry Garcia, Grants	Rep. Harry Garcia, Grants
Sen. Stuart Ingle, Portales	Rep. Derrick J. Lente, Sandia Pueblo
Rep. Derrick J. Lente, Sandia Pueblo	Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom, Gallup
Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque	Sen. Brenda G. McKenna, Corrales
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom, Gallup	Sen. Bill B. O'Neill, Albuquerque
Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque	Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque
Sen. William P. Soules, Las Cruces	Sen. William E. Sharer, Farmington
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Albuquerque	Sen. William P. Soules, Las Cruces
	Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Albuquerque
<i>Staff</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Lenaya Montoya	Nicole Waguespack
Nicole Waguespack	Paul Estok
Angela Dakan	Sheila Keleher
Markela Clinton	

- ◆ a presentation on the transportation of uranium between various chapter houses on the Navajo Nation;
- ◆ funding for tribal capital projects;
- ◆ an update from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Force and the Office of the Attorney General's missing indigenous persons specialist;
- ◆ an update on tribal gaming and alcohol on gaming floors;
- ◆ an update from the Veterans' Services Department and tribal veterans' affairs organizations on veterans' affairs in tribal communities;
- ◆ presentations from the Indian Affairs Department, the Department of Environment and the NMFA on water infrastructure needs on tribal land;
- ◆ a report from the New Mexico Film Office on the Senator John Pinto Memorial Fund;
- ◆ a report from the Department of Transportation, the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation, counties within tribal lands and the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs on tribal roads and construction;

- ♦ an update from the secretary of state and the Native American Voters Alliance on tribal election issues;
- ♦ an update on the federal Indian Boarding School Initiative;
- ♦ an update on the federal decision regarding Chaco Canyon;
- ♦ a discussion of the United States Supreme Court decision on *Haaland v. Brackeen*;
- ♦ an update from the Children, Youth and Families Department on the Indian Family Protection Act;
- ♦ a presentation on the Indian Resources Development Program;
- ♦ a presentation on the liquor excise tax and tobacco tax and potential uses for those funds;
- ♦ updates on substance use issues, suicide prevention, drug trafficking, youth violence and behavioral health in New Mexico;
- ♦ an update on DWI treatment courts;
- ♦ an update on housing, poverty, food insecurity and employment issues for Native Americans;
- ♦ a presentation on domestic violence shelter funding on tribal lands;
- ♦ updates on fire and flooding concerns on tribal lands;
- ♦ an update on the Navajo Code Talkers Museum;
- ♦ an update on public safety and cross-commissioning of law enforcement officers;
- ♦ a presentation from the Department of Health and other health organizations regarding organ donation services;
- ♦ an update from Indigenous Women Rising;
- ♦ a presentation from the Office of the Attorney General on the office's work with tribal communities; and
- ♦ proposed legislation regarding Native American affairs;
- (2) Economic Development:
 - ♦ broadband access on tribal lands; and
 - ♦ updates from the Economic Development Department, the Indian Affairs Department and the Workforce Solutions Department on the Energy Transition Act;
- (3) Education:
 - ♦ the *Zuni v. State of New Mexico* lawsuit and the state equalization guarantee distribution, impact aid and funding formula;
 - ♦ an update on *Yazzie/Martinez v. State of New Mexico* and the state's action plan;
 - ♦ preservation of Native American languages;
 - ♦ an update from the New Mexico Athletics Association on students' eligibility to play sports and receive culturally based education;
 - ♦ Native American teacher retention and increasing access to Native American

teachers; and

- ◆ culturally relevant early learning programs; and

(4) Annual Reports from Executive Agencies:

- ◆ reports from the Office of the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream

Commission regarding:

- Aamodt settlement obligations and effects on federal funding;
- the status of proposed Indian water rights settlements requiring state

financing;

- the distribution of funds from the Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund to implement approved settlements and the proposed timing of the distributions; and

- recommendations on the level of funding for the Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund necessary to timely implement Indian water rights;

- ◆ a report from the Indian Affairs Department regarding:

• the compiled reports from all state agencies on activities pursuant to the State-Tribal Collaboration Act, including information on policies, plans, contact individuals, training, programs and services from each agency; and

• the department's priorities and initiatives, as well as updates on current issues that tribal communities are facing; and

◆ a report from the Tribal Infrastructure Board regarding the total expenditures from the Tribal Infrastructure Project Fund for the previous fiscal year, the purposes for which expenditures were made, an analysis of the progress of the projects funded and proposals for legislative action in the subsequent legislative session.

The committee proposed to address the following topics affecting Native Americans during the 2024 interim, including updates that include or address:

(1) State-Tribal Relations:

◆ presentations from Native American liaisons or similarly tasked individuals from state executive agencies regarding outreach efforts, challenges and successes;

◆ a presentation on the transportation of uranium between various chapter houses on the Navajo Nation;

- ◆ funding for tribal capital projects;

◆ an update from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Force and the Office of the Attorney General's missing indigenous persons specialist;

- ◆ an update on tribal gaming, sports betting and alcohol on gaming floors;

◆ an update from the Veterans' Services Department and tribal veterans' affairs organizations on veterans' affairs in tribal communities;

◆ presentations from the Indian Affairs Department, the Department of Environment and the NMFA on water infrastructure needs on tribal land;

◆ a report from the Department of Transportation, the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation, counties within tribal lands and the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs on tribal roads and construction;

- ◆ an update from the secretary of state and the Native American Voters

Alliance on tribal election issues;

- ◆ an update on the federal decision regarding Chaco Canyon;
- ◆ an update from the Children, Youth and Families Department on the Indian

Family Protection Act;

- ◆ a presentation on the Indian Resources Development Program;
- ◆ a presentation on the liquor excise tax and tobacco tax and potential uses for

those funds;

- ◆ updates on substance use issues, suicide prevention, drug trafficking, youth violence and behavioral health in New Mexico;

- ◆ an update on DWI treatment courts;

- ◆ an update on housing, poverty, food insecurity and employment issues for

Native Americans;

- ◆ a presentation on domestic violence shelter funding on tribal lands;

- ◆ updates on fire and flooding concerns on tribal lands;

- ◆ an update on the Navajo Code Talkers Museum;

- ◆ an update on public safety and cross-commissioning of law enforcement

officers;

- ◆ an update from Indigenous Women Rising;

- ◆ a presentation from the Office of the Attorney General on the office's work

with tribal communities;

- ◆ a presentation from the Aging and Long-Term Services Department

concerning services available to Native Americans; and

- ◆ proposed legislation regarding Native American affairs;

(2) Economic Development:

- ◆ broadband access on tribal lands;

- ◆ updates from the Economic Development Department, the Indian Affairs

Department and the Workforce Solutions Department on the Energy Transition Act;

- ◆ tribal energy development; and

- ◆ status of abandoned, uncapped and converted oil and gas wells;

(3) Education:

- ◆ the *Zuni v. State of New Mexico* lawsuit and the state equalization guarantee distribution, impact aid and funding formula;

◆ an update on *Yazzie/Martinez v. State of New Mexico* and the state's action plan;

- ◆ preservation of Native American languages and language equity;

◆ an update from the New Mexico Athletics Association on students' eligibility to play sports and receive culturally based education;

- ◆ Native American teacher retention and increasing access to Native American

teachers;

- ◆ culturally relevant early learning programs; and

- ◆ Bureau of Indian Affairs salary parity and infrastructure concerns; and

(4) Annual Reports from Executive Agencies:

- ◆ reports from the Office of the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream

Commission regarding:

- Aamodt settlement obligations and effects on federal funding;
- the status of proposed Indian water rights settlements requiring state financing;
- the distribution of funds from the Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund to implement approved settlements and the proposed timing of the distributions;
- recommendations on the level of funding for the Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund necessary to timely implement Indian water rights; and
- water line updates;
- ◆ a report from the Indian Affairs Department regarding:
 - the compiled reports from all state agencies on activities pursuant to the State-Tribal Collaboration Act, including information on policies, plans, contact individuals, training, programs and services from each agency; and
 - the department's priorities and initiatives, as well as updates on current issues that tribal communities are facing; and
- ◆ a report from the Tribal Infrastructure Board regarding the total expenditures from the Tribal Infrastructure Project Fund for the previous fiscal year, the purposes for which expenditures were made, an analysis of the progress of the projects funded and proposals for legislative action in the subsequent legislative session.

Interim Legislative Ethics Committee

2023, 2024

<i>LEC Membership 2023</i>	<i>LEC Membership 2024</i>
<i>Voting</i> Sen. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Co-Chair, Ranchos De Taos Rep. Andrea Romero, Co-Chair, Santa Fe Rep. Janelle Anyanonu, Albuquerque Sen. Gregory A. Baca, Belen Sen. Craig W. Brandt, Rio Rancho Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown, Carlsbad Rep. Christine Chandler, Los Alamos Sen. Crystal Diamond Brantley, Elephant Butte Rep. Mark Duncan, Kirtland Sen. Carrie Hamblen, Las Cruces Sen. Leo Jaramillo, Espanola Rep. Greg Nibert, Roswell Rep. Andrea Reeb, Clovis Sen. William E. Sharer, Farmington Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Cerrillos Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Albuquerque	<i>Voting</i> Sen. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Co-Chair, Ranchos De Taos Rep. Andrea Romero, Co-Chair, Santa Fe Rep. Janelle Anyanonu, Albuquerque Sen. Gregory A. Baca, Belen Sen. Craig W. Brandt, Rio Rancho Sen. Crystal Brantley, Elephant Butte Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown, Carlsbad Rep. Christine Chandler, Los Alamos Rep. Mark Duncan, Kirtland Sen. Carrie Hamblen, Las Cruces Sen. Leo Jaramillo, Espanola Rep. Andrea Reeb, Clovis Sen. William E. Sharer, Farmington Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Cerrillos Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Albuquerque
<i>Staff</i> Amy Chavez-Romero Raúl E. Burciaga	<i>Staff</i> Raúl E. Burciaga Shawna Casebier

The Interim Legislative Ethics Committee is created in Section 2-15-7 NMSA 1978 as the legislative body responsible for addressing all matters that arise during the interim pertaining to legislative ethics. As such, the committee does not meet on a regular basis but only when a situation arises within its purview. During this biennium, the committee received eight complaints and did not issue any advisory opinions.

Investments and Pensions Oversight Committee

2023, 2024

The Investments and Pensions Oversight Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council for the current biennium on May 1, 2023 and again on March 25, 2024.

During the 2023 interim, the committee proposed to:

- (1) receive reports from the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA), the Educational Retirement Board (ERB) and the Retiree Health Care Authority (RHCA) on each agency's sustainability and solvency — as measured by actuarial valuation reports, unfunded liabilities, other metrics and experience studies as influenced by funding policies — and on each agency's plans for improving sustainability and solvency;
- (2) receive reports from the State Investment Council (SIC), the Office of the State

<i>IPOC Membership 2023</i>	<i>IPOC Membership 2024</i>
<i>Voting</i>	<i>Voting</i>
Sen. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Chair, Ranchos De Taos	Sen. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Chair, Ranchos De Taos
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Vice Chair, Albuquerque	Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Vice Chair, Albuquerque
Rep. Cynthia Borrego, Albuquerque	Rep. Cynthia Borrego, Albuquerque
Rep. Ambrose Castellano, Serafina	Rep. Ambrose Castellano, Serafina
Rep. Natalie Figueroa, Albuquerque	Rep. Natalie Figueroa, Albuquerque
Sen. Stuart Ingle, Portales	Sen. Daniel A. Ivey-Soto, Albuquerque
Sen. Daniel A. Ivey-Soto, Albuquerque	Rep. Alan T. Martinez, Rio Rancho
Rep. Alan T. Martinez, Rio Rancho	Sen. Greg Nibert, Roswell
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm, Albuquerque	Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm, Albuquerque
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque	Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Albuquerque	Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Albuquerque
Rep. Linda Serrato, Santa Fe	Rep. Linda Serrato, Santa Fe
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Corrales	Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Corrales
<i>Advisory</i>	<i>Advisory</i>
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan	Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan
Sen. William F. Burt, Alamogordo	Sen. William F. Burt, Alamogordo
Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque	Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi	Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Albuquerque	Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Albuquerque
<i>Staff</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Cristina Vasquez	Cristina Vasquez
Carrie McGovern	Rebecca Griego
Catherine Saylor	Carrie McGovern

Treasurer (OST), the PERA, the ERB and the RHCA on the value and investment of the funds managed by each respective agency, as demonstrated by the comparative fiscal performance of the funds;

(3) receive an overview and analysis of the different funds managed by the PERA, the ERB, the RHCA, the SIC and the OST, including funded and unfunded rates and projections of the managed funds;

(4) review the current investment and administrative structure of the state's pension and retirement benefit programs and receive testimony on the challenges and strengths of those structures and potential solutions and alternatives;

(5) receive updates and reports from the SIC, the PERA, the ERB and the RHCA on each agency's strategic goals and their plans and actions to reach their goals, including staffing needs;

(6) receive updates and testimony from the SIC, the PERA, the ERB and the RHCA on the governance of each agency's funds, including a review of any policy or considerations that are taken into account when assets are allocated for investment;

(7) review and receive testimony from the PERA and the ERB on return-to-work policies and the effect of those policies on the actuarial valuation of the respective funds;

(8) receive updates from the SIC on permanent funds, endowments, the New Mexico Private Equity Investment Program and the America's Frontier Fund investment;

(9) receive testimony on issues relevant to the investment of public funds and the administration of pension programs, including testimony from public and private organizations that

represent current state and county employees;

(10) receive testimony from the PERA and the ERB on the possible effects of adopting an automatic escalator, including the possible effect on fund solvency;

(11) receive testimony from the SIC, the PERA, the ERB and the RHCA on each agency's suggestions to improve and expand existing statutes for functionality and to better align with national best practices;

(12) review retirement, pension and investment programs from other states to compare and determine the efficiency of and potential improvements to New Mexico's retirement, pension and investment programs;

(13) consider legislation relevant to these topics; and

(14) as necessary, examine other issues relevant to the investment of public funds and the administration of pension programs.

During the 2024 interim, the committee proposed to:

(1) receive reports from the PERA, the ERB and the RHCA on each agency's sustainability and solvency — as measured by actuarial valuation reports, unfunded liabilities, other metrics and experience studies as influenced by funding policies — and on its plans for improving sustainability and solvency;

(2) receive reports from the SIC, the OST, the PERA, the ERB and the RHCA on the value and investment of the funds managed by each respective agency, as demonstrated by the comparative fiscal performance of the funds;

(3) receive updates and reports from the SIC, the PERA, the ERB and the RHCA on each agency's strategic goals and their plans and actions to reach their goals;

(4) receive reports from the state agencies responsible for public pensions and the investment of public funds on each agency's transparency;

(5) review the current investment and administrative structure of the state's pension and retirement benefit programs and receive testimony on the challenges and strengths of those structures and potential solutions and alternatives;

(6) receive reports and testimony from the PERA on cost-of-living adjustments for retired members, including:

- ◆ an overview and history of cost-of-living adjustment payments;
- ◆ the current and projected status of cost-of-living adjustment payments;
- ◆ public assistance and tax implications that may be associated with raising cost-of-living adjustment payments;
- ◆ an update on the performance of the investments made from the PERA trust fund and the benchmarks used to assess performance to ensure that the fund is receiving the returns necessary to keep up with the demand for cost-of-living adjustment payments; and
- ◆ information on how increased contributions of two to four percent could affect the funding ratio for cost-of-living adjustment payments;

(7) receive an overview of current best practices regarding solvency ratios for public funds;

(8) receive testimony on issues relevant to the investment of public funds and the

administration of pension programs, including testimony from public and private organizations that represent current state and county employees and retirees;

(9) consider legislation relevant to these topics; and

(10) as necessary, examine other issues relevant to the investment of public funds and the administration of pension programs.

Land Grant Committee

2023, 2024

<i>LGC Membership 2023</i>	<i>LGC Membership 2024</i>
<i>Voting</i> Rep. Kristina Ortez, Chair, Taos Sen. Leo Jaramillo, Vice Chair, Espanola Sen. Crystal Diamond Brantley, Elephant Butte Rep. Miguel P. García, Albuquerque Rep. Susan K. Herrera, Embudo Rep. Stefani Lord, Sandia Park Sen. Antonio Maestas, Albuquerque Rep. Matthew McQueen, Santa Fe Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya, Los Lunas Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Albuquerque Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque	<i>Voting</i> Sen. Leo Jaramillo, Chair, Espanola Rep. Kristina Ortez, Vice Chair, Taos Sen. Crystal Brantley, Elephant Butte Rep. Miguel P. García, Albuquerque Rep. Susan K. Herrera, Embudo Rep. Stefani Lord, Sandia Park Sen. Antonio Maestas, Albuquerque Rep. Matthew McQueen, Santa Fe Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya, Los Lunas Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Albuquerque Rep. Cristina Parajón, Albuquerque Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque
<i>Advisory</i> Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan Sen. David M. Gallegos, Eunice Rep. Harry Garcia, Grants Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque Rep. Rod Montoya, Farmington Sen. Bill B. O'Neill, Albuquerque Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Cerrillos Rep. Luis M. Terrazas, Santa Clara	<i>Advisory</i> Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan Sen. David M. Gallegos, Eunice Rep. Harry Garcia, Grants Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque Rep. Rod Montoya, Farmington Sen. Bill B. O'Neill, Albuquerque Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Cerrillos Rep. Luis M. Terrazas, Santa Clara
<i>Staff</i> Cecilia Martinez Mark Edwards Michelle Jaschke	<i>Staff</i> Mark Edwards Nancy Martinez Nicole Waguespack

The Land Grant Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council for the current biennium on May 1, 2023 and again on March 25, 2024.

For the 2023 interim, the committee proposed to review the following topics:

(1) land acquisitions, fire recovery services and transfers, including:

- ◆ potential options for appraisals that do not foreclose opportunities for acquisitions for small parcels due to market timing;
- ◆ financing options for acquisitions;

- ♦ issues concerning land transfers from, and management agreements with, state agencies;
- ♦ state and federal services for post-fire recovery for land grants, particularly for land grants recently designated by the legislature; and
- ♦ state and federal land stewardship and leñero programs offered by state and federal land management agencies that are open to land grant and acequia communities;
- (2) water issues for land grants and acequias, including:
 - ♦ payback or compensation options for emergency use of water in excess of allotments;
 - ♦ the implications of the recent attorney general opinion regarding due process for water transfers;
 - ♦ the different impacts on small agricultural communities between transfers of surface water and ground water rights;
 - ♦ an evaluation of whether the Property Tax Code could include an accommodation for land grant common lands similar to the agricultural lands exemption; and
 - ♦ updates on the Acequia Bureau recently created administratively within the Interstate Stream Commission;
- (3) strengthening governance capacity, including:
 - ♦ a review of the status of the Community Governance Attorney Program, continuing legal education and other programs being developed at the University of New Mexico School of Law for land grants-mercedes and acequia associations, including an examination of client governance needs versus potential curriculum development;
 - ♦ an examination of the processes being developed to implement distributions from the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund enacted during the 2022 legislative session, including any training sessions or other programs developed by the Land Grant Council to place land grants in a position to receive those funds;
 - ♦ a review of New Mexico Acequia Association management consultation and intervention caseload for acequias, particularly with regard to caseload increases due to wildfire recovery or response efforts; and
 - ♦ a review of status reports from the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Division of the Office of the Attorney General;
- (4) potential for economic, youth and other development programs at land grants, including:
 - ♦ a status update on the multi-land grant development of the former Piedra Lumbre Visitor Center near Abiquiú;
 - ♦ status updates on business development projects at various land grants;
 - ♦ a report from land grants and the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion about the need for broadband services and the state's programs to help build out broadband networks in land grants; and
 - ♦ an examination of whether services at the Land Grant Council should be restructured or expanded to meet the current challenges facing land grants; and

(5) reports from individual land grants-mercedes and associated entities, including:

- ◆ reports from various land grants-mercedes;
- ◆ reports from the Land Grant Council and updates from the New Mexico Land Grant Consejo and the University of New Mexico Land Grant Studies Program; and
- ◆ reports from the Acequia Commission and the New Mexico Acequia Association.

For the 2024 interim, the committee proposed to focus on the following topics as time permits:

- (1) water, land, fire prevention and post-fire recovery issues, including:
- ◆ issues concerning governance of land grant-merced common waters and the implications of the attorney general opinion regarding due process for water transfers and the impacts of ground and surface water transfers on small agricultural communities;
 - ◆ a status update from the administratively created Acequia Bureau within the Interstate Stream Commission;
 - ◆ the status of post-fire recovery efforts at land grants and acequias; and
 - ◆ the potential to build land grant-merced input into federal and state land management agency fire prevention planning;
- (2) land acquisition and management issues, including:
- ◆ financing options for the acquisition of historical lands at land grants;
 - ◆ the parameters and ramifications of the Bernalillo County property tax case regarding land grants-mercedes;
 - ◆ issues concerning land transfers from, and management agreements with, state agencies;
 - ◆ state and federal land stewardship and firewood leñero programs offered by state and federal land management agencies that are open to land grant and acequia communities;
 - ◆ a reexamination of House Bill 188 (2023) and the potential NMFA revolving loan fund for land acquisitions;
 - ◆ a status report on the transfer of the Laguna del Campo fish pond to the Land Grant-Merced de los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla;
 - ◆ a report from the Office of Superintendent of Insurance regarding a new rural insurance program; and
 - ◆ a status report regarding the Mercedes Unidas Center (formerly known as the Piedra Lumbre Visitors Center);
- (3) governance capacity at land grants-mercedes and acequias, including:
- ◆ a status update from the Higher Education Department and the University of New Mexico School of Law regarding the Community Governance Attorney Program and continuing legal education and other programs being developed regarding land grant-merced and acequia law;
 - ◆ administration and adequacy of the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund and the challenges that various land grants-mercedes have encountered to remain in compliance;
 - ◆ status reports from the Acequia Commission and the New Mexico Acequia Association;
 - ◆ a status report from the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Division of the Office of

the Attorney General;

- ♦ an examination of various land grants that are seeking to move into the requirements and authorities of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978;

- ♦ a status update on capital outlay and a report on the capital outlay process;

- ♦ an examination of potential updates to Chapter 49, Articles 1 and 4 NMSA 1978; and

- ♦ a report on pending federal land grant legislation; and

(4) reports from individual land grants-mercedes and other related entities, including:

- ♦ reports from various land grants-mercedes; and

- ♦ reports from the Land Grant Council and updates from the New Mexico Land Grant Consejo and the University of New Mexico Land Grant Studies Program, including:

- a status update on the Land Grant Council's efforts on land grant-merced property surveys; and

- the development of land grant youth programs.

Legislative Health and Human Services Committee

2023, 2024

The Legislative Health and Human Services Committee (LHHS) is a permanent joint committee of the legislature created pursuant to Section 2-13-1 NMSA 1978 and is responsible for studying the programs, agencies, policies and needs relating to health and human services, in addition to programs and services for children, families and the aging population.

At its organizational meeting for the 2023 interim, the LHHS chairs proposed and the members agreed to use the first three meetings of the interim as opportunities to focus on the following issues: the health care workforce; behavioral health, substance use and homelessness; and children and families.

During the first two days of each meeting, the committee proposed to hear testimony from stakeholders, including national experts, state agencies, advocates and members of the public, pertaining to one of these issues. The committee proposed to reserve the third day of each meeting to hear presentations on additional issues of concern.

At the end of each day, the committee chairs proposed to lead a wrap-up session to discuss the issues that were heard that day. Members were encouraged to engage in collaborative brainstorming sessions with the goal of identifying legislative action that is necessary to address the issues. The chairs proposed to assign follow-up tasks and research questions to committee members and staff who worked together to craft proposed legislation for discussion at the subsequent meeting. After receiving feedback, staff worked with the committee to revise the proposed legislation in time for the LHHS chairs to present it to the LFC when the LFC considered budget priorities in the fall.

Health Care Workforce

At its July 2023 meeting, the committee proposed to examine several strategies for expanding and improving the health care workforce in the state. The committee proposed to invite representatives from higher education institutions across the state, including the University of New Mexico, New

<i>LHHS Membership 2023</i>	<i>LHHS Membership 2024</i>
<i>Voting</i>	<i>Voting</i>
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Chair, Albuquerque	Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Chair, Albuquerque
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Vice Chair, Albuquerque	Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Vice Chair, Albuquerque
Rep. Eleanor Chávez, Albuquerque	Rep. Eleanor Chávez, Albuquerque
Sen. David M. Gallegos, Eunice	Sen. David M. Gallegos, Eunice
Rep. Pamela Herndon, Albuquerque	Rep. Pamela Herndon, Albuquerque
Sen. Martin Hickey, Albuquerque	Sen. Martin Hickey, Albuquerque
Rep. Jennifer Jones, Deming	Rep. Jennifer Jones, Deming
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Albuquerque	Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Albuquerque
<i>Advisory</i>	<i>Advisory</i>
Rep. John Block, Alamogordo	Rep. John Block, Alamogordo
Rep. Kathleen Cates, Rio Rancho	Rep. Kathleen Cates, Rio Rancho
Rep. Gail Chasey, Albuquerque	Rep. Gail Chasey, Albuquerque
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg, Albuquerque	Sen. Katy M. Duhigg, Albuquerque
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Las Cruces	Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Las Cruces
Rep. Miguel P. García, Albuquerque	Rep. Miguel P. García, Albuquerque
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Silver City	Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Silver City
Rep. Tara Jaramillo, Socorro	Rep. Tara Jaramillo, Socorro
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock	Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock
Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque	Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque
Rep. Stefani Lord, Sandia Park	Rep. Stefani Lord, Sandia Park
Rep. Tara L. Lujan, Santa Fe	Rep. Tara L. Lujan, Santa Fe
Rep. Alan T. Martinez, Rio Rancho	Rep. Alan T. Martinez, Rio Rancho
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi	Rep. Cristina Parajón, Albuquerque
Sen. Harold Pope, Albuquerque	Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez, Santa Fe	Sen. Harold Pope, Albuquerque
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Albuquerque	Sen. Nancy Rodriguez, Santa Fe
Sen. Gregg Schmedes, Tijeras	Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Albuquerque
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Cerrillos	Sen. Gregg Schmedes, Tijeras
Rep. Reena Szczepanski, Santa Fe	Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Cerrillos
Sen. Bill Tallman, Albuquerque	Rep. Reena Szczepanski, Santa Fe
Rep. Harlan Vincent, Ruidoso Downs	Sen. Bill Tallman, Albuquerque
	Rep. Harlan Vincent, Ruidoso Downs
<i>Staff</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Zander Dawson	Zander Dawson
Andrea Lazarow	Andrea Lazarow
Grace Balderamos	Grace Balderamos
Cristina Vasquez	

Mexico Highlands University, Western New Mexico University and New Mexico State University, to present on current and potential new programs for health care students. The LHHS proposed to also discuss ways to streamline the reimbursement process and increase reimbursement for health care providers practicing in New Mexico. Additionally, the Higher Education Department updated the committee on its work to promote and expand the educational opportunities for students seeking to become health care professionals.

Behavioral Health, Substance Use and Homelessness

During its August 7-9, 2023 meeting, the LHHS proposed to focus on addressing behavioral health, substance use and homelessness. The Department of Health was invited to update the committee on the operations at the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas and the progress of the department's harm reduction programs. The committee also proposed to invite representatives from the

Human Services Department and the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative to discuss the demand for and availability of behavioral health services. Additionally, the LHHS proposed to hear testimony regarding services for substance use disorders, including the provision of medication-assisted treatment services in correctional facilities. The committee also proposed to investigate methods for addressing the misuse of alcohol and tobacco.

Children and Families

During its August 28-30, 2023 meeting, the LHHS proposed to investigate issues affecting children and families. The committee proposed to hear from representatives from the Children, Youth and Families Department and child welfare advocates to develop solutions that will ensure the safety of New Mexico's children and families.

Additional Issues of Concern

In addition to the issues that were proposed to be discussed during the committee's first three meetings, the LHHS proposed to examine and receive presentations that address or include the following topics.

(1) Agency Updates: The LHHS proposed to invite the secretaries and leadership from the Department of Health; the Human Services Department; the Children, Youth and Families Department; the Aging and Long-Term Services Department; the Higher Education Department; the Office of Superintendent of Insurance; the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative; and the Early Childhood Education and Care Department to present on the implementation of new programs, legislative priorities and budgetary needs.

(2) Aging and Long-Term Services: The LHHS proposed to address several nursing home issues, including: liability insurance requirements, safe staffing practices and preventing the financial exploitation of nursing home residents. Additionally, the committee proposed to invite representatives from the Alzheimer's Association to provide a presentation on the issues that are affecting people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

(3) Disabilities: The committee proposed to invite the Department of Health to report on the status of various Medicaid waivers for individuals with disabilities. The committee also proposed to address the demand for services and services available for people living with autism.

(4) Environment and Public Health: The LHHS proposed to evaluate the role that the environment plays in public health. For example, the committee proposed to investigate the impact of the recent forest fires in New Mexico on physical and behavioral health.

(5) Human Services: The LHHS proposed to oversee multiple important transitions that are taking place in the human services sector. First, the committee proposed to oversee the Human Services Department's transition into becoming the Health Care Authority Department. The committee proposed to be updated on the status of the department's social service programs, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Medicaid. Additionally, the LHHS proposed to investigate the impacts to social service programs resulting from the end of the federal COVID-19 public health emergency.

(6) Pharmaceutical Drugs: The LHHS proposed to continue its work to ensure that pharmaceutical drugs are affordable and accessible in New Mexico. The committee proposed to hear testimony from the Office of Superintendent of Insurance to oversee the implementation of new

legislative efforts to control pharmaceutical drug pricing and regulate pharmacy benefits managers. The committee proposed to continue to identify potential new strategies for ensuring the affordability and accessibility of pharmaceutical drugs.

(7) Previously Introduced Bills: The committee proposed to hear testimony from sponsors who plan to reintroduce bills that were not signed into law.

(8) Reporting: The committee proposed to receive statutorily required and legislatively requested reports from various working groups and task forces. Task forces that are not required by statute to present a report to the LHHS were asked to submit the task force's annual report to LHHS staff for email distribution to committee members.

(9) School-Based Health Centers: The LHHS proposed to invite the Department of Health to provide updates on the school-based health center programs in New Mexico.

(10) Violent Crime and Public Health: The LHHS proposed to examine the effects of violent crime and gun violence on public health. Furthermore, the committee proposed to investigate methods to increase and improve services for victims of sexual assault and other violent crimes.

At its organizational meeting for the 2024 interim, the committee chairs proposed, and the members agreed, to use the first three meetings of the interim as opportunities to focus on the following issues: child welfare; access to health care and expanding the health care workforce; and behavioral health and substance use.

During the first two days of each meeting, the committee heard testimony from stakeholders, including national experts, state agencies, advocates and members of the public, pertaining to one of these issues. The committee reserved the third day of each meeting to hear presentations on additional issues of concern.

At the end of each day, the committee chairs led a wrap-up session to discuss the issues that were heard that day. Members were encouraged to engage in collaborative brainstorming sessions with the goal of identifying legislative action that is necessary to address the issues. The chairs assigned follow-up tasks and research questions to committee members and staff who worked together to craft proposed legislation for discussion at the subsequent meeting. After receiving feedback, staff worked with the committee to revise the proposed legislation in time for the committee chairs to present it to the LFC when the LFC considered budget priorities in the fall.

Child Welfare

During its June 5-7, 2024 meeting, the committee proposed to investigate issues affecting children and families, including the federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 program. The committee proposed to hear from representatives from the Children, Youth and Families Department and child welfare advocates to develop solutions that will ensure the safety of New Mexico's children and families.

Access to Health Care and the Health Care Workforce

At its July 1-3, 2024 meeting, the committee proposed to examine several strategies for expanding and improving the health care workforce in the state to increase access to health care. The committee invited representatives from higher education institutions across the state, including the University of New Mexico, New Mexico Highlands University, Eastern New Mexico University, Western New Mexico University and New Mexico State University, to present on current and potential

new programs for health care students. The committee proposed to also discuss ways to streamline the reimbursement process and increase reimbursement for health care providers practicing in New Mexico. Additionally, the Higher Education Department updated the committee on its work to promote and expand educational opportunities for students seeking to become health care professionals.

Behavioral Health and Substance Use

During its July 31-August 2, 2024 meeting, the committee proposed to focus on addressing behavioral health and substance use issues. The Department of Health, the Corrections Department and the New Mexico Association of Counties were invited to discuss the expansion of medically assisted treatment for substance use disorder. The committee proposed to also invite representatives from the Health Care Authority and the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative to discuss the demand for and availability of behavioral health services. Additionally, the committee proposed to hear from various behavioral health providers across the state. The committee proposed to also investigate methods for addressing the misuse of alcohol and tobacco.

Additional Issues of Concern

In addition to the issues discussed during the committee's first three meetings, the LHHS proposed to examine and receive presentations that address or include the following topics.

Agency Updates

The committee proposed to invite the secretaries and leadership from the Department of Health; the Health Care Authority; the Children, Youth and Families Department; the Aging and Long-Term Services Department; the Higher Education Department; the Office of Superintendent of Insurance; the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative; and the Early Childhood Education and Care Department to present on the implementation of new programs, legislative priorities and budgetary needs.

Aging and Long-Term Services

The committee proposed to address several nursing home issues, including liability insurance requirements and expanding and improving the personal care service workforce. Additionally, the committee proposed to explore expanding job training, small business development and job placement services for senior citizens.

Disabilities

The committee proposed to invite the Health Care Authority to report on the status of various Medicaid waivers for individuals with disabilities. The committee proposed to also address the demand for and availability of services for people living with autism.

Environment and Public Health

The committee proposed to evaluate the role that the environment plays in public health. For example, the committee proposed to investigate the impact of the recent forest fires in New Mexico on physical and behavioral health.

Human Services

The committee proposed to oversee multiple important transitions that are taking place in the human services sector. First, the committee proposed to oversee the Human Services Department's transition to the Health Care Authority. The committee was updated on the status of the authority's social service programs, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Medicaid.

Pharmaceutical Drugs

The committee proposed to continue its work to ensure that pharmaceutical drugs are affordable and accessible in New Mexico. The committee proposed to hear testimony from the Office of Superintendent of Insurance to oversee the implementation of new legislative efforts to control pharmaceutical drug pricing and regulate pharmacy benefits managers. The committee proposed to continue to identify potential new strategies for ensuring the affordability and accessibility of pharmaceutical drugs.

Previously Introduced Bills

The committee proposed to hear testimony from sponsors who plan to reintroduce bills that were not signed into law.

Reporting

The committee proposed to receive statutorily required and legislatively requested reports from various working groups and task forces. Task forces that are not required by statute to present a report to the committee were asked to submit the task force's annual report to committee staff for email distribution to committee members.

School-Based Health Centers

The committee proposed to invite the Department of Health to provide updates on school-based health center programs in New Mexico.

Other Health and Human Services Issues

As necessary, the committee proposed to examine other issues relevant to health and human services.

Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee

2023, 2024

The Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee was first created by statute for the 2009 interim session and then permanently reauthorized by statute during the 2010 regular session.

During the 2023 interim, as time permits, the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee proposed to:

- (1) receive updates from New Mexico's military installations;
- (2) study issues relating to female veterans;
- (3) receive updates regarding college credit for military service from the Higher Education Department and the Veterans' Services Department;
- (4) receive testimony regarding jobs and business opportunities for veterans;
- (5) study long-term care options for veterans;
- (6) study transportation to and from medical providers for veterans, particularly those living in rural areas of the state;
- (7) receive testimony pertaining to educational opportunities and outreach offered by state educational institutions and public community colleges to veteran students;
- (8) examine options for the prevention of homelessness and support for homeless veterans in areas throughout the state;

<i>MVAC Membership 2023</i>	<i>MVAC Membership 2024</i>
<i>Voting</i> Rep. Harry Garcia, Chair, Grants Sen. Harold Pope, Vice Chair, Albuquerque Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan Rep. Art De La Cruz, Albuquerque Sen. Brenda G. McKenna, Corrales Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque Rep. Luis M. Terrazas, Santa Clara	<i>Voting</i> Rep. Harry Garcia, Chair, Grants Sen. Harold Pope, Vice Chair, Albuquerque Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan Rep. Art De La Cruz, Albuquerque Sen. Brenda G. McKenna, Corrales Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque Rep. Luis M. Terrazas, Santa Clara
<i>Advisory</i> Rep. John Block, Alamogordo Sen. Craig W. Brandt, Rio Rancho Sen. William F. Burt, Alamogordo Rep. Meredith A. Dixon, Albuquerque Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock Rep. Stefani Lord, Sandia Park Rep. Alan T. Martinez, Rio Rancho Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque Rep. Andrea Reeb, Clovis Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Albuquerque Rep. Harlan Vincent, Ruidoso Downs	<i>Advisory</i> Rep. John Block, Alamogordo Sen. Craig W. Brandt, Rio Rancho Sen. William F. Burt, Alamogordo Rep. Meredith A. Dixon, Albuquerque Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock Rep. Stefani Lord, Sandia Park Rep. Alan T. Martinez, Rio Rancho Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque Rep. Andrea Reeb, Clovis Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Albuquerque Rep. Harlan Vincent, Ruidoso Downs
<i>Staff</i> Jeret Fleetwood Nancy Martinez	<i>Staff</i> Jeret Fleetwood Domenica Nieto

(9) 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;

(10) examine actions New Mexico can take to improve quality of life for military and veteran families;

(11) study the creation of veterans' courts in various judicial districts in New Mexico;

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

(13) examine various issues relating to veterans and taxes;

(14) examine the issue of the inspection of public records for military records;

(15) examine housing issues near New Mexico's military installations; and

(16) receive testimony from the Veterans' Services Department to better define the needs of the department.

During the 2024 interim, as time permits, the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee proposed to:

(1) receive updates from New Mexico's military installations;

(2) study issues relating to female veterans;

(3) receive updates regarding college credit for military service from the Higher Education Department and the Veterans' Services Department;

(4) receive testimony regarding jobs and business opportunities for veterans;

- (5) study long-term care options for veterans;
- (6) study transportation to and from medical providers for veterans, particularly those living in rural areas of the state;
- (7) receive testimony pertaining to education opportunities and outreach offered by state educational institutions and public community colleges to veteran students;
- (8) examine options for the prevention of homelessness and support for homeless veterans in areas throughout the state;
- (9) 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;
- (10) examine actions New Mexico can take to improve quality of life for military and veteran families;
- (11) examine issues related to fees for veteran admission to state parks;
- (12) examine issues relating to New Mexico's active duty, reserve and National Guard military personnel, veterans and military families;
- (13) examine various issues relating to veterans and taxes; and
- (14) examine housing issues near New Mexico's military installations.

Mortgage Finance Authority Act Oversight Committee

2023, 2024

The MFA Act Oversight Committee was created pursuant to the provisions of Section 58-18-4 NMSA 1978.

In addition to carrying out its statutory responsibilities, the committee proposed to focus on the following areas of legislative concern during the 2023 interim:

- (1) regional housing and statewide housing programs and organizations;
- (2) changes to existing and proposed rules promulgated by the MFA;
- (3) an overview of MFA funding sources and of programs administered by the MFA;
- (4) an update on recently passed legislation;
- (5) the MFA's budget;
- (6) key production highlights and updates on the New Mexico Housing Strategy;
- (7) reports on bonds issued and financing strategies and a market update; and
- (8) proposed legislation for the 2024 session.

In addition to carrying out its statutory responsibilities, the committee proposed to focus on the following areas of legislative concern during the 2024 interim:

- (1) regional housing and statewide housing programs and organizations;
- (2) changes to existing and proposed rules promulgated by the MFA;
- (3) an overview of MFA funding sources and programs administered by the MFA;
- (4) an update on recently passed legislation;
- (5) the MFA's budget;

<i>MFA Membership 2023</i>	<i>MFA Membership 2024</i>
<i>Voting</i> Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Chair, Milan Sen. Nancy Rodriguez, Vice Chair, Santa Fe Rep. Meredith A. Dixon, Albuquerque Sen. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Ranchos De Taos Sen. Stuart Ingle, Portales Rep. Rod Montoya, Farmington Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque Rep. Angelica Rubio, Las Cruces	<i>Voting</i> Sen. Nancy Rodriguez, Chair, Santa Fe Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Vice Chair, Milan Rep. Meredith A. Dixon, Albuquerque Sen. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Ranchos De Taos Rep. Rod Montoya, Farmington Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque Rep. Angelica Rubio, Las Cruces
<i>Advisory</i> Rep. Janelle Anyanonu, Albuquerque Sen. Gregory A. Baca, Belen Rep. Cynthia Borrego, Albuquerque Rep. Ambrose Castellano, Serafina Rep. Kathleen Cates, Rio Rancho Rep. Harry Garcia, Grants Rep. Tara L. Lujan, Santa Fe Sen. Mark Moores, Albuquerque Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Albuquerque Rep. Andrea Romero, Santa Fe Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Albuquerque Rep. Luis M. Terrazas, Santa Clara	<i>Advisory</i> Rep. Janelle Anyanonu, Albuquerque Sen. Gregory A. Baca, Belen Rep. Cynthia Borrego, Albuquerque Rep. Ambrose Castellano, Serafina Rep. Kathleen Cates, Rio Rancho Rep. Harry Garcia, Grants Rep. Tara L. Lujan, Santa Fe Sen. Mark Moores, Albuquerque Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Albuquerque Rep. Andrea Romero, Santa Fe Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Albuquerque Rep. Luis M. Terrazas, Santa Clara
<i>Staff</i> Cristina Vasquez Sabina Gaynor	<i>Staff</i> Cristina Vasquez Ric Gaudet

- (6) key production highlights and updates on the New Mexico Housing Strategy;
- (7) reports on bonds issued and financing strategies and a market update; and
- (8) proposed legislation for the 2025 session.

New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee

2023, 2024

The NMFA Oversight Committee was created with the enactment of the New Mexico Finance Authority Act to monitor and oversee the operations of the NMFA. In addition, the legislature assigned oversight of the Border Authority, the Spaceport Authority and the New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority to the committee.

During the 2023 interim, the NMFA Oversight Committee proposed to:

- (1) receive reports from the Border Authority, the Spaceport Authority, the New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority, the Water Trust Board, the Tribal Infrastructure Board and the Colonias Infrastructure Board;
- (2) receive reports from the NMFA regarding:
 - ♦ the revenues, transfers, expenditures and status of projects funded from the Public Project Revolving Fund and the Economic Development Revolving Fund;

<i>NMFA Membership 2023</i>	<i>NMFA Membership 2024</i>
<i>Voting</i>	<i>Voting</i>
Rep. Joy Garratt, Chair, Albuquerque	Sen. Michael Padilla, Chair, Albuquerque
Sen. Michael Padilla, Vice Chair, Albuquerque	Rep. Joy Garratt, Vice Chair, Albuquerque
Rep. John Block, Alamogordo	Rep. John Block, Alamogordo
Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Las Cruces	Rep. Jack Chatfield, Mosquero
Rep. Jack Chatfield, Mosquero	Rep. Harry Garcia, Grants
Sen. David M. Gallegos, Eunice	Sen. Ron Griggs, Alamogordo
Rep. Harry Garcia, Grants	Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez, Rio Rancho
Sen. Ron Griggs, Alamogordo	Rep. Susan K. Herrera, Embudo
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Silver City	Sen. Daniel A. Ivey-Soto, Albuquerque
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez, Rio Rancho	Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock
Rep. Susan K. Herrera, Embudo	Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom, Gallup
Sen. Stuart Ingle, Portales	Rep. Willie D. Madrid, Chaparral
Sen. Daniel A. Ivey-Soto, Albuquerque	Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock	Sen. Nancy Rodriguez, Santa Fe
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom, Gallup	Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Albuquerque
Rep. Willie D. Madrid, Chaparral	Rep. Linda Serrato, Santa Fe
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez, Santa Fe	Rep. Luis M. Terrazas, Santa Clara
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Albuquerque	Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Albuquerque
Rep. Linda Serrato, Santa Fe	
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas, Santa Clara	
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Albuquerque	
<i>Advisory</i>	<i>Advisory</i>
Rep. Ambrose Castellano, Serafina	Rep. Ambrose Castellano, Serafina
Rep. Kathleen Cates, Rio Rancho	Rep. Kathleen Cates, Rio Rancho
Rep. Eleanor Chávez, Albuquerque	Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Las Cruces
Rep. Art De La Cruz, Albuquerque	Rep. Eleanor Chávez, Albuquerque
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil, Albuquerque	Rep. Art De La Cruz, Albuquerque
Rep. T. Ryan Lane, Aztec	Sen. David M. Gallegos, Eunice
Rep. Tara L. Lujan, Santa Fe	Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Silver City
Rep. Greg Nibert, Roswell	Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil, Albuquerque
Rep. Kristina Ortez, Taos	Rep. Tara L. Lujan, Santa Fe
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi	Rep. Kristina Ortez, Taos
Rep. Andrea Romero, Santa Fe	Rep. Andrea Romero, Santa Fe
<i>Staff</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Patrick Falance	Sabina Gaynor
Sabina Gaynor	Mark Edwards
Pam Stokes	Clinton Turner
Clinton Turner	

- ◆ enterprise assistance provided pursuant to the Opportunity Enterprise Act;
 - ◆ investments made pursuant to the Venture Capital Program Act;
 - ◆ loans made from the Charter School Facility Revolving Fund pursuant to Section 6-21-6.16 NMSA 1978;
 - ◆ public securities issuances, completed in the prior 12 months, that involved a delegation of authority through an authorizing instrument pursuant to Section 6-14-10.2 NMSA 1978;
 - ◆ loans made pursuant to the Small Business Recovery and Stimulus Act; and
 - ◆ recovery grants made pursuant to the Local Economic Development Act;
- (3) consider rules proposed by the NMFA regarding:

- ◆ standard projects receiving financing assistance from the Economic Development Revolving Fund pursuant to the Statewide Economic Development Finance Act; and
- ◆ the use of the Opportunity Enterprise Revolving Fund to carry out the provisions of the Opportunity Enterprise Act;
- (4) receive testimony on issues concerning capital financing;
- (5) receive testimony from the Cultural Affairs Department on the use of funds appropriated during the 2023 legislative session;
- (6) receive testimony on funding for housing, including single-family and high-density housing; from housing groups from throughout the state; and on other housing-related funding administered by the MFA;
- (7) receive testimony on public-private partnerships;
- (8) review statutes relating to the NMFA for inconsistencies and improvements that could be addressed through legislative action;
- (9) receive a program evaluation from the NMFA addressing suggested statutory discontinuations or other actions to ensure function;
- (10) consider options to streamline the Colonias Infrastructure Board to mirror the operations of the Water Trust Board;
- (11) consider the constitutionality of the legislative approval of administrative rulemaking;
- (12) receive testimony on and an analysis of all funding mechanisms administered by the NMFA; and
- (13) receive educational presentations or materials on topics of interest to committee members relating to finance and programs under the committee's purview.

During the 2024 interim and as time permits, the NMFA Oversight Committee proposed to:

- (1) receive reports from the Border Authority, the Spaceport Authority, the New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority, the Water Trust Board and the Colonias Infrastructure Board;
- (2) receive reports from the NMFA regarding:
 - ◆ the revenues, transfers, expenditures and status of projects funded from the Public Project Revolving Fund and the Economic Development Revolving Fund;
 - ◆ enterprise assistance provided from the Opportunity Enterprise Revolving Fund pursuant to the Opportunity Enterprise and Housing Development Act;
 - ◆ investments made pursuant to the Venture Capital Program Act;
 - ◆ loans made from the Charter School Facility Revolving Fund pursuant to Section 6-21-6.16 NMSA 1978;
 - ◆ public securities issuances, completed in the prior 12 months, that involved a delegation of authority through an authorizing instrument pursuant to Section 6-14-10.2 NMSA 1978;
 - ◆ loans made pursuant to the Small Business Recovery and Stimulus Act; and
 - ◆ housing development assistance provided from the Housing Development Revolving Fund pursuant to the Opportunity Enterprise and Housing Development Act;
- (3) consider rules proposed by the NMFA regarding:

- ◆ standard projects receiving financing assistance from the Economic Development Revolving Fund pursuant to the Statewide Economic Development Finance Act; and
- ◆ the use of the Opportunity Enterprise Revolving Fund and the Housing Development Revolving Fund to carry out the provisions of the Opportunity Enterprise and Housing Development Act;
- (4) receive testimony on issues concerning capital financing and infrastructure projects;
- (5) receive testimony from the Cultural Affairs Department on the use of funds appropriated during the 2024 legislative session;
- (6) receive recommendations from the New Mexico Bioscience Authority on methods, proposals, programs and initiatives that may stimulate investment in bioscience industries and provide additional employment opportunities for New Mexico residents;
- (7) receive testimony on public-private partnerships;
- (8) review statutes relating to the NMFA for inconsistencies and improvements that could be addressed through legislative action;
- (9) receive a program evaluation from the NMFA addressing suggested statutory discontinuations or other actions to ensure function;
- (10) receive testimony on and an analysis of all funding mechanisms administered by the NMFA;
- (11) receive testimony from the NMFA on economic development initiatives; and
- (12) receive educational presentations or materials on topics of interest to committee members relating to finance and programs under the committee's purview, including:
 - ◆ NMFA Innovation, including new project financing mechanisms that are used around the country;
 - ◆ the perspectives of rural communities regarding whether state programs and funds such as the Opportunity Enterprise Revolving Fund are structured to meet their needs as well as those of urban areas; and
 - ◆ opportunities for the NMFA and other instrumentalities or agencies of the state to pursue clean, renewable energy projects or to include clean, renewable energy infrastructure in existing projects.

Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee

2023, 2024

The Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee was created in 1979 pursuant to the provisions of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Act.

During the 2023 interim, pursuant to Section 74-4A-11 NMSA 1978, the committee proposed to review, as scheduling permits:

- (1) chromium plume cleanup and other environmental management issues;
- (2) a report from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board;
- (3) plutonium pit production and other Los Alamos National Laboratory projects;

<i>RHMC Membership 2023</i>	<i>RHMC Membership 2024</i>
<i>Voting</i>	<i>Voting</i>
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Chair, Las Cruces	Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Chair, Las Cruces
Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Vice Chair, Las Cruces	Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Vice Chair, Las Cruces
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan	Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown, Carlsbad	Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown, Carlsbad
Rep. Christine Chandler, Los Alamos	Rep. Christine Chandler, Los Alamos
Sen. David M. Gallegos, Eunice	Sen. David M. Gallegos, Eunice
Rep. Stefani Lord, Sandia Park	Rep. Stefani Lord, Sandia Park
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna, Corrales	Sen. Brenda G. McKenna, Corrales
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi	Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez, Santa Fe	Sen. Nancy Rodriguez, Santa Fe
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque	Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Albuquerque	Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Albuquerque
<i>Advisory</i>	<i>Advisory</i>
Rep. John Block, Alamogordo	Rep. John Block, Alamogordo
Sen. Ron Griggs, Alamogordo	Sen. Ron Griggs, Alamogordo
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock	Rep. William A. Hall II, Aztec
Sen. Harold Pope, Albuquerque	Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Church Rock
<i>Staff</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Sonya Snyder	Paul Estok
Tom Kricka	Tom Kricka
Sara Wiedmaier	Sara Wiedmaier

- (4) weapons-grade plutonium transport;
- (5) issues concerning downwinders;
- (6) a report from the State Emergency Response Commission;
- (7) policy issues in nuclear medicine;
- (8) White Sands Test Facility cleanup;
- (9) a proposed green amendment to the Constitution of New Mexico;
- (10) nitrogen and hydrogen energy production;
- (11) a report from the Carlsbad Brine Well Remediation Authority;
- (12) per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination, rulemaking and litigation;
- (13) produced water and water reuse;
- (14) interim storage of nuclear materials;
- (15) San Juan Generating Station cleanup;
- (16) uranium mine and mill site reclamation;
- (17) abandoned contaminated sites, including dry cleaners;
- (18) proposed changes to federal mining laws; and
- (19) Kirtland Air Force Base fuel leak cleanup.

During the 2024 interim, pursuant to Section 74-4A-11 NMSA 1978, the committee proposed to review, as scheduling and the availability of speakers permit:

- (1) uranium mine and mill site reclamation;
- (2) the establishment of a New Mexico cleanup fund for abandoned contaminated sites;

- (3) issues concerning downwinders;
- (4) San Juan Generating Station cleanup;
- (5) issues concerning contamination from mining other than uranium mining;
- (6) a report on the derailment and fire of the BNSF freight train in April 2024 at the New Mexico/Arizona border;
- (7) an update on uranium enrichment;
- (8) produced water and water reuse;
- (9) setbacks from oil and gas operations;
- (10) United States Department of Energy clean energy project at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant site;
- (11) Kirtland Air Force Base fuel leak cleanup;
- (12) issues involving PFAS, including use of PFAS in drilling fluids, PFAS in consumer products, testing for and treatment of PFAS in public water systems and PFAS contamination at the Santa Fe Airport, Holloman Air Force Base and Cannon Air Force Base;
- (13) a report from the State Emergency Response Commission;
- (14) White Sands Test Facility cleanup;
- (15) the monitoring of drinking water quality;
- (16) plutonium pit production and other Los Alamos National Laboratory projects;
- (17) off-site plutonium migration from Los Alamos National Laboratory;
- (18) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant capacity for handling transuranic waste over the contemplated length of plutonium pit production at Los Alamos National Laboratory;
- (19) weapons-grade plutonium transport;
- (20) chromium plume cleanup and related environmental management issues;
- (21) nitrogen and hydrogen energy production;
- (22) a proposed green amendment to the Constitution of New Mexico;
- (23) a report from the federal Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board;
- (24) a report of the Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force; and
- (25) endorsement of legislation.

Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee

2023, 2024

The Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee is created in statute by Section 2-16-1 NMSA 1978.

In the 2023 interim, as time permits, the committee proposed to:

- (1) hear from national and local experts on the pros and cons of pyramiding in the gross receipts tax, review legislation previously enacted to reduce pyramiding and discuss the fiscal impact of pyramiding in New Mexico;
- (2) review options for long-term revenue stabilization, including the use of continuing record revenues attributable to the oil and gas industry and the risks associated with too much reliance

*RSTP Membership
2023*

Voting

Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr., Chair, Jemez Pueblo
Rep. Derrick J. Lente, Vice Chair, Sandia Pueblo
Sen. Craig W. Brandt, Rio Rancho
Sen. William F. Burt, Alamogordo
Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena, Mesilla
Sen. Pete Campos, Las Vegas
Rep. Christine Chandler, Los Alamos
Rep. Mark Duncan, Kirtland
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos, Las Cruces
Sen. Ron Griggs, Alamogordo
Rep. Jason C. Harper, Rio Rancho
Rep. Susan K. Herrera, Embudo
Sen. George K. Muñoz, Gallup
Sen. Harold Pope, Albuquerque
Rep. Larry R. Scott, Hobbs
Rep. Linda Serrato, Santa Fe
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Cerrillos
Sen. Peter Wirth, Santa Fe

Designees

Rep. Ambrose Castellano, Serafina
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg, Albuquerque
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Las Cruces
Rep. Yanira Gurrola, Albuquerque
Sen. Antonio Maestas, Albuquerque
Rep. Alan T. Martinez, Rio Rancho
Rep. Rod Montoya, Farmington
Rep. Kristina Ortiz, Taos
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Albuquerque
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Albuquerque
Sen. William E. Sharer, Farmington

Standing Advisory

Rep. Cynthia Borrego, Albuquerque
Sen. Carrie Hamblen, Las Cruces
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez, Rio Rancho
Sen. Leo Jaramillo, Espanola
Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque
Rep. Javier Martínez, Albuquerque
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque
Sen. Bill Tallman, Albuquerque
Rep. James G. Townsend, Artesia

Staff

Pam Stokes
Ric Gaudet
Rebecca Griego
Clinton Turner
Sonya Snyder

*RSTP Membership
2024*

Voting

Rep. Derrick J. Lente, Chair, Sandia Pueblo
Sen. Pete Campos, Vice Chair, Las Vegas
Sen. Craig W. Brandt, Rio Rancho
Sen. William F. Burt, Alamogordo
Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena, Mesilla
Rep. Christine Chandler, Los Alamos
Rep. Mark Duncan, Kirtland
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos, Las Cruces
Sen. Ron Griggs, Alamogordo
Rep. Jason C. Harper, Rio Rancho
Rep. Susan K. Herrera, Embudo
Sen. George K. Muñoz, Gallup
Sen. Harold Pope, Albuquerque
Rep. Larry R. Scott, Hobbs
Rep. Linda Serrato, Santa Fe
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Cerrillos
Sen. Peter Wirth, Santa Fe

Designees

Rep. Ambrose Castellano, Serafina
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg, Albuquerque
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Las Cruces
Rep. Yanira Gurrola, Albuquerque
Sen. Antonio Maestas, Albuquerque
Rep. Alan T. Martinez, Rio Rancho
Rep. Rod Montoya, Farmington
Rep. Kristina Ortiz, Taos
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Albuquerque
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Albuquerque
Sen. William E. Sharer, Farmington

Standing Advisory

Rep. Cynthia Borrego, Albuquerque
Sen. Carrie Hamblen, Las Cruces
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez, Rio Rancho
Sen. Leo Jaramillo, Espanola
Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque
Rep. Javier Martínez, Albuquerque
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr., Jemez Pueblo
Sen. Bill Tallman, Albuquerque
Rep. James G. Townsend, Artesia

Staff

Martin Fischer
Pam Stokes
Rebecca Griego
Clinton Turner

on those revenues, options for creating or expanding more stable resources and the status and use of certain reserves and other funds with significant value;

(3) examine certain excise taxes, including the cigarette tax, the tobacco products tax and the liquor excise tax, and how the liquor excise tax is imposed on different types of alcoholic

beverages and wholesalers;

(4) discuss economic trends that could impact New Mexico taxes and revenues;

(5) hear from local governments in regard to how they are funded and the fiscal issues they face and legislative changes that may address those issues;

(6) examine the effectiveness and value to the state of tax expenditures and other economic development incentives and the state's ability to report and track the effectiveness of those incentives and expenditures; and

(7) determine legislative actions necessary to implement changes identified by committee members that will improve the state's tax system and revenue stabilization.

In the 2024 interim, as time permits, the committee proposed to:

(1) discuss options for long-term revenue stabilization, including the use of continuing record revenues attributable to the oil and gas industry and the risks associated with too much reliance on those revenues, options for more stable resources and the status and use of certain reserves and other funds with significant value;

(2) examine the liquor excise tax, consider its broad implications and benefits, such as the potential reduction of expenditures in other areas, and discuss legislative proposals;

(3) examine the effectiveness and value to the state of tax expenditures and other economic development incentives and the state's ability to report and track the effectiveness of those incentives and expenditures;

(4) analyze the underlying principles and rationale for the state's tax policy and consider what will work best for the state and its residents, such as whether to prioritize tax incentives for businesses or improvements to New Mexicans' quality of life;

(5) evaluate the tax implications of the evolving technological landscape, including the economic impact of remote workers who live outside the state and those who live in New Mexico but work remotely in another state, artificial intelligence and machine learning;

(6) review the state's taxation approach to energy and consider ways to optimize revenue in conjunction with changing energy use trends;

(7) review the state's property taxes, including their competitiveness with other states, their impact on quality of life considerations and how they affect local governments and the taxation of and tracking of tax collection of property purchased by international entities;

(8) hear from local governments in regard to how they are funded, the fiscal issues they face and their proposed legislative changes to address fiscal issues, including the new excise tax for affordable housing;

(9) propose and analyze legislative actions necessary to improve the state's tax system and revenue stabilization;

(10) consider incentives for retirees to stay in New Mexico; and

(11) evaluate destination sourcing.

Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee

2023, 2024

<i>STTC Membership 2023</i>	<i>STTC Membership 2024</i>
<i>Voting</i> Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair, Albuquerque Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Vice Chair, Silver City Rep. Janelle Anyanonu, Albuquerque Sen. Craig W. Brandt, Rio Rancho Sen. William F. Burt, Alamogordo Rep. Joy Garratt, Albuquerque Rep. Jason C. Harper, Rio Rancho Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez, Rio Rancho Rep. Charlotte Little, Albuquerque Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque Sen. Harold Pope, Albuquerque Sen. William P. Soules, Las Cruces	<i>Voting</i> Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair, Albuquerque Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Vice Chair, Silver City Rep. Janelle Anyanonu, Albuquerque Sen. Craig W. Brandt, Rio Rancho Sen. William F. Burt, Alamogordo Rep. Joy Garratt, Albuquerque Rep. Jason C. Harper, Rio Rancho Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez, Rio Rancho Rep. Charlotte Little, Albuquerque Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque Sen. Harold Pope, Albuquerque Sen. William P. Soules, Las Cruces
<i>Advisory</i> Rep. Christine Chandler, Los Alamos Rep. Gail Chasey, Albuquerque Rep. Yanira Gurrola, Albuquerque Rep. Jenifer Jones, Deming Rep. Willie D. Madrid, Chaparral Sen. Bill B. O'Neill, Albuquerque Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi Sen. Nancy Rodriguez, Santa Fe Rep. Larry R. Scott, Hobbs Rep. Linda Serrato, Santa Fe	<i>Advisory</i> Rep. Christine Chandler, Los Alamos Rep. Gail Chasey, Albuquerque Rep. Yanira Gurrola, Albuquerque Rep. Jenifer Jones, Deming Rep. Willie D. Madrid, Chaparral Sen. Bill B. O'Neill, Albuquerque Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi Sen. Nancy Rodriguez, Santa Fe Rep. Larry R. Scott, Hobbs Rep. Linda Serrato, Santa Fe
<i>Staff</i> Mark Edwards Ralph Vincent Markela Clinton	<i>Staff</i> Mark Edwards Ralph Vincent Sabina Gaynor

The Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council for the current biennium on May 1, 2023 and again on March 25, 2024.

In 2023, the committee proposed to continue its oversight role of agency programs involving broadband, including plans for middle-mile assistance; cybersecurity, including proposals to update the Cybersecurity Act; information technology; developments at the national laboratories in the state; and the programs at the state's research universities. It also proposed to continue to examine issues in the telecommunications market and with development of a science- and technology-based economic sector within the state. Aside from these traditional functions, in 2023, the committee proposed to set aside a portion of each meeting for discussion and development of legislation in the following three categories:

- (1) energy needs in a changing world energy market: including alternative and renewable energy resources, energy storage and coupling microgrid systems with housing and business development;
- (2) security challenges presented by an increasingly complex technological environment, including critical infrastructure security, cybersecurity, implications of artificial intelligence technologies, emerging technologies used by law enforcement agencies, internet protections

for children and identity theft protections; and

(3) artificial intelligence, including the challenges and impacts it may have on advertising, business, the criminal justice system, elections, publishing and other sectors of society.

As time permits, the committee proposed to also hear presentations on the following items:

(1) potential policy and infrastructure needs necessitated by the growing use of remote work in government agencies and the private sector;

(2) technological options to promote climate resiliency;

(3) management of state enterprise information technology projects;

(4) the benefits and challenges of longitudinal data systems and engineering for state and educational programs; and

(5) the development of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and vocational technology programs, including recruitment and retention of STEM students and ensuring that the programs are designed to meet job market needs.

In 2024, the committee proposed to continue its oversight role regarding the state's information technology projects, developments at the national laboratories in the state and the science and technological programs at the state's research universities. It also proposed to continue to examine issues regarding the telecommunications market and development of the science- and technology-based economic sector within the state. Further, the committee proposed to continue to explore legislative opportunities to promote energy storage, innovations in renewable energy and technology transfers from research institutions to diversify the economy.

Aside from these traditional functions, in 2024, the committee proposed to particularly focus in the following four areas:

(1) various aspects of artificial intelligence software use, including:

- ◆ decision making regarding the provision and delivery of services, in particular in regard to government services and in health care;
- ◆ the growing number of applications of artificial intelligence in research;
- ◆ the need and opportunities for building artificial intelligence literacy in school-age and adult populations; and
- ◆ the impacts that artificial intelligence use will have on various resources, including energy, water and the labor market;

(2) the progress being made to build out the high-speed broadband network in New Mexico and the challenges to that buildout;

(3) the changing cybersecurity environment for public institutions and the private sector and potential state responses to developing cybersecurity risks; and

(4) the growing market demand for electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout the state.

Tobacco Settlement Revenue Oversight Committee

2023, 2024

<i>TSROC Membership 2023</i>	<i>TSROC Membership 2024</i>
<i>Voting</i> Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Chair, Las Cruces Sen. Martin Hickey, Vice Chair, Albuquerque Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque Sen. Gregg Schmedes, Tijeras Rep. Elizabeth “Liz” Thomson, Albuquerque Rep. James G. Townsend, Artesia	<i>Voting</i> Sen. Martin Hickey, Chair, Albuquerque Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Vice Chair, Las Cruces Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque Sen. Gregg Schmedes, Tijeras Rep. Elizabeth “Liz” Thomson, Albuquerque Rep. James G. Townsend, Artesia
<i>Advisory</i> Rep. Gail Chasey, Albuquerque Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi Rep. Luis M. Terrazas, Santa Clara	<i>Advisory</i> Rep. Gail Chasey, Albuquerque Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi Rep. Luis M. Terrazas, Santa Clara
<i>Staff</i> Erika Falance Andrea Lazarow Rebecca Griego	<i>Staff</i> Erika Falance Sean Dolan

The Tobacco Settlement Revenue Oversight Committee is created in Section 2-19-1 NMSA 1978.

In addition to its statutory duties, and as time permits, during the 2023 interim, the committee proposed to:

- (1) review the status of the revenue for current and future fiscal years and reserves for the Tobacco Settlement Permanent Fund from the Office of the Attorney General;
- (2) hear testimony regarding tobacco settlement-related litigation and legislation, including:
 - ◆ the implementation of local government ordinances; and
 - ◆ an overview of sister state regulations that restrict the marketing of flavored tobacco products to youth;
- (3) hear testimony regarding tobacco settlement-related issues, including:
 - ◆ tobacco use deterrents, such as increased taxation and point-of-sale restrictions on nicotine products;
 - ◆ prevention and cessation initiatives targeted at youth and the efficacy of those initiatives;
 - ◆ tobacco retailer compliance with licensing requirements of the Tobacco Products Act; and
 - ◆ other topics within the scope of the committee's oversight duties;
- (4) receive reports from state agencies regarding the use of all appropriations from the Tobacco Settlement Program Fund as recommended by the committee and funded by the legislature in prior years and cessation and prevention outcomes associated with those uses;
- (5) prepare recommendations to the LFC for program funding levels for fiscal year

2025 based on the LFC's program evaluation process; and

(6) make findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, available to the legislature as part of the committee's final report.

In addition to its statutory duties, and as time permits, during the 2024 interim, the committee proposed to:

(1) discuss outlawing smoking in racinos;

(2) hear testimony on vaping issues, including:

♦ how vaping is being handled in other states;

♦ who is accountable for enforcement within school districts based on New

Mexico laws; and

♦ what is the public campaign to inform about vaping;

(3) discuss allowing for the imposition of administrative penalties on the employees of licensees for certain violations of the Tobacco Products Act;

(4) discuss local preemption;

(5) work with the Department of Health to review the Nicotine Use Prevention and Control Program, including:

♦ the program's budget;

♦ the program's contracts, subcontracts and accountability;

♦ how funding is being used and how to meet expectations with funding gaps;

and

♦ the program's staffing and vacancies;

(6) explore the creation of a board with members from the Public Education Department, Higher Education Department, Regulation and Licensing Department and state Department of Justice to work on accountability of tobacco-related laws and funding;

(7) discuss how the committee can assist and support the state Department of Justice in receiving needed funding to continue tobacco litigation efforts;

(8) revisit increasing taxes on nicotine products;

(9) hear from the National Conference of State Legislatures, Empowerment and Tobacco Free Kids about effective prevention tactics among youth;

(10) hear from the University of New Mexico about uses of the tobacco settlement funding disbursed to the university;

(11) prepare recommendations to the LFC for program funding levels for fiscal year 2026 based on the LFC's program evaluation process; and

(12) make findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, available to the legislature as part of the committee's final report.

Water and Natural Resources Committee

2023, 2024

WNRC Membership 2023

Voting

Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Chair, Cerrillos
Rep. Matthew McQueen, Vice Chair, Santa Fe
Rep. Gail Armstrong, Magdalena
Sen. Pete Campos, Las Vegas
Rep. Kathleen Cates, Rio Rancho
Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Las Cruces
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Las Cruces
Rep. Miguel P. García, Albuquerque
Rep. Susan K. Herrera, Embudo
Sen. Stuart Ingle, Portales
Rep. T. Ryan Lane, Aztec
Rep. Tara L. Lujan, Santa Fe
Rep. Marian Matthews, Albuquerque
Rep. Kristina Orteiz, Taos
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle, Roswell
Rep. Andrea Romero, Santa Fe
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Albuquerque
Rep. Larry R. Scott, Hobbs
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr., Jemez Pueblo
Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Las Cruces
Sen. Pat Woods, Broadview
Rep. Martin R. Zamora, Clovis

Advisory

Rep. Christine Chandler, Los Alamos
Rep. Jack Chatfield, Mosquero
Sen. Crystal R. Diamond Brantley, Elephant Butte
Rep. Candy Spence Ezzell, Roswell
Rep. Jenifer Jones, Deming
Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque
Rep. Rod Montoya, Farmington
Rep. Greg Nibert, Roswell
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Albuquerque
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm, Albuquerque
Rep. G. Andrés Romero, Albuquerque
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Albuquerque
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Albuquerque
Rep. Nathan P. Small, Dona Ana
Sen. Mimi Stewart, Albuquerque
Sen. Peter Wirth, Santa Fe

Staff

Sara Wiedmaier
Tom Kricka
Sheila Keleher
Erika Falance

WNRC Membership 2024

Voting

Rep. Matthew McQueen, Chair, Santa Fe
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Vice Chair, Cerrillos
Rep. Gail Armstrong, Magdalena
Sen. Pete Campos, Las Vegas
Rep. Kathleen Cates, Rio Rancho
Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Las Cruces
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Las Cruces
Rep. Miguel P. García, Albuquerque
Rep. Susan K. Herrera, Embudo
Rep. Tara L. Lujan, Santa Fe
Rep. Marian Matthews, Albuquerque
Sen. Steven McCutcheon II, Carlsbad
Rep. Kristina Orteiz, Taos
Rep. Andrea Romero, Santa Fe
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Albuquerque
Rep. Larry R. Scott, Hobbs
Sen. Pat Woods, Broadview
Rep. Martin R. Zamora, Clovis

Advisory

Sen. Crystal Brantley, Elephant Butte
Rep. Christine Chandler, Los Alamos
Rep. Jack Chatfield, Mosquero
Rep. Candy Spence Ezzell, Roswell
Rep. Jenifer Jones, Deming
Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque
Rep. Rod Montoya, Farmington
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Albuquerque
Rep. Cristina Parajón, Albuquerque
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle, Roswell
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm, Albuquerque
Rep. G. Andrés Romero, Albuquerque
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero, Albuquerque
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Albuquerque
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr., Jemez Pueblo
Rep. Nathan P. Small, Dona Ana
Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Las Cruces
Sen. Mimi Stewart, Albuquerque
Sen. Peter Wirth, Santa Fe

Staff

Sara Wiedmaier
Tom Kricka
Angela Dakan
Andrea Martinez Cordero

The Water and Natural Resources Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council for the current biennium on May 1, 2023 and again on March 25, 2024.

In 2023, the committee proposed to focus on the following topics, as scheduling permits:

- (1) reports from water- and natural resources-related executive agencies, including statutory reports, agency initiatives, legislation passed and budget and staffing needs, including:
 - ♦ implementation of the Water Security Planning Act and regional water plans;
 - ♦ New Mexico state water plan 2023 review;
 - ♦ an update on the status, distributions and future of the New Mexico Unit Fund;
 - ♦ an update on the strategic water reserve;
 - ♦ implementation of the Water Data Act and aquifer mapping program;
 - ♦ the Community Solar Program and the results of the Public Regulation Commission process;
 - ♦ the effectiveness of renewable energy production tax credits, advanced energy tax credits and the advanced energy deduction;
 - ♦ the status of the Community Energy Efficiency Development Program;
 - ♦ lawsuits and penalty amounts for violations of the Oil and Gas Act;
 - ♦ implementation of the San Juan Generating Station Facility and Mine Remediation and Restoration Study Act and plans to ensure environmental compliance from owners of the generating facility and mine;
 - ♦ progress of the Rio Grande Trail Commission; and
 - ♦ updates from departmental tribal liaisons on state-tribal collaborations and cross-boundary resource management;
- (2) topics concerning water, including:
 - ♦ an update from the Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force;
 - ♦ due process in water leases and the implications of court rulings on preliminary approvals;
 - ♦ a review of 2023 legislation to modernize water law, a water rights de novo review process and the possibility of creating specialized water-law courts;
 - ♦ reports on water rights litigation and settlements, including:
 - the Aamodt settlement, *State of New Mexico v. Aragon* and other Indian water rights litigations and settlements, including input from tribes;
 - *Texas v. New Mexico*;
 - *Sackett v. EPA*; and
 - Arizona's Gila River Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Agreement and Arizona Water Settlements Act updates;
 - ♦ an overview of Western states' water law and water needs, the Rio Grande Compact of 1939, the Colorado River Compact of 1922 and the recent Colorado River Basin Agreement and their impact on New Mexico water supply and agricultural uses;
 - ♦ an update on the Acequia and Community Ditch Infrastructure Fund and issues pertaining to acequias, agriculture and water health;

- ◆ Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and Lower Rio Grande Public Water Works Authority water technology investments and water management;
- ◆ community water concerns, such as:
 - water contamination plumes and cleanup efforts at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Kirtland Air Force Base and White Sands Missile Range;
 - ground water contamination from fracking and mining operations;
 - water scarcity on New Mexico's military bases and its effect on national security;
 - the East Pecos Mutual Domestic Water Consumers' Association wastewater project;
 - water testing for lead in schools and daycare facilities;
 - abandoned contaminated sites, including dry cleaners; and
 - PFAS rulemaking and lawsuits;
- ◆ produced water and water use in oil and gas and natural resource extraction and an update from the New Mexico Produced Water Research Consortium;
- ◆ water resource infrastructure funding and administration, including:
 - creation of a state water infrastructure management fund and planning and development office;
 - Tribal Infrastructure Project Fund updates and 2023 proposed projects; and
 - an update on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund;
- ◆ water line easements across state lines: processes and fees;
- ◆ developing a surface water discharge program and surface water permitting;
- ◆ a review of New Mexico's current water supply in streams and rivers and the implementation of an environmental flows program for critical ecosystem function;
- ◆ the impacts of wildfires on watersheds and funding opportunities for river health and restoration, including:
 - an update on the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service's Emergency Watershed Protection Program;
 - post-fire flooding concerns and water-source protection;
 - the Rio Grande Water Fund forest and watershed restoration projects;
- and
- an update on the Department of Environment's River Stewardship Program;
- ◆ an update on the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project and other water deliveries to Indian nations, tribes and pueblos;
- ◆ an update on the Liquid Waste Disposal System Assistance Fund;
- ◆ Regional Water System Resiliency Act implementation and rulemaking;
- ◆ using green and natural infrastructure to protect water quality and quantity;
- ◆ an update from the Rio Grande Project Area Drought Resiliency Team and an update on rural and urban water conservation and extreme drought mitigation and plans for future

growth and development;

- ◆ brackish water and desalination technology pilot projects; and
- ◆ an overview of historic pueblo-use water rights, federal reserve water rights

and water rights established by state law;

(3) topics concerning energy, including:

- ◆ regulation of the oil and gas industry, including:
 - balancing the needs of the renewable energy industry and oil and gas

production and the impact of climate change mandates; and

- oil and gas industry emission reductions and effectiveness of

methane and ozone rules;

- ◆ geothermal energy development legislation;
- ◆ an overview of oil and gas leasing and economic diversification needed to

replace the revenue of the oil and gas industry;

- ◆ low-income utility rates;
- ◆ carbon capture and sequestration; industrial-scale and natural solutions;

community impacts of a carbon pipeline and storage buildout; and soil carbon sequestration as a strategy for climate resiliency;

- ◆ an update from the Economic Development Department, Indian Affairs

Department and Workforce Solutions Department on the Energy Transition Act and the "just transition" funds, including:

- updates from the community advisory committees on input from

tribes and affected communities; and

- replacement power options and workforce retraining initiatives in

affected communities;

- ◆ green hydrogen development in New Mexico, including:

- Western Inter-State Hydrogen Hub (WISHH) proposed projects;
- the green hydrogen power plant at the Chevron Questa mine site in

Questa;

- saline aquifers as hydrogen feedstock; and
- climate risk associated with hydrogen leakage;

- ◆ decarbonizing energy and transportation and increasing renewable

transportation, mass transit and other alternative transportation and shipping methods, such as trains and electric vehicles;

- ◆ local economic development from the renewable energy industry and utility-scale investment in transmission and storage, including a review of energy grid reliability and modernization, regional transmission organizations, distributed energy resources and storage;

◆ energy and water efficiency standards for appliances; building and home electrification; and the removal of nonfunctional turf from buildings;

- ◆ combined cycle natural gas as an electric generation source;

- ◆ the proposed climate investment center and environmental workforce

development (Senate Bill 169 (2023));

- ◆ federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and federal Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 funding and possible carbon standard for projects;
- ◆ development of tribal energy resources and infrastructure, including:
 - Navajo Tribal Utility Authority updates on the Light Up Navajo initiative and the development of wind and solar power and energy storage on the Navajo Nation;
 - the federal Tribal Energy Development Capacity Grant program, energy sovereignty grants and renewable energy development on tribal lands;
 - the United States Economic Development Administration's Indigenous Communities program and the Pueblo of Jemez's energy independence study;
 - the federal Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs and the Pueblo of Laguna's Village Community Solar project; and
 - Sandia National Laboratories' tribal energy internship program and the Tribal Energy Management Studies degree at San Juan College; and
- ◆ state university and college science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs and projects in areas such as water, energy and biofuels;
- (4) topics concerning natural resources and conservation, including:
 - ◆ forest management, prescribed burn practices and compensation and reclamation efforts for wildfires, including:
 - Mescalero forest management and sawmill;
 - Jemez Mountains Firewise Association and wildland fire management;
 - drought and climate change driving fires and affecting forest carbon; and
 - state and local bans on fireworks due to drought and wildfire risk;
 - ◆ an update on the Environmental Database Act;
 - ◆ copper mining and reclamation projects;
 - ◆ the proposed New Mexico green amendment (House Joint Resolution 4 (2023) and Senate Joint Resolution 4 (2023));
 - ◆ the federal Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act;
 - ◆ soil and water conservation districts' impact on the environment, agriculture and fire and flood restoration and the impact of climate change on soils;
 - ◆ progress and funding needs for uranium cleanup projects on state and tribal land;
 - ◆ the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund status and implementation;
 - ◆ improving New Mexico's state parks to increase visitation;
 - ◆ an update on the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund;
 - ◆ recycling and anti-littering initiatives and policies to address plastic pollution and the use of single-use plastics and Styrofoam;
 - ◆ *Atencio v. State of New Mexico* and other natural resources-related litigation;
 - ◆ state collaborations on health and climate issues, including:
 - the impacts of oil and gas extraction and large-facility pollution on

human health, agriculture and other industries, New Mexico livelihoods and culture;

- the proposed public health and climate resiliency fund (House Bill 42 (2023)); and

- updates from the Climate Change Task Force and Technical Advisory Group; and

- ♦ public stream access and private land restrictions and the Blue Trails

Program: developing New Mexico's water recreation economy; and

(5) topics concerning agriculture, land management and animals, including:

- ♦ Department of Game and Fish land purchases for 30x30 and 50x50

initiatives;

- ♦ state meat inspection;

- ♦ an update on the study of abandoned water wells on private and public property and the risks those wells pose to people and animals;

- ♦ New Mexico food and farm initiatives, including:

- land stewardship and economic opportunities for farmers, ranchers, food hubs and New Mexico businesses; and

- the anticipated federal 2023 farm bill and how it can support New Mexico agriculture, consumers and nutrition-based programs;

- ♦ a veterinary technician program to educate, attract and retain veterinarians; non-compete clauses for emergency pet health care services; physician's assistant veterinary licensure; extension of New Mexico's Loan-for-Service programs to include veterinary medicine (Senate Bill 404 (2023)); and the status of the Statewide Spay and Neuter subaccount of the Animal Care and Facility Fund;

- ♦ Department of Game and Fish reform;

- ♦ an update from New Mexico State University College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences on weather stations, education and research centers and the statewide Indian Resources Development program;

- ♦ private preserves and other management strategies for relocated wild horses;

- ♦ livestock, farming and land management on tribal lands, including:

- New Mexico Indian Livestock Days and funding opportunities to support Native American farmers and ranchers;

- the Indigenous Farm Hub, New Mexico Food and Seed Sovereignty Alliance and teaching of traditional indigenous agricultural practices; and

- an update from the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry on crop diversification and the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project;

- ♦ impacts of lead shot on wildlife;

- ♦ New Mexico's unique biodiversity: opportunities and challenges;

- ♦ an overview of New Mexico's agricultural production and opportunities for growth, including agricultural resiliency through technological innovations; and

- ♦ a report from the state climatologist on weather station installations.

In the 2024 interim, the committee proposed to focus on the following topics, as scheduling

permits:

(1) topics concerning energy, including:

- ◆ Oil and Gas Act violations, lawsuits, penalty amounts and proposed changes;
- ◆ establishing in statute the 98% gas capture requirement for oil and gas

permits;

- ◆ allowing for surface setbacks for oil and gas wells;
- ◆ increasing bonding, fee and civil penalty amounts in oil and gas operations;
- ◆ increasing rules and limits on well transfers between oil and gas operators;
- ◆ water use and tracking in oil and gas operations, including fresh water use vs.

produced water reuse, on-site and off-site use and compliance with the Produced Water Act;

- ◆ the role of the legislature in the public and private development of hydrogen;
- ◆ an update on the green hydrogen power plant at the Chevron Questa Mine

site;

- ◆ Energy Transition Act updates, including progress, compliance and

enforcement of Public Regulation Commission regulations;

- ◆ energy transition issues such as securing rare earth minerals and impacts to

land;

- ◆ recycling options for solar and wind projects;
- ◆ pore space ownership and the potential to use pore space for carbon

sequestration;

- ◆ the solar tax credit application process and the funding and sustainability of

the program;

- ◆ an update on the Community Solar Program and potential for expansion;
- ◆ updates on the renewable energy production tax credits and the new advanced

energy equipment tax credit;

- ◆ tribal energy and climate issues and opportunities for federal funding;
- ◆ effects of solar energy development on wildlife;
- ◆ carbon capture and sequestration;
- ◆ water use and contamination from fracking and mining operations and the

potential for fracking-related earthquakes;

- ◆ resource adequacy, energy needs and site readiness for growth of the oil and

gas industry in the southeast region and development of other industries across the state;

- ◆ an update on the electric grid and distribution needs;
- ◆ an update on the Community Energy Efficiency Development Program; and
- ◆ implementation, effectiveness and permanency of methane rules;

(2) topics concerning water, including:

- ◆ implementation of the Water Security Planning Act and regional water plans;
- ◆ a review of the New Mexico state water plan 2024;
- ◆ an update on the status, distributions and future of the New Mexico Unit

Fund;

- ◆ an update on the strategic water reserve;

- ♦ implementation of the Water Data Act and aquifer mapping program;
- ♦ the Low Flow Conveyance Channel;
- ♦ enforcement of stream access rights;
- ♦ the waters of the United States and new successes in regional planning efforts;
- ♦ the Colorado River Compact and potential compact dispute implications;
- ♦ potential violations of the Rio Grande Compact;
- ♦ the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project and potential use for out-of-state Navajo Nation needs;
- ♦ methodologies and ongoing initiatives for cleaning water;
- ♦ an overview of PFAS in aquifers and products; potential regulatory changes to protect consumers and the environment; and ensuring compensation for contamination of private lands and wells;
- ♦ Water Quality Act revisions, including a surface water permitting program, changes to the toxic pollutant list and federal funding to address contaminants in public water systems;
- ♦ reports on water rights litigation and settlements, including the Aamodt settlement, *State of New Mexico v. Aragon* and other Indian water rights litigation and settlements and *Texas v. New Mexico*;
- ♦ implications of the *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency* decision and the need for surface water monitoring and permitting programs;
- ♦ "blue workforce development": building up the state's water infrastructure workforce;
- ♦ water conservation policies and river management for urban agriculture; climate resilient agriculture; and farmer and rancher perspectives on water;
- ♦ an update on ground and storm water management and aquifer characterization;
- ♦ an overview of river health and updates on the Active Water Resource Management Program and the River Stewardship Program;
- ♦ water supply augmentation alternatives, including brackish water desalination, produced water reuse and the governor's strategic water supply;
- ♦ cloud seeding;
- ♦ aging infrastructure of rural water systems and associated risks;
- ♦ water policy and infrastructure needs, implementation of Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force recommendations and creation of a state Office of Water Resource Management;
- ♦ creation of a water futures fund or water resilience fund and funding for water emergencies; and
- ♦ the historic and cultural roots of Zuni Salt Lake and western New Mexico water issues and strategies to restore natural habitats, soil health and water systems through application of native wisdom and traditional practices;

(3) topics concerning conservation, including:

- ◆ Department of Game and Fish and State Game Commission reform and fees and cattle growers' input on the Department of Game and Fish;
- ◆ the impacts of lead bullets and tackle on wildlife;
- ◆ a report on the development of a statewide beaver management plan as requested by Senate Memorial 4 (2014);
- ◆ an update on the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund;
- ◆ "species of greatest conservation need" funding and uses;
- ◆ wildlife policy on prairie chickens and other endangered or threatened species;
- ◆ wildlife policy on Mexican wolves, including state and federal compensation for Mexican wolf depredation;
- ◆ wildlife policy on elk, including the "Elk Private Lands Use System" and the Department of Game and Fish's four-year elk rule;
- ◆ budget overview of the State Parks Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department and proposed fee increases;
- ◆ Department of Environment fees and funding changes as proposed by Senate Bill 228 (2024);
- ◆ San Juan Generating Station Facility and Mine Remediation and Restoration Study Act updates;
- ◆ creation of a community response, investigation and remediation program and fund to address abandoned contaminated sites;
- ◆ updates on efforts to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and establish wildlife crossings pursuant to the Wildlife Corridors Act;
- ◆ mining proposals in the Upper Pecos watershed;
- ◆ updates from departmental tribal liaisons on state-tribal collaborations and cross-boundary resource management;
- ◆ wildfire mitigation planning and the risks of downed power lines;
- ◆ updates on *Atencio v. State of New Mexico* and other natural resources-related litigation;
- ◆ proposed changes and efforts to preserve dark skies in New Mexico;
- ◆ impacts of pesticides, aerial spraying and neonics;
- ◆ progress of the Rio Grande Trail Commission;
- ◆ creation of an animal welfare trust fund; and
- ◆ a working group report on advancing citizen science at the state agency level;

and

(4) topics concerning climate and other committee focus areas, including:

- ◆ the public health risks posed by extreme heat and a statewide public health and climate program as proposed by House Bill 104 (2024);
- ◆ air quality;
- ◆ a report from the state climatologist on weather station installations;
- ◆ updates on the status and accessibility of the climate tax credits;

- ♦ electric and solar power for school buses and buildings;
- ♦ sediment and debris removal after flood events related to fires and climate change;
- ♦ the overall costs of climate change;
- ♦ an update from the Interagency Climate Change Task Force;
- ♦ farming and ranching opportunities for young people, including funding for National FFA Organization training programs;
- ♦ land stewardship and economic partnership opportunities for farmers, ranchers, food hubs and businesses;
- ♦ updates on the governor's Food Initiative, the New Mexico Grown program and the New Mexico Food Charter and annual "report card";
- ♦ recycling and anti-littering policies to address plastic pollution; funding opportunities for cleanup; and the impacts of single-use plastics and Styrofoam;
- ♦ Solid Waste Act modernization and an overview of solid waste management, including the net import of landfill waste and the potential to turn waste into commodities through recycling, composting and waste-to-energy industries;
- ♦ a green amendment to the Constitution of New Mexico as proposed by House Joint Resolution 4 (2024) and Senate Joint Resolution 8 (2024);
- ♦ using compost and biochar to restore soil health and retain moisture;
- ♦ grazing practices that restore natural habitats in the desert and the need for indigenous wisdom and experience in restoration efforts; and
- ♦ reports from water- and natural resources-related executive agencies, including the Office of the State Engineer, Office of Natural Resources Trustee, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Department of Environment and Department of Game and Fish, regarding statutory reporting requirements, ongoing initiatives, legislative priorities and budget and staffing needs.

SUBCOMMITTEES, TASK FORCES AND SPECIAL INTERIM BODIES

Capitol Security Subcommittee

2023, 2024

<i>CSS Membership 2023</i>	<i>CSS Membership 2024</i>
<i>Voting</i> Sen. Gregory A. Baca, Belen Sen. Stuart Ingle, Portales Rep. T. Ryan Lane, Aztec Rep. Javier Martínez, Albuquerque Rep. Greg Nibert, Roswell Sen. Mimi Stewart, Albuquerque Rep. Reena Szczepanski, Santa Fe Sen. Peter Wirth, Santa Fe	<i>Voting</i> Sen. Gregory A. Baca, Belen Rep. Javier Martínez, Albuquerque Sen. Mimi Stewart, Albuquerque Rep. Reena Szczepanski, Santa Fe Sen. Peter Wirth, Santa Fe
<i>Staff</i> Raúl E. Burciaga Jeret Fleetwood Raphael “Dhrett” Baca	<i>Staff</i> Raúl E. Burciaga Jeret Fleetwood Raphael “Dhrett” Baca

The New Mexico Legislative Council created the Capitol Security Subcommittee for the current biennium on May 1, 2023 and again on March 25, 2024.

Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force

2023, 2024

The Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force is created in Section 22-24-7 NMSA 1978 as the permanent entity overseeing the implementation of the work of the Public School Capital Outlay Council and the Public School Facilities Authority.

The task force proposed to address the following statutory requirements during the 2023 interim:

- (1) oversee the work of the Public School Capital Outlay Council and the Public School Facilities Authority as they perform functions pursuant to the Public School Capital Outlay Act, particularly as the agencies implement the statewide process for making grant awards;
- (2) monitor the existing permanent revenue streams to ensure that they remain adequate long-term funding sources for public school capital outlay projects;
- (3) monitor the overall progress of bringing all public school facilities up to the statewide adequacy standards developed pursuant to provisions in the Public School Capital Outlay Act; and
- (4) monitor the progress and effectiveness of programs administered pursuant to the Public School Capital Outlay Act and the Public School Capital Improvements Act.

In addition, as time permits, the task force proposed to:

- (5) review the history of and receive an update on current developments in the *Zuni* lawsuit;
- (6) evaluate the effects of recent inflation on school construction and maintenance costs

<i>PSCOOTF Membership 2023</i>	<i>PSCOOTF Membership 2024</i>
<i>Legislative - Voting</i>	<i>Legislative - Voting</i>
Sen. William P. Soules, Chair, Las Cruces	Sen. William P. Soules, Chair, Las Cruces
Rep. G. Andrés Romero, Vice Chair, Albuquerque	Rep. G. Andrés Romero, Vice Chair, Albuquerque
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan	Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon, Milan
Rep. Jack Chatfield, Mosquero	Rep. Jack Chatfield, Mosquero
Sen. Stuart Ingle, Portales	Rep. Javier Martínez, Albuquerque
Rep. Javier Martínez, Albuquerque	Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya, Los Lunas
Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya, Los Lunas	Sen. George K. Muñoz, Gallup
Sen. George K. Muñoz, Gallup	Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi	Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez, Bosque	Rep. Nathan P. Small, Dona Ana
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr., Jemez Pueblo	Sen. Mimi Stewart, Albuquerque
Rep. Nathan P. Small, Dona Ana	
Sen. Mimi Stewart, Albuquerque	
<i>Legislative - Advisory</i>	<i>Legislative - Advisory</i>
Rep. Brian G. Baca, Los Lunas	Rep. Brian G. Baca, Los Lunas
Rep. Ambrose Castellano, Serafina	Rep. Ambrose Castellano, Serafina
Rep. Yanira Gurrola, Albuquerque	Rep. Yanira Gurrola, Albuquerque
Sen. Leo Jaramillo, Espanola	Sen. Leo Jaramillo, Espanola
Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque	Sen. Michael Padilla, Albuquerque
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle, Roswell	Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle, Roswell
	Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr., Jemez Pueblo
<i>Legislative - Designee</i>	<i>Legislative - Designee</i>
Rep. Tara Jaramillo, Socorro	Rep. Tara Jaramillo, Socorro
<i>Other - Voting</i>	<i>Other - Voting</i>
Sondra Adams	Johnny Benavidez
Johnny Benavidez	LeAnne Gandy
Scott Elder	Julie Lucero
LeAnne Gandy	Cindy Montoya
Julie Lucero	Brandy Murphy
Cindy Montoya	Wayne Propst
Brandy Murphy	Amber L. Romero
Wayne Propst	Arsenio Romero
Amber L. Romero	Stan Rounds
Arsenio Romero	
Stan Rounds	<i>Other - Designee</i>
Karen Sanchez-Griego	Ashley Leach
	Antonio Ortiz
<i>Other - Designee</i>	
Ashley Leach	
Antonio Ortiz	
	<i>Staff</i>
<i>Staff</i>	Simon Suzuki
Clinton Turner	Raúl E. Burciaga
Raúl E. Burciaga	Rebecca Griego
Lenaya Montoya	
Shelia Keleher	

and assess the adequacy of the current funding framework to address the challenges posed by rapidly rising expenses;

(7) receive the results of the LESC's analysis on school transportation funding, including possibilities for electric school bus funding;

(8) receive the updated forecast of supplemental severance tax bond proceeds and

review the long-term trends in severance tax revenue along with the range of upside and downside risks;

(9) review the current development of teacher housing and consider the standards and criteria for allocating funds for future teacher housing needs;

(10) consider the needs and funding structure for gender-neutral restrooms during remodels and in new construction;

(11) review the expenditure of federal funds and possible additional federal funding opportunities;

(12) examine the appropriateness, needs and requests for funding technology with capital sources;

(13) evaluate the needs of cafeteria and kitchen facilities with the implementation of universal free and healthy school meals;

(14) review the implementation and impacts of Senate Bill 131 (Laws 2023, Chapter 98), which temporarily reduces the required local match for project funding, forgives past offsets and eliminates future offsets for direct legislative appropriations and also makes appropriations for school security, career-technical education facilities and pre-kindergarten facilities;

(15) examine how the statewide adequacy standards should incorporate the need for career-technical education facilities as required by Senate Bill 131 (Laws 2023, Chapter 98); and

(16) as requested by House Joint Memorial 7 (2023), study public school heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and consider sustainable funding mechanisms for the assessment, repair, adjustment and replacement of these systems.

Pursuant to its statutory obligations, during the 2024 interim the task force proposed to:

(1) monitor the overall progress of bringing all schools up to the statewide adequacy standards developed pursuant to the Public School Capital Outlay Act;

(2) monitor the progress and effectiveness of programs administered pursuant to the Public School Capital Outlay Act and the Public School Capital Improvements Act;

(3) monitor the existing permanent revenue streams to ensure that they remain adequate long-term funding sources for public school capital outlay projects; and

(4) oversee the work of the Public School Capital Outlay Council and the Public School Facilities Authority as they perform functions pursuant to the Public School Capital Outlay Act, particularly as they implement the statewide-based process for making grant awards.

Additionally, as time permits, the task force proposed to:

(5) review the history of and receive an update on current developments in the *Zuni* lawsuit;

(6) review the changes to public school capital outlay as enacted in House Bill 207 and Senate Bill 76 from the 2024 regular legislative session;

(7) examine the impact of inflation on school construction and maintenance costs and the ability of the current funding framework to respond to changing costs;

(8) receive the updated forecast of supplemental severance tax bond proceeds and review the long-term trends in severance tax revenue, along with the range of upside and downside risks;

(9) review the expenditure of federal funds and possible additional federal funding opportunities; and

(10) address other matters within the task force's purview as it deems necessary.

Senate Rules Committee

2023, 2024

<i>SRC Membership 2023</i>	<i>SRC Membership 2024</i>
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg, Chair, Albuquerque	Sen. Katy M. Duhigg, Chair, Albuquerque
Sen. Leo Jaramillo, Vice Chair, Espanola	Sen. Leo Jaramillo, Vice Chair, Espanola
Sen. Stuart Ingle, Ranking Member, Portales	Sen. Greg Nibert, Ranking Member, Roswell
Sen. Gregory A. Baca, Belen	Sen. Gregory A. Baca, Belen
Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque	Sen. Linda M. López, Albuquerque
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna, Corrales	Sen. Brenda G. McKenna, Corrales
Sen. Mark Moores, Albuquerque	Sen. Mark Moores, Albuquerque
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Albuquerque	Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Albuquerque
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle, Roswell	Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle, Roswell
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Cerrillos	Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Cerrillos
Sen. Mimi Stewart, Albuquerque	Sen. Mimi Stewart, Albuquerque
<i>Staff</i> provided by the Senate Chief Clerk's Office	<i>Staff</i> provided by the Senate Chief Clerk's Office

The Senate Rules Committee is the only standing committee of the legislature allowed to meet during the interim. Upon the approval of the voters in 1986, Article 4 of the Constitution of New Mexico was amended to add Section 42, which allows the committee to operate during the interim to conduct hearings and take testimony on the confirmation or rejection of gubernatorial appointments. The Senate Rules Committee then makes its recommendations to the next session of the legislature.

Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee

2023, 2024

The Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee of the New Mexico Legislative Council was created by the council for the current biennium on May 1, 2023 and again on March 25, 2024.

During the 2023 interim, the Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee proposed to review and discuss the following topics, as time permits:

(1) the Department of Transportation:

- ◆ overview of divisions, budgets, projects, the Transportation Asset Management Plan and Section 9 funding;
- ◆ performance data, project status report and capital outlay report;
- ◆ project prioritization;
- ◆ the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program;
- ◆ escalating costs; and
- ◆ engineer reports from each of the six transportation districts on projects, needs, prioritization and opportunities; the impact of the governor's maintenance budget; and over/under

<i>TIRS Membership 2023</i>	<i>TIRS Membership 2024</i>
<i>Voting</i>	<i>Voting</i>
Sen. Bill Tallman, Chair, Albuquerque	Sen. Bill Tallman, Chair, Albuquerque
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil, Vice Chair, Albuquerque	Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil, Vice Chair, Albuquerque
Rep. Anthony Allison, Fruitland	Rep. Anthony Allison, Fruitland
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown, Carlsbad	Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown, Carlsbad
Rep. Art De La Cruz, Albuquerque	Rep. Art De La Cruz, Albuquerque
Rep. Harry Garcia, Grants	Rep. Harry Garcia, Grants
Rep. Joy Garratt, Albuquerque	Rep. Joy Garratt, Albuquerque
Sen. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Rancho De Taos	Sen. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Rancho De Taos
Sen. Ron Griggs, Alamogordo	Sen. Ron Griggs, Alamogordo
Rep. Jenifer Jones, Deming	Rep. Jenifer Jones, Deming
Sen. George K. Muñoz, Gallup	Sen. George K. Muñoz, Gallup
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew, Lovington	Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew, Lovington
Sen. Pat Woods, Broadview	Sen. Pat Woods, Broadview
<i>Advisory</i>	<i>Advisory</i>
Rep. Gail Armstrong, Magdalena	Rep. Gail Armstrong, Magdalena
Sen. Craig W. Brandt, Rio Rancho	Sen. Craig W. Brandt, Rio Rancho
Rep. Kathleen Cates, Rio Rancho	Rep. Kathleen Cates, Rio Rancho
Sen. David M. Gallegos, Eunice	Sen. David M. Gallegos, Eunice
Rep. Pamela Herndon, Albuquerque	Rep. Pamela Herndon, Albuquerque
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom, Gallup	Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom, Gallup
Rep. Willie D. Madrid, Chaparral	Rep. Willie D. Madrid, Chaparral
Rep. Rod Montoya, Farmington	Rep. Rod Montoya, Farmington
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi	Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Tohatchi
Rep. G. Andrés Romero, Albuquerque	Rep. G. Andrés Romero, Albuquerque
<i>Staff</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Martin Fischer	Shelia Keleher
Erin Bond	Cristina Vasquez
Cecilia Martinez	Erin Bond

of each project;

- (2) fuel taxes, excise taxes and alternative revenue sources;
- (3) electric vehicles, the electric charging grid and related infrastructure;
- (4) broadband infrastructure, Department of Transportation rights-of-way and "smart"

roads;

- (5) fire recovery, flood recovery and drainage;
- (6) commercial trucking and the Permian Basin;
- (7) the future of transportation and proposed legislative changes relative to:
 - ◆ commercial space;
 - ◆ drones;
 - ◆ autonomous vehicles;
 - ◆ unleaded aviation fuel;
 - ◆ roadable aircraft; and
 - ◆ front end license plates and registration stickers;
- (8) multimodal transportation and evolutionary infrastructure planning, including:

- ◆ intelligent roadways and improving traffic design;
- ◆ methods to increase safety and reduce accidents;
- ◆ a review of data on driver impairment and substance abuse treatment requirements for a commercial driver's license holder;
- ◆ new construction materials; and
- ◆ protected bicycle lanes;

(9) public-private partnerships and advanced infrastructure partnerships;

(10) the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and government-to-government relations;

(11) the "Ports-to-Plains" trade corridor;

(12) ports of entry and economic development initiatives;

(13) National Conference of State Legislatures best practices for transportation and infrastructure legislation;

(14) the consideration of legislation for endorsement; and

(15) the establishment of the Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee as a committee.

During the 2024 interim, the Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee proposed to review and discuss the following topics, as time permits.

(1) Transportation Infrastructure Funding Sources and Strategies:

- ◆ reimagine infrastructure funding;
- ◆ review alternative revenue sources and strategies to establish more sustainable long-term funding;
- ◆ review state budgeting strategies and look at how other states formulate their transportation and infrastructure yearly budgets;
- ◆ identify which methods and sources may be best utilized in New Mexico;
- ◆ updates on funding provided by the federal Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, the federal CHIPS Act of 2022 and the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law;
- ◆ an update on the National Infrastructure Bank as a source for financing infrastructure projects and creating jobs;
- ◆ evaluate public-private partnerships for improvement of transportation infrastructure; and
- ◆ presentations on state budgeting from the National Conference of State Legislatures Transportation Committee and the Alliance for Automotive Innovation.

(2) Economic Development for Roads:

- ◆ updates on New Mexico tradeports and Regional Infrastructure Accelerator designations in the state;
- ◆ updates on transportation infrastructure investments for economic expansion in the Borderplex region;
- ◆ United States Highway 380 infrastructure improvements in the Roswell area in preparation for hosting the National Championship Air Races; and

- ♦ transportation infrastructure needs for smaller road projects.

(3) Electric Vehicles and the Future of Transportation:

- ♦ a presentation on impending advances and benefits in the field of transportation infrastructure;
- ♦ predictions on electric vehicle sales and other determining factors to ensure that there are a sufficient number of electric vehicle charging stations;
- ♦ the role of broadband in electric vehicle charging connectivity;
- ♦ a discussion on electric vehicle and hybrid vehicle use fees for sharing road maintenance and construction costs;
- ♦ updates on advancements in efficient electric technologies, including energy grid modernization, electric cooperatives and new technologies presented in the 2023 PowerUP Las Cruces Expo & Training;
- ♦ transportation infrastructure practices that support bioretention and ground water recharge;
- ♦ advanced clean cars and clean trucks rules, autonomous vehicles and drones;
- ♦ updates on the electrification and decarbonization of public transit networks;
- ♦ the Albuquerque rapid rail proposal;
- ♦ an update on Virgin Galactic and the status of its spaceflight program;
- ♦ an update on digital tilting technology for transportation infrastructure; and
- ♦ a presentation on electric school buses for New Mexico and federal funding for infrastructure costs.

(4) Transportation Planning and Infrastructure Needs:

- ♦ Department of Transportation overview and updates on budgets, project status and project prioritizations;
- ♦ the Transportation Asset Management Plan; the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program; and House Bill 2, Section 9 funding;
- ♦ engineer reports from each of New Mexico's six transportation districts on current projects, prioritizations, needs and opportunities;
- ♦ a discussion on House Bill 3;
- ♦ fiscal year 2025 operating budget appropriations in advance of the legislative session;
- ♦ updates from councils of governments on local government transportation infrastructure needs, the status of current projects, priorities and goals;
- ♦ a discussion on critical planning processes that the state can adopt to improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation infrastructure system in the face of inevitable environmental changes;
- ♦ a presentation and update on wildlife corridors; identification of priority wildlife corridor projects and needs; and
- ♦ discussions on potential legislation to consider for endorsement.

APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES

Capitol Buildings Planning Commission

2023, 2024

<i>CBPC Membership 2023</i>	<i>CBPC Membership 2024</i>
<i>Legislative</i> Rep. Javier Martínez, Albuquerque, Co-Chair Sen. Gregory A. Baca, Belen Rep. T. Ryan Lane, Aztec Sen. Mimi Stewart, Albuquerque	<i>Legislative</i> Rep. Javier Martínez, Albuquerque, Co-Chair Sen. Gregory A. Baca, Belen Rep. Rod Montoya, Farmington Sen. Mimi Stewart, Albuquerque
<i>Other</i> Sec. Robert E. Doucette, Jr., Co-Chair Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard Sec. Debra Garcia y Griego State Treasurer Laura Montoya Sec. Wayne Propst Sec. Ricky Serna	<i>Other</i> Sec. Robert E. Doucette, Jr., Co-Chair Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard Sec. Debra Garcia y Griego State Treasurer Laura Montoya Sec. Wayne Propst Sec. Ricky Serna Chief Justice David K. Thomson
<i>Staff</i> Michelle Jaschke Raúl E. Burciaga Clinton Turner	<i>Staff</i> Michelle Jaschke Raúl E. Burciaga Clinton Turner

The Capitol Buildings Planning Commission is an intergovernmental agency that was created in 1997 to conduct long-range facilities master plans for all state agencies in Santa Fe. Over the years, its master planning jurisdiction has been expanded to include the major metropolitan areas of New Mexico and an inventory of all state facilities for the development of a statewide master plan, pursuant to Section 15-10-1 NMSA 1978. Since its inception, the commission has developed metropolitan area master plans, endorsed legislation to study and finance the construction of state government facilities and developed guidance materials for the review process of lease-purchase financing agreements. The commission works with the General Services Department and other state agencies in developing recommendations for addressing deferred maintenance on state facilities and disposal strategies for aging facilities no longer able to serve their mission. Using life-cycle costing, the commission works with the General Services Department in developing recommendations on whether the state should lease, lease-purchase or purchase needed additional facilities.

The commission consists of four members of the legislature, two from each house, appointed by the New Mexico Legislative Council, and the following public officials, each of whom may appoint a designee:

- (1) the secretary of general services;
- (2) the state treasurer;
- (3) the secretary of transportation;
- (4) the secretary of cultural affairs;
- (5) the secretary of finance and administration;
- (6) the chair of the Supreme Court Building Commission; and

(7) the commissioner of public lands.

The commission publishes an annual report of its work that may be found at www.nmlegis.gov.

Commission on Uniform State Laws

2023, 2024

<i>CUSL Membership 2023</i>	<i>CUSL Membership 2024</i>
<i>Legislative</i> Sen. Gregory A. Baca, Belen Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Las Cruces Rep. Christine Chandler, Los Alamos Rep. Greg Nibert, Roswell	<i>Legislative</i> Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Las Cruces Rep. Christine Chandler, Los Alamos Sen. Greg Nibert, Roswell

Chapter 2, Article 4 NMSA 1978 provides for the creation of a "commission for the promotion of uniformity of legislation in the United States", whose purpose is to confer with commissioners from other states concerning uniform laws. The Commission on Uniform State Laws is the national organization to which New Mexico's commissioners belong. The director of the LCS and the dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law are ex-officio members.

Education Commission of the States

2023, 2024

<i>ECS Membership 2023</i>
Rep. G. Andrés Romero, Albuquerque Sen. William P. Soules, Las Cruces
<i>ECS Membership 2024</i>
Rep. G. Andrés Romero, Albuquerque Sen. William P. Soules, Las Cruces

New Mexico became a member of the Educational Commission of the States in 1967 when it entered into the Compact for Education. As enumerated in Section 11-8-5 NMSA 1978, the commission, now known as the Education Commission of the States, has the authority to:

A. collect, correlate, analyze and interpret information and data concerning educational needs and resources;

B. encourage and foster research in all aspects of education, but with special reference to

the desirable scope of instruction, organization, administration, and instructional methods and standards employed or suitable for employment in public educational systems;

C. develop proposals for adequate financing of education as a whole and at each of its many levels;

D. conduct or participate in research of the types referred to in this article in any instance where the commission finds that such research is necessary for the advancement of the purposes and policies of this compact, utilizing fully the resources of national associations, regional

compact organizations for higher education and other agencies and institutions, both public and private;

E. formulate suggested policies and plans for the improvement of public education as a whole, or for any segment thereof, and make recommendations with respect thereto available to the appropriate governmental units, agencies and public officials;

F. do such other things as may be necessary or incidental to the administration of any of its authority or functions pursuant to this compact.

Additional Appointments

In addition to interim committee work, members of the legislature served by appointment on committees and task forces of organizations such as the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments and the Energy Council. Although these are important assignments for the members serving on these bodies, the appointments are too numerous for inclusion in this report. A complete list of these appointments is available in the LCS library.

THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE

The Legislative Council Service

Duties

The LCS is the staff agency created by law to serve all legislators. Among the major services it provides are:

- ◆ bill drafting;
- ◆ capital outlay project drafting and research;
- ◆ research and preparation of information memoranda;
- ◆ preparation of other memoranda, including policy analyses and arguments for and against specified legislation;
- ◆ bill indexing;
- ◆ production of publications on legislative actions;
- ◆ daily bill location and cumulative action;
- ◆ reference and spot research;
- ◆ library services, including maintenance of the legislative research library;
- ◆ bookkeeping and accounting for the legislature, including the permanent house and senate chief clerks' offices and the leadership staff;
- ◆ staffing, research and drafting for interim committees;
- ◆ certain joint housekeeping functions for the House and Senate;
- ◆ preparation of major research studies;
- ◆ printing services; and
- ◆ information technology (IT) services and support, including website and network development and maintenance.

The LCS is, in effect, the drafting agency for the state. In addition to work drafted at the request of individual legislators, the LCS assists legislative committees and the executive and judicial branches with preparation of their bill drafts. By law, all requests are confidential unless released by the person making the request. Projects requiring a great amount of staff time must be requested through and approved by the New Mexico Legislative Council.

The LCS updates and issues many publications for use by legislators and the general public both during legislative sessions and during interims. These publications are available in hard copy from the LCS library and in electronic form via the legislature's website. A list of LCS publications may be found under the *Publications* subheading below.

Section 2-3-8 NMSA 1978 sets forth the duties of the LCS as follows:

- A. to assist the legislature of the state of New Mexico in the proper performance of its constitutional functions by providing its members with impartial and accurate information and reports concerning the legislative problems which come before them; and by providing digests showing the practices of other states and foreign nations in dealing with similar problems;

B. when so requested, to secure information for and to report to the legislators of this state on the social and economic effects of statutes of this state or elsewhere by cooperating with the legislative service agencies in other states and other reference agencies and libraries;

C. to furnish to the members of the legislature of this state the assistance of expert draftsmen, qualified to aid the legislators in the preparation of bills for introduction into the legislature;

D. to recommend to the legislature measures which will improve the form and working of the statutes of this state, and clarify and reconcile their provisions;

E. to provide for the legislature adequate staff facilities and to provide the adequate expert assistance without which no legislature can properly perform its required functions; and

F. to prepare and index for printing as promptly as possible after the adjournment of each session the session laws therefor, which compilation shall include all resolutions and acts which the legislature has adopted or passed during the session, and have received the approval of the governor when such approval is necessary.

Policies

The prime concern of the LCS remains in the field of assistance to legislators, particularly in bill drafting and in the compiling of data and memoranda.

The LCS is headed by a director who is hired by and responsible to the New Mexico Legislative Council. The staff of the LCS comprises such personnel as the director deems necessary. Because of the impartial and technical nature of the work of the LCS, employees are hired without regard to political party affiliation, and they refrain from participating in partisan politics.

The law permits the director to hire temporary personnel to handle the extra workload of legislative sessions. The LCS hires additional receptionists, proofreaders, word processors, capital outlay drafters, amendments in context staff, IT staff, bill historians, bill clerks, billroom and mailroom clerks, central telephone operators and print service operators during each session. The LCS may also contract with experts to provide drafting services during the session.

Staff — as of June 30, 2024

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Jeffrey T. Anaya	Print Service Manager
Grace L. Balderamos	Proofreader I
Erin L. Bond	Researcher I
Charlotte A. Brewer	Word Processor I
Raúl E. Burciaga	Director
Jonathan C. Caldwell	Computer Specialist II
Lynne A. Cantwell	Proofreader I

Shawna B. Casebier	Assistant Director for Drafting Services
Aubrey J. Chavez	Receptionist
Angela Dakan	Proofreader I
Alexander J. Dawson	Staff Attorney I
Blanca M. DeLira	Financial Assistant II
Giancarlo Di Palma	Receptionist
Sean Dolan	Staff Attorney II
Mark H. Edwards	Bill Drafter III
Paul J. Estok	Staff Attorney I
Martin Fischer	Staff Attorney I
Jeret L. Fleetwood	Project Coordinator
Felipe A. Gabaldon	Print Service Operator II
Cato Garcia	Computer Specialist I
Frederic W. Gaudet	Researcher III
Sabina Gaynor	Staff Attorney I
Veronica C. Grace	Human Resources Manager
Rebecca L. Griego	Records Officer
Jayme Guillen	Financial Assistant I
Mark Guillen	LIS Manager
Laura L. Hamilton	Editor
Michelle Jaschke	Capital Outlay Programs Coordinator
Sheila A. Keleher	Researcher I
Thomas Kricka	Staff Attorney II
Andrea L. Lazarow	Bill Drafter II
Michelle Luna	Proofreader II
Marshall S. Martinez	Computer Specialist II
Nancy I. Martinez	Bill Drafter I
Carrie L. McCabe	Word Processing Supervisor
Carrie McGovern	Publication and Editing Coordinator
Reina S. Meza	Financial Assistant I
Joanne N. Montague	Senior Legislative Librarian
Seth T. Morris	Systems Analyst
Aginetta R. Mulima	Assistant Librarian
Domenica E. Nieto	Research Assistant I
Gabriel J. Pacheco	IT Specialist
Paul J. Pacheco	Print Service Operator II
Gerardo A. Paredes	Project Coordinator
Isaiah D. Rivera	Computer Specialist I
Bernice Roybal	Administrative Assistant I
Catherine Sayler	Proofreader II

Anesa F. Serna-Espinoza	Assistant Director for Administration/CFO
Pam Stokes	Senior Staff Attorney
Simon D. Suzuki	Staff Attorney I
Roxanne Trujillo	Financial Assistant III
Clinton M. Turner	Fiscal Policy Analyst
Cristina L. Vasquez	Staff Attorney I
Sharon Viarreal	Word Processor I
Nicole M. Waguespack	Researcher I
Sara R. Wiedmaier	Researcher I

Staff Changes — July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024

Additions

<i>In 2022</i>	Cato Garcia was hired as a computer specialist I on July 23, 2022. Martin Fischer was hired as a staff attorney I on August 8, 2022. Charlotte Brewer was hired as a word processor I on August 8, 2022. Christopher Copeland was hired as a staff attorney I on August 27, 2022. Cristina Vasquez was hired as a staff attorney I on August 29, 2022. Kayla Stuhlmann was hired as a computer specialist I on August 29, 2022. Gerardo Paredes was hired as a project coordinator on October 1, 2022. Paul Pacheco was hired as a print service operator I on December 24, 2022.
<i>In 2023</i>	Lynne Cantwell was hired as a proofreader I on May 13, 2023. Paul Estok was hired as a staff attorney I on August 15, 2023. Simon Suzuki was hired as a staff attorney I on September 25, 2023. Cecilia Martinez as hired as a research assistant I on November 27, 2023.
<i>In 2024</i>	Mario Salas was hired as a computer specialist III on February 17, 2024. Marshall Martinez was hired as a computer specialist II on April 13, 2024. Aginetta Mulima was hired as an assistant librarian on June 22, 2024.

Resignations and Retirements

<i>In 2022</i>	Peter Kovnat resigned from his position as a bill drafter III on July 22, 2022. Patric Worth retired from his position as an IT specialist/network administrator on September 15, 2022. Anthony Montoya resigned from his position as a staff attorney II on December 9, 2022. Jon Boller retired from his position as senior staff attorney on December 31, 2022.
<i>In 2023</i>	Christopher Copeland resigned from his position as a staff attorney I on July 8, 2023. Lenaya Montoya resigned from her position as a staff attorney II on December 30, 2023.
<i>In 2024</i>	Amy Chavez-Romero resigned from her position as assistant director for legislative affairs on February 17, 2024. Mario Salas resigned from his position as a computer specialist III on April 22, 2024. Cecilia Martinez resigned from her position as a research assistant I on May 11, 2024.

Kayla Stuhlmann resigned from her position as a computer specialist I on May 18, 2024.

Activities

A major function of the LCS is the drafting of legislation.

The *Legislative Drafting Manual*, which is published by the LCS, facilitates the production process by answering most of those questions relating to form and style that plague those who prepare legislation. Wide use of the manual by private attorneys, state agency staff attorneys and employees of the legislature promotes uniformity in bill drafts and amendments and reduces errors.

The greatest aid to rapid and accurate bill production by the LCS is the process developed and followed in detail for each request. When a bill request is made of the LCS, it is logged by number, name of requester and subject matter, and a file is opened. An entry is also made that includes, in addition to the above information, the name of the drafter assigned to the project. When a drafter has completed a given assignment, the file is sent to the Proofreading Department for an initial proofing and review of format, style and citations. From there, the file is sent to the Word Processing Department, where the contents are entered into the LCS word processing system and printed in the form and style specified in the drafting manual.

After the bill is in its final form and has been through two additional rounds of proofreading and correction, it is transmitted to a bill clerk for duplicating, and the required number of copies are assembled and sent to the delivery drawer. Upon delivery, a notation is made on the file copy of the date and the names of the persons making and taking delivery of the bill. The above procedure is the minimum process given to each request.

The drafter, in preparing a bill for introduction, must thoroughly research the matter involved and may find it necessary to hold several conferences with the requester or to confer, internally and confidentially, with those best informed about the subject. Such work inevitably adds many hours or even days to the processing time.

In addition to bills, the LCS is also responsible for processing capital outlay project requests. For each regular session, the LCS capital outlay staff drafts project descriptions for introduction on the floor of the House and Senate. Following the midpoint bill introduction deadline, the capital outlay staff drafts the capital outlay, reauthorization and, in certain years, general obligation bond bills based on final funding decisions. When deemed necessary by the legislature, the capital outlay staff also drafts bills to void appropriations from prior years and to change funding sources for ongoing projects. Capital outlay projects are reported through a separate locator system and are indexed by county and receiving agency.

Another vital function of the LCS is the research and preparation of information memoranda. Legislators may request a detailed and comprehensive summary of any information necessary to their deliberations. A memorandum may supply a single needed fact or an exhaustive survey of a field of interest. As with bill drafts, all memoranda are confidential by law, and not even the fact that they have been requested may be divulged to anyone, except upon permission of the requester.

The LCS receives many requests for information or services other than bill drafts or information memoranda. The staff produces non-campaign-related speeches; press releases; suggested language for

house and senate certificates of congratulations or condolence; compilations of bill sponsorship for legislators; and answers to legislators' requests for information, such as information on the laws of other states, statistics, material from other agencies and other data.

In addition to handling thousands of information requests during the biennium that required enough staff time to warrant a separate file, the LCS also received information requests by telephone, email and in-person contact. The legislature's website, which handles a great number of information requests that were once handled by staff, received several million hits during the same period. Requests come from members of the public, news media, legislative service agencies of other states, survey publications and private industry, as well as from legislators and state agencies. Questions cover a variety of subjects and include queries from students of all ages.

Library

The LCS library is an important resource in providing information for and about the legislative process. The library staff responds to requests from legislators and legislative staff members, governmental agencies and a wide array of members of the public in and outside of New Mexico. During the July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024 biennium, the library answered 117 questions from legislators, 1,250 questions from legislators' staff, 146 questions from government agency staff and 1,126 questions from the public.

Special print materials include a historical collection of New Mexico bills, house and senate journals, session laws and statute compilations. The library keeps a comprehensive database of state legislators from 1912 to the present, tracks significant internet resources and maintains a digital library, select collection of reports, online resources, periodicals and other material focusing on legislative issues.

The library staff prepares several LCS publications; issues daily and weekly alerts regarding online and digital resources on issues affecting New Mexico; and serves as liaison to the state publications program of the State Library.

Publications

The LCS publishes many annual reports and studies requested by the legislature, as well as other materials of importance to the legislature and the general public. Publications prepared during this biennium and available from the LCS include the following.

Committee Final Reports, Interim

*Constitutional Amendments Proposed by the Legislature in 2023 and 2024 — Summary
of and Arguments For and Against*

Drafting Manual, Legislative

Ethics Guide, Legislative

Highlights

- ◆ *of the Fifty-Fifth Legislature, Second Special Session, 2021*
- ◆ *of the Fifty-Fifth Legislature, Second Session and Third Special Session, 2022*
- ◆ *of the Fifty-Sixth Legislature, First Session, 2023*
- ◆ *of the Fifty-Sixth Legislature, Second Session, 2024*

- a summary of legislation that passed and became law, as well as detailed information about the general appropriation act, special appropriations, revenue measures and capital outlay projects

Information Bulletins:

- ◆ *Capital Outlay: A Primer for 2023*
- ◆ *Capital Outlay: A Primer for 2024*

Inventory of Statutory Executive Boards and Commissions

Legislative Council Service — Who We Are, What We Do

Legisletter

- a biweekly calendar of interim committee meetings, locations and agenda items

New Mexico Legislature

- a booklet explaining the legislature and how a bill becomes law, prepared for legislators to give to constituents

Piecemeal Amendment of the Constitution of New Mexico, 1911-2022

Style Manual, Legislative

The LCS also prepares the following print and electronic reference publications during or shortly following each session.

Bill Locator

- ◆ *Daily*
- ◆ *Semifinal*
- ◆ *Final*
- a cumulative record of all action on bills, memorials and resolutions, current through the previous day (during session) or through the governor's final action

Bill Sponsorship List

- a record of all legislation introduced by each member of the legislature (reference copy only)

Bill Books

- ◆ *House Bills*
- ◆ *Senate Bills*
- ◆ *Memorials and Resolutions*
- ◆ *Passed Memorials - House*
- ◆ *Passed Memorials - Senate*
- ◆ *Vetoed Bills (with executive messages)*

Capital Outlay Publications

Capital Outlay Projects (list)

- lists of all capital outlay projects included for funding in the final capital outlay bill, by county and by agency

Capital Outlay Requests (list)

- lists of all capital outlay requests sponsored and introduced during the session, by county and by agency

Capital Outlay Requests - House (book)

- lists of all capital outlay projects introduced by each member of the house

Capital Outlay Requests - Senate (book)

- lists of all capital outlay projects introduced by each member of the senate

Concordance

- a list of all bills and proposed constitutional amendments that passed both houses, arranged numerically by chapter to bill and bill to chapter

Conflicts List

- ◆ *Weekly*

- ◆ *Final*

- a list of all bills that propose to amend, repeal, compile, recompile or make other changes to the same section of law

Directory of Legislative Offices

Index to Bills, Memorials, Resolutions and Substitutes

- ◆ *Fifty-Fifth Legislature, Second Special Session, 2021, and Second Session and Third Special Session, 2022*

- ◆ *Fifty-Sixth Legislature, First Session, 2023*

- a multilevel, cross-referenced index of all introduced legislation

Journal of the House and Journal of the Senate

- records of the proceedings of the House and Senate prepared by each chamber and formatted for publication by the LCS

Legislative Handbook

- a handbook that includes House and Senate rules; various committee and legislator information lists, including standing committees, committee assignments by committees and members, legislators' occupations, seniority lists, floor seating charts and preceding interim committee lists; parliamentary procedure information; information on current public officials; maps of congressional, judicial and Public Education Commission districts; information on executive departments, district judges, district attorneys and Public Education Commission members; lists of county offices; classification of counties; the official decennial census population of the state, counties and municipalities; a history of political control of legislative sessions; a list of legislative leaders since statehood; a list of governors and lieutenant governors and their terms; a list of female legislators since statehood; laws and policies of the New Mexico Legislative Council, the legislative anti-harassment policy; the parental leave policy; and the legislative staff code of conduct

Subject Index to Bills, Memorials and Resolutions

- ◆ *Weekly*
- ◆ *Semifinal*
- ◆ *Final*

— a multilevel cross-referenced index of all subjects covered by introduced bills, memorials and resolutions

Table of Changes

- ◆ *Proposed* (weekly)
- ◆ *Final*

— a list of all substantive sections of law being amended, repealed, compiled or recompiled by bill (proposed) or chapter (final)

Voting Record

— roll call votes on final passage in the House and Senate

The LCS produces numerous lists and documents for the legislature and the public that pertain to interim committee work, including interim committee lists, as well as unofficial election candidate lists and lists of legislators' names, mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

Legislative Information System

The LCS developed, maintains and enhances the legislative information system (LIS), which is the multifaceted database that lies at the heart of the legislature's computer network and opens the legislature, sometimes called "the people's branch", to the public wherever they may be located. The system connects all facets of legislative production, including locators, session indexes, capital outlay request lists, LFC fiscal impact reports, LESC bill analyses, floor calendars, committee schedules and information shared among legislative staff, all of which appear on the legislative website, which also includes public information about the legislature and the legislative process as well as links to other state agencies. Through the website, which is maintained by the LCS, interested persons may view webcast interim and session committee meetings and session floor sessions. LIS staff provides support for electronic devices used by legislators and staff and provides training to legislators and staff in the use of various computer equipment and software applications. The office maintains and enhances an infrastructure that supports a data center; a network of several servers and virtual servers; more than 850 workstations; and a host of peripheral hardware and wireless networks throughout the State Capitol and Capitol North that provide intranet access for legislators and legislative staff and internet access for the public.

LIS staff is responsible for ongoing support and development of LIS projects. Through continual user support and system maintenance, the staff has been able to enhance both the network infrastructure and the quality of service for legislators and staff. Recent major improvements made to the network infrastructure include the installation of new switches and routers that provide higher data throughput and improve the manageability, reliability and efficiency of the entire system. Other upgrades have resulted in increased disk storage and memory to keep up with the high demand for data and processes. Most of the servers in the system are clustered, providing a redundancy that is essential

to maintaining uptime throughout the network and providing high availability and scalability of services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The network backup system, which was designed and implemented to keep the legislature's daily operations running efficiently and to ensure quick data recovery and management, ensures that all data from all servers are backed up to ensure data integrity.

LIS staff has worked diligently to maintain and improve wireless access to the legislature's intranet and the public internet. In 2023, the wireless system was upgraded to an improved system configured to work with the many barriers within the building that affect wireless connections, improving the speeds and security of this technology. The office ensures the reliability of the internet connection system through redundant internet connections that provide stability for incoming and outgoing transactions.

The ongoing enhancement of the legislature's website requires constant data updates and the addition of features to make a more user-friendly environment for the public and internal users. New search functions and federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 compliancy were added to accommodate everyone using the website. LIS staff maintains the video and audio webcasting system, including the webcasting archive, and is responsible for improvements over the last few years that have added closed captioning and that provide real-time webcasting of traveling committees.

Legislative Printing Services

Legislative Printing Services, also known as the Print Shop, handles the majority of printing services for the legislature, except for legislation during regular sessions. The office prints the Bill Locator and other publications of the Locator Office; capital outlay request certificates; floor calendars and committee schedules; special session legislation; legislative staff reports; and miscellaneous other documents. It handles large and small printing, binding and distribution assignments for interim committees, standing committees, legislators, legislative staff and, when appropriate, other state agencies and the public. The Print Shop is responsible for all signage in the State Capitol, including chamber, committee and office signs, and for traveling interim committees. Legislative Printing Services employees operate highly sophisticated machinery for high-speed, color and other printing and publishing services. In addition, the Print Shop manages and annually updates the inventory of legislative equipment and furnishings.

Joint Mail Room and Bill Room

During regular sessions, the joint Mail Room and Bill Room is maintained by the LCS staff. Here, introduced bills are received in quantity from the State Printing Office or Legislative Printing Services and are distributed as rapidly as possible upon written request to each member of the House and Senate; each county clerk, district judge, radio and television station, newspaper and general library of each state-supported institution of higher learning; each state department, commission, board, institution or agency; each elected state official; each incorporated municipality; each district attorney; each ex-governor; each member of the New Mexico congressional delegation; each public school district in the state; and any person who pays the amount specified by law.

The joint Mail Room and Bill Room also serves as one of the nerve centers of communication during a session. It contains mail and message boxes for each legislator. Thousands of pieces of mail are sorted and processed for delivery to legislators and staff members. The *Bill Locator*, daily calendars and other informational materials are all available here. The legislative switchboard and message center, located near the joint Mail Room and Bill Room, is staffed by highly qualified operators. Even during the haste and urgency of the next-to-last legislative day, the LCS, together with the joint Mail Room and Bill Room, keeps materials, information and messages flowing smoothly.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS,
CAPITOL ART FOUNDATION
AND
INFORMATION AND TOUR SERVICES

Buildings and Grounds

By law, the care, custody and maintenance of the State Capitol, Capitol North annex and surrounding grounds are vested in the New Mexico Legislative Council. The director of the LCS is responsible for all matters pertaining to these buildings and grounds and, by policy, is responsible for the care, custody, control and maintenance of the State Capitol parking facility.

Under the supervision of the building superintendent, crews of custodians, electricians, plumbers, mechanics, carpenters and painters perform the routine functions of maintenance and custodial services for the complex. Normal maintenance systems have been established to reduce major repairs and ensure operation of all equipment at maximum efficiency.

The landscape of the State Capitol was designed to conserve water and to reduce the hours of staff time necessary to maintain the well-groomed areas. Ongoing landscaping improvements include the replacement and addition of trees, shrubs and flowers.

The New Mexico Legislative Council is responsible for security at the State Capitol, including limited access to parking facilities, permit parking and a security force under the LCS that is enhanced during each legislative session.

Capitol North

Legislative Building Services continues to be responsible for the maintenance and custodial work at the Capitol North annex. It provides offices for the LESC, LFC and the secretary of state, as well as some legislative offices for members of the House of Representatives.

Capitol Art Foundation

The Capitol Art Foundation was created in 1992 in response to senate and house memorials passed by the legislature requesting the LCS and the Capitol Art Selection Committee to establish a nonprofit foundation to assist in the acquisition of art for display in the State Capitol. The New Mexico Legislative Council approves the membership of the foundation based on recommendations from the foundation board.

The mission of the Capitol Art Foundation is to collect, preserve, display and interpret works of art by New Mexico artists and other relevant works of art that reflect the rich and varied history, cultures and art forms of the state. The foundation also promotes public appreciation and understanding of the art, history and culture of New Mexico by displaying art and artifacts of historical or cultural significance in temporary exhibitions at the State Capitol. The foundation, which is composed of art professionals from around the state, is committed to public education programs that address the needs of a diverse audience, and it seeks to promote good will and understanding through its programs. Beginning in 1993, the foundation developed and continues to update and implement a five-year plan that addresses all aspects of the foundation's mission and day-to-day operation, keeping the interests of visitors foremost at all times.

The capitol art collection was established with the purchase of 14 works of art and 17 art

furniture groupings, using funds set aside during renovation of the State Capitol for the purchase of art pursuant to the Art in Public Places Act. Subsequent acquisitions of art for the collection have been purchased with proceeds from fundraising activities and charitable donations to the foundation. Funds are used for framing; securing installations to protect the works from damage and theft; routine maintenance; occasional conservation and restoration; associated administrative costs; and the development and publication of educational materials to accompany the art, which is installed permanently in public areas of the State Capitol.

As the central mission of the Capitol Art Foundation, acquiring art for the collection is an ongoing project. The executive director/curator works with arts organizations, artists and art collectors throughout the state and region and the appropriate committees of the foundation to identify suitable works of art for the collection. Once a work of art is acquired, through purchase or gift, suitable framing or other preparation and installation occurs as soon as possible in fulfillment of the foundation's mission and its responsibilities to donors. The many thousands of people who visit the State Capitol each year see, under one roof, a collection of art that reflects the wide aesthetic, cultural and technical diversity and virtuosity that is New Mexico art.

The missions of the Capitol Art Foundation and New Mexico's fine art and folk art museums, while different, are complementary. Recognizing that New Mexico's art organizations can most benefit one another and the public by cooperating and sharing resources, many New Mexico museum professionals serve on the foundation's board of directors and on its various committees. Several projects and programs have been jointly developed by the foundation and other arts organizations. The foundation, with its unique and highly visible mission, and the capitol art collection have become welcome additions to New Mexico's arts community.

Information and Tour Services

Tens of thousands of visitors tour the State Capitol each year to see the capitol art collection, the building's unique architecture and the expansive and diverse landscaping. Information and tour services, which are an important part of the duties of the LCS, are provided by two full-time employees and, during the peak summer tourist season, by college students hired as seasonal guides.

Tours are given for such varied groups as senior citizens, students, art collectors, architects, conference attendees and foreign dignitaries. The spring season is a particularly active time for students from throughout New Mexico to tour the State Capitol. The tour is the first view of state government in action for the majority of these students. Others who tour the State Capitol come from throughout the United States and the world, including numerous visitors from Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia and France. Specialty tours are conducted for visiting foreign dignitaries, and publications about the State Capitol are available in both English and Spanish. Visitor tours include the rotunda, with its mosaic great seal; the Hall of History; galleries of the house and senate; the Wall of Honor, displaying the names of New Mexico's Medal of Honor recipients; offices of the legislators; committee rooms; the capitol art collection, including temporary rotunda gallery exhibits; the governor's gallery;

reception areas of the governor, lieutenant governor and secretary of state; and discussions of the symbolism of the building, the Zia sun symbol and other symbols of New Mexico.

To be well-versed in the history of the state and the operation of its government, the Information and Tour Services supervisor and the tour guides research New Mexico's prime legislative issues, cultures, current affairs, Native American history and the five state capitols that have housed the legislature. In addition, they research New Mexico art traditions and artists to provide comprehensive information about the capitol art collection. Information and Tour Services staff members field questions daily about state, city, county and federal departments, agencies and programs, as well as requests for printed materials and for information on the building and on local events. Staff members also maintain a catalog of the flora found in the Clay Buchanan Gardens surrounding the capitol, including the pollinator garden. Inquiries come in through phone, email and written requests, as well as in person at the reception counter located in the east ground-floor lobby.

APPENDIX

**STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES
of the
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE**

Year Ending June 30, 2023

Revenues	
appropriations	\$9,066,900
prior-year fund balance	57,639
Total Revenues	9,124,539
Expenditures	
personal services	5,910,314
contractual services	536,251
other costs	958,014
Total Expenditures	7,404,579
Fund Balance	
restricted, subsequent years' expenditures	1,292,328
Reversion to General Fund	<u>\$427,632</u>

Year Ending June 30, 2024

Revenues	
appropriations	\$8,887,200
prior-year fund balance	1,292,328
Total Revenues	10,179,528
Expenditures	
personal services	6,732,682
contractual services	723,051
other costs	1,064,386
Total Expenditures	8,520,119
Reversion to General Fund	<u>\$1,659,409</u>

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL POLICY 4

Revisions adopted at the June 23, 2023 New Mexico Legislative Council meeting

4. OTHER COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS.--

A. Subject to the availability of funds and the appointment and approval of the appropriate co-chair of the legislative council, legislators may be reimbursed at the rates provided by law for attendance at:

(1) meetings of legislative or public policy organizations of which New Mexico is a dues-paying member;

(2) one out-of-state ~~[or]~~ meeting and three in-state ~~[meeting]~~ meetings per calendar year of a legislative or public policy organization of which New Mexico is not a dues-paying member; and

(3) meetings of interim committees of which the legislator is not a member, not to exceed five days of attendance per calendar year plus associated travel.

B. Subject to the availability of funds and the prior approval of either co-chair of the council, persons who are not legislators and who are appointed by the legislative council to the uniform law commission may be reimbursed for their service on the commission by the legislative council service as provided for nonsalaried public officers in the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL POLICY 15

Revisions adopted at the December 12, 2022 New Mexico Legislative Council meeting

15. INTERIM LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE.--

A. The interim legislative ethics committee is the body to which shall be referred matters relating to the ethical conduct of legislative members which arise during the interim, including conduct which may give rise to constitutional discipline under Article 4, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico.

B. The interim legislative ethics committee shall be appointed by the legislative council in accordance with the recommendations of the respective floor leaders of each house. The two major political parties in each house shall have equal representation on the committee. Members of the legislative council may serve on the interim legislative ethics committee. There shall be co-chairs of the committee, one from each house of the legislature. To the extent feasible, the committee shall be comprised of members of the standing committees of the house and senate responsible for ethics matters during legislative sessions.

C. The interim legislative ethics committee is authorized, during the interim, to issue advisory opinions and letters on matters relating to the ethical conduct of legislators in accordance with the provisions of these policies. The committee is also authorized, during the interim, to conduct investigations and hearings concerning the ethical conduct of legislators in accordance with the provisions of these policies. Except in an extreme emergency, the committee shall meet no more than once a month during the interim.

D. Advisory opinions shall be issued by the full committee and shall be dealt with in the following manner.

(1) Any legislator may seek an advisory opinion relating to the interpretation and enforcement of principles of ethics with respect to a situation affecting that legislator.

(2) A request for an advisory opinion shall be submitted in writing by the requesting legislator. The question may describe a real or hypothetical situation and request an advisory opinion establishing an appropriate standard of ethical conduct for that situation. Neither the contents nor the nature of a request for an opinion shall be revealed to any person outside of the committee or the staff to the committee except with the consent of the legislator requesting the opinion.

(3) The committee shall issue a written opinion regarding each inquiry or explain in writing why no opinion will be issued. Opinions shall be prospective only. Once issued, opinions shall be public documents, except that no opinion shall identify the requesting legislator without the legislator's consent.

(4) A requesting legislator may rely upon an advisory opinion of the interim legislative ethics committee, and any legislator acting in good faith reliance upon such an advisory opinion shall be immune from sanctions for conduct allowed by the opinion, unless the advisory opinion has been rejected by the relevant standing committee prior to the conduct in question.

(5) Committee advisory opinions shall be forwarded to the relevant standing committees for adoption or rejection in accordance with their respective procedures.

E. In dealing with charges brought against a legislator or a referral relating to the

conduct of a legislator, the committee shall function through investigative and hearing subcommittees.

(1) Hearing subcommittees shall be comprised of the members of the committee from the house of the charged member that were not members of the investigative subcommittee, plus any additional members appointed pursuant to a legislative council-approved anti-harassment policy.

(2) Investigative subcommittees shall be comprised of an equal number from each party of the committee members of the charged member's respective house selected by the appropriate co-chair of the council in accordance with the recommendations of the appropriate majority and minority floor leaders, plus any additional members appointed pursuant to a legislative council-approved anti-harassment policy.

(3) Subcommittees may only act by a majority vote of their members.

(4) Special legal counsel, arbitrators, hearing officers or other professionals may be hired by the legislative council service as authorized by the investigative subcommittees, hearing subcommittees or the interim legislative ethics committee to assist the subcommittees or committee with their respective duties and responsibilities.

F. Except as provided in Subsection ~~[H]~~ J, any charge seeking the discipline of a member of the legislature during the interim shall be in writing, under oath or affirmation, signed by a member of the legislature or a member of the public, verifying the truthfulness of the allegations in the complaint, addressed to the respective co-chair of the legislative council and filed with the legislative council service at the state capitol. The complaint shall state with reasonable particularity the relevant facts upon which the charge is based and the substantive ethics rule or law which the legislator is charged with violating.

G. The respective co-chair of the legislative council and the ~~[relevant]~~ respective majority and minority floor leaders, plus any outside counsel included pursuant to a legislative council-approved anti-harassment policy, shall determine whether the complaint raises an issue implicating the charged member's role as a legislator under the substantive ethics rules or laws governing legislative conduct. If a complaint is made against a respective co-chair of the legislative council, that person is ineligible to make the determination and the determination shall be made by the remaining members eligible to make the determination, plus any outside counsel included pursuant to a legislative council-approved anti-harassment policy. If a complaint is made against one of the floor leaders, that person is ineligible to make the determination and the respective whip shall replace the floor leader for that determination.

~~[(+)]~~ H. Unless all ~~[three]~~ of the members making a determination as provided in Subsection G agree that the complaint does not raise an ethics issue implicating the charged member's role as a legislator under the applicable rules or laws, the complaint shall be forwarded to the interim legislative ethics committee. If all ~~[three]~~ of the members agree that the complaint does not raise an ethics issue, the complaint shall be dismissed and a copy of the dismissal and an explanatory letter shall be sent to the complainant.

~~[(2) The respective co-chair of the legislative council and the respective majority and minority leaders]~~ I. The members making a determination as provided in Subsection G may also determine whether, under the particular circumstances of the case, the matter is best left to the

appropriate standing committee of the relevant house during the next session of the legislature. If all ~~[three]~~ of the members agree that the matter is best left to the appropriate standing committee, the case shall be referred to that committee rather than to the interim legislative ethics committee.

~~[H.]~~ J. During the interim, the speaker of the house of representatives or the president pro tempore of the senate, in conjunction with the respective majority and minority leaders, may also refer any ethics matter affecting a member of the respective house which might require investigation to the interim legislative ethics committee, including, when appropriate, requests by legislators which ask the speaker or the president pro tempore to provide for an investigation of the requesting legislator's own conduct. Such requests by a legislator shall be in writing addressed to the speaker or president pro tempore and shall state with reasonable particularity the conduct to be investigated and the reason for the request.

~~[H.]~~ K. The complaint, referral or self-referral shall be delivered to the appropriate investigative subcommittee and shall be dealt with as follows.

(1) A legislator against whom a complaint is filed or with respect to whom a referral is made shall immediately be given a copy of the complaint or referral.

(2) The investigative subcommittee shall conduct a confidential investigation ~~[resulting in a recommendation to the hearing subcommittee as follows]~~.

(a) If the investigative subcommittee finds no probable cause to believe a charge is warranted, it shall recommend that the hearing subcommittee close the investigation or dismiss the charge. Dismissal by the hearing subcommittee shall be communicated to the complainant, and the ~~[member]~~ legislator charged shall not be subject to further charges by the complainant for the same ~~[act]~~ event. However, if the investigative subcommittee finds no probable cause to believe a charge is warranted after an investigation is made pursuant to a legislative council-approved anti-harassment policy, the investigative subcommittee shall immediately close the investigation, dismiss the complaint and so inform the complainant, the legislator against whom the complaint is filed and the appropriate ethics committee during the interim or standing committee during the session. The appropriate interim ethics committee receiving such notice during the interim shall issue a public report of the investigative subcommittee's determination within 10 days. The legislator charged shall not be subject to further charges by the complainant for the same event.

(b) Before the investigative subcommittee may move forward with a finding of probable cause with respect to a referral made pursuant to Subsection ~~[H.]~~ J. of this section, it shall obtain a written statement under oath or affirmation verifying the truthfulness of the allegations in the complaint or subject of the referral from a person with firsthand knowledge of the subject of the referral.

(c) If the investigative subcommittee finds probable cause to believe that the charge is warranted, it shall recommend that the hearing subcommittee initiate a formal hearing. However, if the investigative subcommittee finds probable cause to believe a charge is warranted after an investigation is made pursuant to a legislative council-approved anti-harassment policy, the investigative subcommittee shall cause to be prepared and presented a charging document to the appropriate ethics subcommittee during the interim or standing committee during the session.

~~[H.]~~ L. A formal hearing is initiated by the issuance of a written finding of probable

cause by the hearing subcommittee and the service of a copy of that document on the legislator being charged. ~~[The]~~ However, when the investigative subcommittee finds probable cause pursuant to a legislative council-approved anti-harassment policy, the hearing subcommittee shall set the matter for a formal hearing to occur within 45 days of the investigative subcommittee's finding of probable cause. A written finding of probable cause made by the investigative subcommittee pursuant to a legislative council-approved anti-harassment policy or made by the hearing subcommittee shall be limited to matters reasonably related to the original charge and shall become the formal charging document.

(1) A member or members of the investigative subcommittee or special legal counsel to the investigative subcommittee shall become the charging party and present the case against the legislator being charged. Members of the investigative subcommittee shall not serve as members of the hearing subcommittee and shall avoid ex parte communications with members of the hearing subcommittee regarding matters referred for investigation.

(2) The hearing subcommittee shall hear the matter. Members of the hearing subcommittee shall avoid ex parte communications regarding matters referred for hearing. Good cause excusal of a member from investigating, hearing or voting on a matter may be granted only by a majority vote of the hearing subcommittee. A vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority in the same manner as the original appointment.

(3) If a charge is brought against a member of either house who has appointing, investigative or hearing responsibilities to carry out under this policy, that member shall be relieved of those responsibilities for purposes of that charge. The respective co-chair of the legislative council, in accordance with the recommendations of the respective floor leader, or succeeding appropriate party leader if necessary, shall appoint a substitute from the same political party to act in the stead of that member.

(4) If the charge involves conduct that is the subject of a pending civil or criminal proceeding in which the charged party is a defendant, the hearing subcommittee shall determine whether the public interest is best served by suspending the disciplinary proceedings pending resolution of the civil or criminal charges or whether portions of the formal proceedings shall be kept confidential, and notice thereof shall be forwarded to the appropriate standing committee of the relevant house.

~~[K.]~~ M. At the formal hearing, all parties shall have an opportunity to be heard, to request the presence of witnesses and the production of relevant evidence and to cross-examine witnesses against them. The member being charged may be represented by counsel at the member's own expense.

~~[L.]~~ N. At the time a formal hearing is scheduled, the hearing subcommittee shall establish and notify the parties of the preliminary schedule and the procedures to be followed, including those for making opening and closing statements and for the presentation of evidence. The hearing subcommittee shall not be bound by the rules of evidence applicable in the courts of New Mexico and may hire legal counsel to assist the subcommittee.

(1) The procedures shall include notice that all testimony shall be taken under oath and that the hearings shall be open to the public, except that the hearing subcommittee may designate specific information or portions of the hearing to be confidential in order to protect the integrity of an ongoing investigation or prosecution or to preserve the privacy of third parties or for any

other lawful purpose.

(2) All testimony at the formal hearing shall be recorded. The recorded testimony, together with all other evidence, shall be compiled as the record of the formal hearing.

~~[M.]~~ Q. If the hearing subcommittee determines that the legislator being charged has not committed an offense that justifies the imposition of sanctions, it shall recommend in its report to the appropriate standing committee that the complaint be dismissed.

~~[N.]~~ P. If the hearing subcommittee determines that the legislator has committed an offense that justifies the imposition of sanctions, it shall make such a recommendation, including the severity of the sanction, in its report to the appropriate standing committee. Recommended sanctions may include but are not limited to the following.

(1) Reprimand -- a reprimand is normally appropriate for a single, relatively minor act of unethical conduct.

(2) Censure -- censure is normally the appropriate sanction for more serious or repeated acts of unethical conduct, although repeated or aggravated violations may merit expulsion. Censure normally carries with it a stripping of leadership and chairmanship positions for the remainder of that legislator's current term in office.

(3) Expulsion -- the extraordinary power of expulsion generally should be reserved for very serious breaches of legal or ethical responsibilities of members that directly relate to their duties as members of the legislature and that impugn the integrity of the legislature, reflect adversely on the legislature or otherwise undermine public trust in the institution of the legislature.

~~[O.]~~ Q. In accordance with the report from the hearing subcommittee and the respective house's rules, the appropriate standing committee shall either dismiss the complaint or refer the matter to the appropriate house of the legislature with the recommendations of the subcommittee, with the understanding that the ultimate authority lies with the appropriate house of the legislature pursuant to its rules.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL POLICY 27

Adopted at the June 24, 2024 New Mexico Legislative Council meeting and effective on or after July 1, 2024

27. LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OFFICES.--

A. Subject to the availability of funds, each legislator may be provided legislative district staff (district legislative aide), including salary and benefits, information technology equipment and software, furniture, supplies, office space and other necessary support.

B. Subject to the availability of funds, each caucus office may be provided with funding for a district office liaison to provide logistical and coordination support between and among the legislator, district office, leadership office and legislative council service. To provide proportional support, a second liaison may be hired by a leadership office if that office has one and one-half times more members than the corresponding leadership office in the same chamber.

C. The legislative council service shall provide administrative and logistical support for the district offices and district legislative aides, including human resources, accounting, information technology and other services.

D. If a legislator opts to not hire a district legislative aide, the unused funding for that district shall not be used for any purpose other than a subsequent use for that district's office and legislative aide. The leadership office:

(1) shall retain the funding in its budget to provide a district legislative aide if the legislator who opted out decides to opt in or if a successor legislator chooses to opt in; or

(2) in consultation with the legislator who opts out, may hire a district legislative aide to serve the district, provided that the aide works at the pleasure of, direction of and under the supervision of that district's legislator.

E. Legislators may combine resources and use one office for more than one district; provided that the district office is located in a place that is accessible for constituents of the districts.

F. A district office shall be located in-state, preferably within or in close proximity to the district. The legislator may select the location of a district office; provided that the legislator shall consult with the district office liaison and the legislative council service before entering into an agreement that the director of the legislative council service signs on behalf of the legislative council.

G. Preference shall be given to district office locations in public buildings (e.g., state, higher education institutions, counties, municipalities, community centers, tribal offices and other local public body facilities). If no public building locations or offices are available in a given district, a private sector lease may be used; provided that the district office liaison and the director of the legislative council service agree on the office cost. Any unreasonable or extraordinary cost for district office space shall be referred to the legislative council for review and approval.

H. A legislator, with assistance from the respective district office liaison, may hire a district legislative aide for the district office; provided that the legislator or the liaison shall consult with the legislative council service before making an offer to ensure that all hiring procedures are followed. The legislator may hire a district legislative aide at no less than halftime (i.e., 40 hours per two-week pay period).

I. A legislator may not hire a district legislative aide who is related by consanguinity or

affinity with the third degree to the legislator. (See Section 10-1-10 NMSA 1978, Nepotism prohibited.)

J. A district legislative aide is an employee of the chamber of which their legislator is a member, but each works at the pleasure of, the direction of and under the supervision of the legislator.

K. If the office of a legislator becomes vacant for any reason, the respective leadership office shall be responsible for supervising and directing the work of the affected district legislative aide until the vacancy is filled. The new legislator may decide whether to retain the district legislative aide or request a new aide, in which case the previous aide may be terminated.

L. A district legislative aide may be hired at classification E, at no more than 75% of the maximum for that classification's compensation range. The aide is eligible for the same state employee benefits as other legislative employees of the legislative council service. The aide shall reside in New Mexico. To the extent practicable, the legislative aide shall reside in or in close proximity to the district. The legislative aide may work in a district office or on a hybrid schedule to include working from home or in the district office; provided that if the aide works solely from home, no district office shall be provided.

M. A district legislative aide is subject to the same administrative policies and procedures applicable to the director and employees of the legislative council service, including leave policies; provided, however, that certain policies and procedures may require legislative council review and approval because of the nature of remote district offices.

N. A district legislative aide may provide support to include:

- (1) correspondence;
- (2) scheduling;
- (3) policy research;
- (4) constituent services at the local level (state-level constituent services will still be carried out by the chief clerks pursuant to Section 2-14-1 NMSA 1978);
- (5) organization of nonpartisan town halls; and
- (6) other duties as assigned by the legislator; provided that if there is any question regarding the appropriateness of the duty, the issue should be referred to the legislative council service and the district office liaison.

O. A district legislative aide shall not engage in electioneering. For purposes of this policy, "electioneering" means an activity directed toward a desired electoral outcome for a particular candidate, party or ballot issue, including: attending and participating in campaign events and activities; fundraising for campaigns; displaying or distributing campaign materials in any medium; and soliciting votes for or against a candidate, party or ballot issue.

P. The legislative council service shall provide for or conduct training for district legislative aides to include:

- (1) policies and procedures of the legislative council service;
- (2) use of state resources, IT equipment and cybersecurity;
- (3) general overview of the legislature and legislative process; and
- (4) ethics training that covers the Governmental Conduct Act, Lobbyist Regulation Act, Campaign Reporting Act, Financial Disclosure Act, Gift Act, State Ethics Commission Act, Procurement Code, Anti-Harassment Policy, legislative staff code of conduct, electioneering,

nepotism and other constitutional and statutory provisions, rules or policies that cover ethical conduct of legislative staff and legislators.

PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY

Adopted at the October 11, 2022 New Mexico Legislative Council meeting

PARENTAL LEAVE FOR LEGISLATIVE EMPLOYEES

1. It shall be the policy of each legislative agency to provide the equivalent of sixty (60) workdays or 480 hours of parental leave per birth or adoption event per twelve-month period that begins on the date of the birth, or thirty (30) workdays or 240 hours for non-respite foster care placement of a child per twelve-month period that begins on the date of the child placement. If the birth, adoption or non-respite foster care placement involves multiple-child births, adoptions or placements, the twelve-month period begins with the birth, adoption or placement of the first child. Additionally, an employee is eligible for sixty (60) workdays or 480 hours of parental leave for a stepchild if the stepchild is a minor child, the employee is the stepchild's stepparent and the stepchild lives in the employee's household at least fifty percent of the time in a calendar year or if the employee is a grandparent who is raising a grandchild that is a minor child. The purpose of this policy will be to promote activities related to the bonding, care, and well-being of newborn(s) and newly adopted or newly placed foster child(ren). Paid parental leave shall be paid based upon the eligible employee's base salary (excluding temporary increases of pay, such as temporary promotion increases, temporary recruitment differentials, temporary retention differentials, or temporary salary increases) determined by the employee's regularly scheduled work hours.

2. An eligible employee, as used in the agency's policy, means an employee who has worked for the legislative agency as a regular full-time employee for 12 consecutive months prior to the start of paid parental leave. Paid parental leave may not be donated and any such leave not utilized within the twelve-month period explained below shall be forfeited. Domestic partners are eligible for paid parental leave when children join their household via birth, adoption or non-respite foster care placement of a child. If both parents, including a domestic partner of a parent, are eligible employees, each parent or partner is eligible to receive paid parental leave under this policy.

3. Eligible employees may take paid parental leave only during the first twelve (12) months following the birth or adoption of a child. Eligible Employees may utilize up to sixty (60) workdays or 480 hours of parental leave per birth or adoption event per twelve-month period that begins on the date of the birth or adoption, or thirty (30) workdays or 240 hours for non-respite foster care placement of a child per twelve-month period that begins on the date of the child placement. Employees utilizing paid parental leave shall continue to accrue vacation and sick leave in accordance with agency policy during the period of parental leave. If an official holiday occurs during the eligible employee's paid parental leave, the eligible employee will receive holiday pay in lieu of paid parental leave, provided the eligible employee is in pay status the day before and the day after the official holiday.

4. Paid parental leave shall run concurrently with leave under the federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) as applicable.

5. Eligible employees cannot receive short-term disability benefits and paid parental leave benefits at the same time.

6. Eligible employees shall notify their employer at least thirty (30) days in advance of their intention to use paid parental leave so that the employer may secure backfill coverage as necessary. When thirty (30) days' notice is not possible, the employee must provide this notice as soon as practicable.

7. Eligible employees may make arrangements with their supervisor for a flexible schedule within the twelve-month period following the birth, adoption or a non-respite foster care placement of a child.

8. This policy shall be reviewed by the legislative agency at least every two years following the effective date.

ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

Revisions adopted at the December 12, 2022 New Mexico Legislative Council meeting

It is the policy of the New Mexico Legislature that all persons who work for the legislature or participate in the legislative process, whether in the State Capitol or another legislative setting, be able to do so in an environment in which they are treated with dignity and respect and that is free from all forms of harassment or discrimination. Through adoption, implementation and enforcement of this policy and through continuing education and training, the Legislature will seek to prevent, correct and discipline any behavior that violates this policy.

Harassment

The Legislature prohibits harassment of any kind, including sexual harassment, and will take prompt and appropriate action in response to complaints or knowledge of violations of this policy. Harassment is any verbal or physical behavior that a reasonable person would find threatening, intimidating or coercive.

Harassment is a form of discrimination that is generally based on race, religion, color, national origin, age, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental disability, serious medical condition or spousal affiliation. Harassment generally involves conduct, comment or display that a reasonable person would find insulting, intimidating, humiliating, hurtful, demeaning or degrading or that causes offense, discomfort or personal humiliation or embarrassment to a person or persons.

Harassment can include such behavior as slurs, demeaning jokes or comments, innuendoes, unwelcome compliments of a personal or intimate nature, use of racial or ethnic epithets or racially offensive words or phrases communicated in any language, cartoons, pictures, pranks, hazing, stereotyping comments, derogatory descriptions or other similar verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct. It is not necessary that the behavior be intentional to be considered harassment. Harassment can be a single serious incident or a series of incidents over time.

Under the Constitution of New Mexico, legal action generally cannot be taken against members of the Legislature for their legislative acts. Harassment does not include conduct, such as heated discussions, pointed questioning and vigorous attempts to persuade, which is generally accepted as a regular and necessary part of the legislative process.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment includes forms of harassment that can be quid pro quo (i.e., this for that) or a hostile work environment (i.e., intimidating, offensive or demeaning environment in which to work) and warrants separate emphasis. Complaints of sexual harassment will be evaluated using a reasonable person standard.

Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. submission to such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of a

person's employment;

2. submission to or rejection of such conduct by a person is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting that person;

3. submission to or rejection of such conduct by a person is used as the basis for decisions or actions related to the support or opposition of legislation or other legislative processes; or

4. such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with a person's work or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

The following are examples of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment under this policy:

Verbal harassment — requests or demands for any type of sexual favor; repeated requests for a date; sexual innuendoes; suggestive comments; use of sexually offensive words or phrases in any language; jokes of a sexual nature; or "kidding", teasing and threats, any of which are unwelcome and sexual in nature.

Nonverbal harassment — distribution or display (including written, hard copy or electronic communications) of any graphic material, such as calendars, posters and cartoons, that is sexual in nature; or insulting sounds, leering, staring, whistling and obscene gestures.

Physical harassment — unwelcome physical contact, such as touching, tickling, pinching, hugging, patting, cornering, kissing, fondling and forced sexual intercourse or assault.

Reporting Harassment

A person who has experienced or observed harassment is strongly encouraged to identify the offensive behavior and advise the offender to stop and to report the harassment as provided in this policy.

Legislative staff in supervisory positions have a duty to report harassment as provided in this policy.

Early reporting and intervention have proven to be the most effective way to resolve actual or perceived incidents of harassment. Delays in reporting harassment can affect the ability to take appropriate action and resolve the matter. Accordingly, reports of harassment should be made as soon as possible after experiencing or observing the harassment so that prompt and appropriate action can be taken.

A legislative employee with a workplace harassment complaint may pursue the complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and New Mexico's Human Rights Commission as provided by law.

Sexual assault should be reported to law enforcement immediately.

Confidentiality

A report or complaint of harassment and documents related to any investigation shall be maintained confidentially to the extent possible pursuant to applicable law, rule or policy, including the Inspection of Public Records Act. The expressed wishes of the person reporting or complaining will be considered in the context of the legal obligation to act on the allegations and the right of the respondent to obtain information.

No Retaliation

The Legislature prohibits any retaliation against any person who reports harassment or files a complaint or cooperates as a witness under this policy.

Complaint Procedure

Complaints against legislative staff

If the person alleged to have violated this policy is a legislative employee or working for the Legislature (including year-round, temporary or contract), the person making a complaint of harassment may report it to the employee's agency director, chief clerk or any legislative staff in a supervisory position. The person receiving the complaint shall promptly cause an investigation to be conducted and may delegate the investigation to a person with appropriate training, including an assistant or deputy director, a deputy chief clerk or outside counsel who is experienced in employment law and in the investigation of claims of harassment. Each complaint shall be investigated promptly, impartially and discreetly. The investigation shall begin within five business days of having received the complaint. The individual responsible for the investigation shall keep the complainant and respondent advised of the status of the investigation, notify them when the investigation is complete and advise them of corrective action to be taken, if any. Disciplinary action against a legislative employee who is found to have violated this policy includes verbal reprimand, written reprimand, suspension or termination. The complainant and the respondent may appeal within 10 calendar days, in which case an individual who is experienced in the investigation of harassment matters and was not involved in the initial investigation will review the investigation to determine if it is satisfactory or if further action is required. A record of each complaint and resolution shall be provided to and maintained by the Legislative Council Service.

Complaints against a person who is not a legislator or a legislative employee

If the person alleged to have violated this policy is not a legislator or a legislative employee (e.g., a member of the public, a lobbyist or a vendor), the person making the complaint shall report it to an agency director, chief clerk, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, one of the floor leaders of the House or Senate or legislative staff in a supervisory role. The person receiving the complaint shall promptly cause an investigation to be conducted and may delegate the investigation to a person with appropriate training, including an assistant or deputy director, a deputy chief clerk or outside counsel who is experienced in employment law and in the investigation of claims of harassment. Each complaint shall be investigated promptly, impartially and discreetly. The investigation shall begin within five business days of having received the complaint. The individual responsible for the investigation shall keep the complainant and respondent advised of the status of the investigation, notify them when the investigation is complete and advise them of the corrective action to be taken, if any. The complainant and the respondent shall be informed of the results and may appeal within 10 days, in which case an individual who is experienced in the investigation of harassment matters and was not involved in the initial investigation, recommendation or corrective action will review the investigation to determine if it is satisfactory or if further action is required. Disciplinary action against a member of the public who is found to have violated this policy includes any appropriate

action authorized by law, including a protective order, removal from or denying access to legislative buildings or activities and notifying the individual's employer or clients. A record of each complaint and resolution shall be maintained by the Legislative Council Service.

Complaints against a member of the Legislature

If the person alleged to have violated this policy is a member of the Legislature, and the person making the complaint is a legislative employee or working for the Legislature (including year-round, temporary or contract), the person making the complaint may report it to the employee's agency director, chief clerk or any legislative staff in a supervisory position. If the person making the complaint is anyone other than a legislative employee, the person making the complaint shall report it to the Director of the Legislative Council Service or the respective chief clerk. If the complaint is against a member of the House, the person receiving the complaint shall report it to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the floor leaders of the House; if the complaint is against a member of the Senate, the person receiving the complaint shall report it to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the floor leaders of the Senate.

If the person making the complaint requests that the complaint be resolved informally, the respective legislative leaders shall investigate the complaint, and if the complaint is resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant and respondent, a record of the resolution shall be filed with and maintained by the Legislative Council Service, which shall remain confidential; provided that the record may be considered in a subsequent investigation to establish a pattern of conduct of a respondent. If the complaint is not resolved to the satisfaction of the person making the complaint or the person against whom a complaint is made, or the person making the complaint makes a formal written complaint, the respective legislative leaders shall consult with outside counsel who is experienced in [employment] discrimination law and in the investigation of claims of harassment [and]. The respective leaders and outside counsel shall determine whether the complaint should be investigated further. If any one of the legislative leaders or outside counsel determines that the complaint should be investigated further, the complaint shall be forwarded to an investigative subcommittee of the appropriate ethics committee within five business days. The investigative subcommittee shall retain a licensed attorney, who has experience in harassment claims and is without any current or previous involvement with the matter, to serve as an additional voting member of the investigative subcommittee. That additional voting member shall serve as the chair of the investigative subcommittee.

The investigative subcommittee shall retain special counsel, who has experience in the investigation of harassment claims and shall not be the same person as outside counsel, to investigate the complaint and submit to the subcommittee a report containing the special counsel's findings, conclusions and recommendations regarding further action. If the person making the complaint did not submit a formal written and sworn statement verifying the truthfulness of the allegations in the complaint, the special counsel must obtain such a written, sworn statement from the complainant before making a formal recommendation to the subcommittee. The special counsel shall recommend dismissal of a complaint if the person making the complaint does not submit such a written, sworn statement.

~~[Upon]~~ The special counsel conducting the investigation shall make every effort to complete the investigation and submit a report to the investigative subcommittee within 45 days from the date the special counsel is retained. If the report is not completed within 45 days, the special counsel shall advise the investigative subcommittee, complainant and respondent of the status of the investigation and the estimated time needed to complete the investigation. The special counsel shall similarly notify the investigative subcommittee, complainant and respondent every 15 days thereafter until the investigation is complete. Within 15 days of receipt of the special counsel's recommendations, the investigative subcommittee shall determine whether probable cause exists to believe a formal charge is warranted.

If the investigative subcommittee determines that probable cause does not exist, the investigative subcommittee shall immediately close the investigation, dismiss the complaint and so inform the complainant, the legislator against whom the complaint is filed and the appropriate ethics committee during the interim or standing committee during the session. The appropriate interim ethics committee receiving such notice during the interim shall issue a public report of the investigative subcommittee's determination within 10 days.

If the investigative subcommittee determines probable cause exists, it shall cause to be prepared and presented a charging document to the appropriate ethics subcommittee during the interim or standing committee during session. ~~[The ethics subcommittee or]~~ If the matter is referred to a standing committee, that standing committee shall ~~[hear]~~ handle the matter in accordance with its procedures and make a recommendation to the body. If the matter is referred to the appropriate ethics hearing subcommittee during the interim, that subcommittee shall set the matter for a formal hearing to occur within 45 days of the investigative subcommittee's finding of probable cause, unless good cause is shown to extend the hearing date. Before taking any action, the hearing subcommittee shall retain an attorney, retired judge or justice, who is without any current or previous involvement with the matter, to serve as an additional voting member of the hearing subcommittee. That additional voting member shall serve as the chair of the hearing subcommittee. The hearing subcommittee shall determine whether a preponderance of the evidence supports that the legislator against whom the complaint is filed has committed an offense that justifies the imposition of sanctions.

Sanctions against a legislator who is found to have violated this policy include reprimand, censure or expulsion. Sections 2-15-7 through 2-15-12 NMSA 1978; Senate Rules 9-13-1 through 9-13-6; House Rules 9-13-1 through 9-13-7; or Legislative Council Policy No. 15 shall apply to the process regarding complaints against legislators, as appropriate for the respective legislative body and whether in session or during the interim. An ethics committee or subcommittee reviewing a complaint pursuant to this policy during the session shall follow rules of procedure required of the respective House or Senate standing committees, in addition to the procedures provided in this policy. An ethics committee or subcommittee reviewing a complaint pursuant to this policy during the interim shall follow the rules of procedure provided in Legislative Council Policy No. 15, in addition to the procedures provided in this policy. A record of each complaint and resolution shall be maintained by the Legislative Council Service.

Implementation of This Policy

The Legislature will ensure that this policy is disseminated and posted on the Legislature's website, included in the appropriate employee handbooks and posted throughout the State Capitol. The policy shall be reviewed at least once every two years. All legislators and employees must be trained on the policy for a minimum of four hours every two years by an individual or entity that specializes in harassment prevention. A complaint of harassment or other information provided in support of the complaint that is found to be intentionally or recklessly dishonest or malicious will be deemed a violation of this policy. (As amended December 12, 2022.)

NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT

January 29, 2023

Legislative employees are public servants and shall treat their positions as public trusts. They shall use their positions only to advance the public interest and not to obtain personal benefits or pursue private interests. Legislative employees shall strive in all their actions to conduct themselves ethically and lawfully to preserve the integrity and dignity of the legislature. Legislative employees recognize that appropriate standards of conduct change over time due to unforeseen circumstances. Legislative employees are encouraged to foster a healthy ethical culture by raising questions about and discussing appropriate standards of ethical conduct with their colleagues and supervisors.

1. Independence

a. Legislative employees' professional loyalties are to the people of New Mexico, as represented by the legislature. Legislative employees shall not act in any manner that creates an appearance that their professional loyalties are divided. Other than their state compensation, legislative employees shall not request or receive gifts, compensation, money or other thing of value or promise of such that is conditioned upon or given in exchange for the performance of an act related to their employment or where it is known or reasonably should be known that the purpose of the donor is to influence the employee in the performance of the employee's duties. Legislative employees shall promptly report any offer of such to their agency director or chief clerk.

b. Legislative employees recognize that the unique nature of their positions carries additional responsibilities not found in other employment. Therefore, legislative employees shall not engage in any other employment or activity that conflicts or interferes with their duties to the legislature, compromises their ability to effectively discharge their duties or otherwise adversely affects the performance of their duties. Legislative employees are required to disclose outside employment (Section 10-16-4.2 NMSA 1978). Legislative employees recognize that such conflicts or interference might arise in a variety of situations, including in the use of social media, appearances at public forums and volunteer activities. A legislative employee shall promptly consult with the employee's agency director or chief clerk if the employee believes that the employee's actions may cause such a conflict or interference.

2. Confidentiality

Legislative employees necessarily receive or become aware of confidential information as part of their duties to the legislature and recognize that the free flow of such information to employees is critical to the work of the legislature. Therefore, legislative employees shall not use or disclose confidential information, including but not limited to personal or private information, obtained by virtue of their employment except as specifically authorized.

3. Use of State Resources

Legislative employees recognize that state resources, including employees' work time, are public resources intended to benefit the public good. Therefore, legislative employees shall use state resources

only to conduct state business, except for the occasional and incidental use of state resources that does not interfere with the employee's duties, including providing assistance at the direction of a legislator necessary to manage the legislator's other obligations while performing legislative duties as a citizen-legislator. Legislative employees respect the distinction between legislative and political activity and strive to assist legislators and other staff in recognizing that distinction.

4. Enforcement and Sanctions

a. Legislative employees are advised that serious disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment may result from activity that violates this code of conduct, including its appendices.

b. Legislative employees suspected of violating this code of conduct, including its appendices, shall be given an opportunity to present any relevant exculpatory evidence or mitigating circumstances regarding the accusation. Staff suspected of violating this code of conduct shall be afforded appropriate privacy and confidentiality during any investigation process.

Appendix A

Use of Legislative Information System Information Technology Resources

A. DEFINITIONS. As used in this appendix:

- (1) "access" means to read, change or enter data;
- (2) "information technology resources" or "IT resources" means computer equipment, hardware, software, databases, electronic message systems, communications equipment, computer networks, telecommunications circuits and any information used within the Legislative Information System network to support programs or operations generated by, transmitted within or stored on any electronic media;
- (3) "malicious code" means any type of code intended to damage, destroy, steal or delete a computer system, network, file or data;
- (4) "pirated software" means licensable software for which a license has not been purchased or legally obtained;
- (5) "pornographic or offensive material" means images, documents or sounds that are:
 - (a) discriminatory or harassing;
 - (b) defamatory or libelous;
 - (c) obscene; or
 - (d) threatening to an individual's physical or mental well-being; and

(6) "security mechanism" means a firewall, proxy, internet address-screening or filtering program, or other system installed to prevent the disruption or denial of services or the unauthorized use, damage, destruction or modification of data and software.

B. POLICY. To encourage the effective and appropriate use of the legislature's IT resources, legislative employees shall not:

(1) use IT resources except to conduct state business, although the occasional and incidental use of IT resources that does not interfere with the employee's duties and is not unlawful or inconsistent with this code of conduct is allowed;

(2) upload or otherwise transfer out of the legislature's direct control any software licensed to the legislature or data owned or licensed by the legislature without authorization from the manager responsible for the software or data;

(3) intentionally violate any software licensure agreement entered into by the legislature or copyright;

(4) access, attempt to access or allow others to access IT resources for which they do not have authorization;

(5) use IT resources to reveal information contrary to state or federal laws, regulations, rules, policies, procedures or contract terms;

(6) use IT resources to download or distribute pirated software or data, including music or video files;

(7) use IT resources to knowingly propagate malicious code;

(8) use IT resources to knowingly disable or overload any computer system or network or to circumvent any system intended to protect the privacy of IT resources;

(9) use IT resources to access, display, distribute, edit or record pornographic or offensive material except with the written permission of their director or chief clerk in order to fulfill legitimate job responsibilities. The unsolicited receipt of pornographic or offensive material, such as might be received through email, shall not constitute a violation of this provision;

(10) use IT resources to override or circumvent any security mechanism belonging to the state or to any other government agency, organization, company or individual; and

(11) use IT resources for illegal activity.

This code of conduct is adopted by the New Mexico Legislative Council pursuant to the Governmental Conduct Act (Chapter 10, Article 16 NMSA 1978) and, in addition to all the applicable statutory requirements, applies to all legislative branch employees.