



## Session Summary

Of the 1,182 bills introduced, legislators passed 194 along with three joint resolutions. Resolutions propose amendments to the constitution and require voter approval. Legislators also passed 48 memorials, which are non-binding formal requests or intentions typically addressed to another governmental body.

Many have said the past 60-day session was like two sessions in one. NMC staff reported a rapid pace in the first weeks starting with key crime legislation. HB 8, Crime Competency, passed early in the session. This omnibus package addressed criminal competency reform; criminalized the possession of weapon conversion devices (Glock Switches); elevated the penalty for threatening to shoot a person, group, or public space from a misdemeanor to a fourth-degree felony; established graduated penalties for trafficking based on quantity; increased auto theft penalties and permitted warrant-based blood draws for misdemeanor investigations; and expanded testing beyond alcohol to include other drugs. HB 12, Extreme Firearm Risk Protection Order Changes, also passed. Other key components of the crime package focused on behavioral health and behavioral health funding. SB 1, Behavioral Health Trust fund, and SB 3, Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act, also moved through the legislature in the first few weeks and have been signed into law. Several public safety bills, including proposals for criminal justice diversion programs and overdose prevention centers, did not pass.

HB 11, Paid Family Medical Leave, moved quickly through the House during the first half of the session, only to stall in the Senate. It ultimately failed in Senate Finance. Every committee room was filled with advocates on both sides of the issue, often waiting in a line outside to testify.

NMC priority items picked up speed in the second half of the session while others stalled in their originating chambers. HB 283, the IPRA Law Enforcement Records Changes, failed to be heard in the House Judiciary Committee. HB 342, Equitable Disclosure, remained in House Tax and was never heard. Given the many issues threatening county property tax bases battled during the session, this bill was never able to move forward. However, bills to fix the issues caused by the veterans' tax exemptions: HB 47 taking care of necessary technical changes and HB 494, reverting the filing date back to the original timeframe to help counties manage tax rolls, passed, but HB 494 was subsequently vetoed by the Governor.

Speaking of property tax, further dialogue in the interim is needed between stakeholders and legislators to form a greater understanding of how tax cuts and exemptions erode the county property tax base, and often further complicate reaching current and correct property valuations. SB 186, Multifamily Housing Valuation, was a hard-fought battle and win for the counties. The bill was defeated on a 16-23 vote after a 3-hour debate. This bill would have created a significant reduction in property tax values for multifamily housing (apartments). Although amended to limit the reduction of value for existing properties valued prior to 2024 from falling below 40% of current and correct, it forever capped new construction and existing multifamily at point of sale at 40% of current and correct. Given the anticipated impact to county budgets with the recent veteran exemptions, this

additional erosion of the property tax base would have been permanent and costly. NMC staff hope to have continued dialogue around property tax during the interim. Budget priorities remained in HB 2 with \$2M being added for trunked radio subscription fees by Senate Finance in the final days. A recap of final HB 2 priority items is below:

- Law enforcement recruitment and retention - \$1.6 million
- Detention reimbursement fund - \$4.97 million
- The time period for expending the \$25 million appropriated for recruitment grants for state and local fire departments from the general fund in Subsection 36 of Section 5 of Chapter 69 of Laws 2024 is extended through fiscal year 2026. These grants are for the recruitment of firefighters and emergency medical technicians.
- The time period for expending the \$25 million appropriated for recruitment grants for law enforcement, probation, correctional and detention officers in Subsection 42 of Section 5 of Chapter 69 of Laws 2024 is extended through fiscal year 2026.
- Administrative Office of the Courts - \$6 million For improvements, repairs and security infrastructure at court facilities statewide for expenditures in fiscal year 2026.

While not a priority, a key piece of county public safety legislation was SB 137, 911 Act changes, including a critically needed surcharge increase. After sailing through the Senate, SB137 was pulled from the House Judiciary Committee calendar. With just 3.5 days remaining in the Session, Senator Muñoz added the surcharge piece from the bill into his dummy bill, SB 535. It passed both House Appropriations and the House floor on a party line vote but was amended in the final hours of the last night of the session forcing it back to the Senate for concurrence. With just hours remaining on the final day, the Senate concurred with the House floor amendment. This was a hard-fought win by NMC staff, and the members of 911, GIS, and Fire affiliates who testified in support during the late night/early morning for House Appropriations. This is the first surcharge increase since 1989 and is critical to build out NextGen technologies for 911 call centers, update cybersecurity technology, and improve public safety communications to protect all New Mexicans.

Several of the Clerks' Affiliate bills were successful in the final days including SB290 Marriage License Fee Increase and HB101 Firearm Possession by Commissioned Officer at Polls.

Other big issues addressed with successful legislation were CYFD reform creating the Office of the Child Advocate, water primacy granting surface water permitting to the state, and Game and Fish reform. The legislature also established a number of new funds to include wildfire, renewable energy, and water infrastructure.

Will we be going back before the year ends? Earlier in the legislative session, the Governor hinted at calling a special session to address potential state shortfalls from a loss of federal funds. On the session's final day, the Governor stated she was dissatisfied with the legislative efforts to address crime. If these statements are any indication, it seems likely.

Congratulations all on a successful legislative session.

Joy Esparsen  
Executive Director

Grace Philips  
Risk Management Director

Katherine Carroll  
Government Relations

Mark Allen  
General Counsel

Hannah Kase Woods  
Government Relations Specialist

## Priority Bills

### HB 2 General Appropriation Act of 2025

Small, Dixon

General Appropriation Act of 2025, represents the total in appropriations for FY2026. HB2 appropriates a total of \$10,654,027,400 (General Fund (GF)); \$6,097,588,700 (other state funds); \$1,970,887,500 (internal service funds and interagency transfers); and \$14,435,286,300 (federal funds) for a FY2026 grand budget total of \$33,157,789,900. New Mexico Counties Priorities received the following appropriations:

- Law Enforcement Recruitment and Retention Fund \$1.6 million
- Prisoner Reimbursement \$4.97 million
- Courthouse improvements, repairs, and security Infrastructure \$6 million
- DOT Local Government Road Fund \$28 million
- The period of time for expending the \$25 million appropriated from the general fund in Subsection 36 of Section 5 of Chapter 69 of Laws 2024 for statewide and local fire departments, including volunteer departments, for recruitment grants for state and local fire departments for recruitment of firefighters and emergency medical technicians is extended through fiscal year 2026.
- The period of time for expending the \$25 million appropriated from the general fund in Subsection 42 of Section 5 of Chapter 69 of Laws 2024 for statewide and local law enforcement, correctional and detention agencies for recruitment grants for law enforcement, probation, correctional and detention officers is extended through fiscal year 2026.

**Signed by the Governor**

### HB 283 Law Enforcement Records Changes

Chandler, Trujillo

Addresses requests for law enforcement records for commercial use and remedies for denial of requests for records. Creates an Inspection of Public Records Task Force to review procedures related to the inspection of public records and assistance for public bodies and requesters of records. **Died in House Judiciary**

### HB 342 Property Tax Code Changes

Lente

Makes several revisions to the Property Tax Code regarding declared disasters and other matters, provides a temporary limitation of increase in valuation of nonresidential property and puts into statute the increases in the veteran exemptions approved by the electorate in the 2024 general election. **Died in House Taxation and Revenue**

### SB 399 Local Government Border Support Fund

Brantley, Ramos, Terrazas, Thornton

Creates the local Government Border Support Reimbursement Fund to be administered by the Department of Finance and Administration to reimburse local governments for expenses related to emergency medical services, law enforcement response to "unattended deaths," costs associated with supporting federal border patrol efforts and "humanitarian efforts" along the border, which include illegal dumping, state and federal drug trafficking task forces, and state and federal human trafficking task forces. **Died in Senate Health and Public Affairs**

## Appropriations & Finance

### SB 48 Community Benefit Fund

Stewart, Szczepanski

Transfers \$210 million from the GF to the Community Benefit Fund, created by this act. Money in the Community Benefit Fund may be appropriated for projects that address climate change in specified ways. DFA administers the Community Benefit Fund. **Signed by the Governor**

### **SB 357      Essential Services Development Act**

**Hamblen, Thornton, Chandler, Paul**

Cited as the Essential Services Development Act, authorizes state public support for essential services projects that allow access to internet, energy, water, and wastewater services primarily for residential purposes. Provides for local and regional governments to adopt plans for development of essential services and to expend public funds for projects that provide these services. Provides that only the state may provide public support for an essential services project, which shall be specifically authorized by law.

**Signed by the Governor**

## **Clerks & Elections**

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### **HB 101      Firearm at Polling Place for Law Enforcement**

**Reeb, Chavez, Terrazas**

The Election Code is amended to exclude from the crime of unlawful possession of a firearm at a polling place "commissioned" law enforcement officers with the power to arrest in performance of their official duties or in accordance with the policies of the officer's law enforcement agency. Current law exempts "certified" law enforcement officers under the Law Enforcement Training Act only.

**Signed by the Governor**

### **HB 308      Remove Mid Rio Grande Conservancy District from Local Elections Act**

**Lente,  
Armstrong, Woods**

Provides timing and other procedures for Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Elections and removes the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) from the Local Election Act.

**Signed by the Governor**

### **SB 16      Non-Major Party Voters in Primary Elections**

**Figueroa, Wirth, Cates, Parajon, Rubio**

Amends the Election Code to permit voters who have declined to state a party affiliation, or designated affiliation with a party other than a major party, to vote in a primary election by requesting the ballot of one of the participating parties in that primary.

**Signed by the Governor**

### **SB 290      Raise Marriage License Fees**

**Trujillo**

Raises the fee for a marriage license paid to the County Clerk to \$55, up from \$25. Fees are to be deposited in the County Clerk Recording and Filing Fund, then transferred by the County Treasurer within 15 days of the end of the month as follows: \$15 to the County General Fund; \$20 to the State Treasurer for credit to the Children's Trust Fund; and \$20 to be retained by the County Clerk.

**Signed by the Governor**

### **SJR 11      School Elections Timing, CA**

**Trujillo, Armstrong, Gallegos**

Proposes to amend Article 7, Sec. 1 of the Constitution to permit school elections to be held at the same time as partisan elections, by removing the constitutional prohibition against doing so.

**Died in House  
Judiciary**

## **Detention**

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### **HB9      Immigrant Safety Act**

**Chávez, Rubio, Romero, Anaya, Chandler**

Prohibits public bodies from entering into agreements used to detain individuals for federal civil immigration violations and requires any existing such agreements to be terminated; prohibits public agencies from otherwise using public property to assist federal authorities in detaining individuals over federal civil immigration violations.

**Died in Senate Judiciary**

### **HB 533      Solitary Confinement Changes**

**Lujan**

Would impose stricter limits on solitary confinement in correctional facilities, including raising the minimum age for solitary confinement from 18 to 21 years old and adding a new maximum age of 55 (restrictive housing would be prohibited outside of this age range).

**Died in House Consumer and Public  
Affairs**

## DWI

### SB 199 Administration of Local DWI Grant Program

Jaramillo L.

Increases from \$2.5 million to \$3 million the amount of liquor excise tax revenues that DFA's Local Government Division may use for grants to municipalities and counties. Ups the amount that may be expended in a year for administration of the DWI grant program by \$500,000 and the set aside in the county formula-based distributions by \$200,000. **Signed by the Governor**

## Employment

### HB 6 IRB Minimum Wage

Szczepanski, Stewart, Roybal Caballero, Sanchez, Martinez J.

Amends a section of statutory law relating to Public Works Contracts to require that, for public works projects undertaken by a municipality or a county through the issuance of an industrial revenue bond, contractors and other employers must pay the prevailing wage and comply with provisions of Sec.13-4-11 (prevailing wage and benefit rates determined; minimum wages and fringe benefits on public works; weekly payment; withholding funds). **Signed by the Governor**

### HB 11 Paid Family and Medical Leave Act

Chandler, Stewart, Serrato,  
Roybal Caballero, Martinez J.

Proposes the Paid Family and Medical Leave Act; creates a temporary Paid Family and Medical Leave Implementation Advisory Committee in the Workforce Solutions Department and the Paid Family and Medical Leave Fund. The act's purpose is to compensate employees and self-employed persons taking leave to: bond with a child; take measures to protect an employee, family member or close friend who is a victim of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault; provide care for themselves, family members or close friends, experiencing a serious health condition, or following the death of a minor child; or take leave for a family member or close friends on active military duty. Federal employees would not be subject to the program, nor would tribes and pueblos (but tribes and pueblos may elect to participate). **Died in Senate Finance**

### HB 66 Workers' Compensation Changes

Herndon

Relates to workers' compensation and increases the maximum amount the employer shall advance for discovery costs requested by a workers' compensation claimant from \$3,000 to \$3,500 increases the maximum attorney fees that can be collected for a single claim from \$22,500 to \$30,000 in calendar year 2025 (thereafter adjusted annually by the consumer price index). **Signed by the Governor**

### HB 84 Employee Free Speech Act

Chávez, Duhigg, Anyanonu, Gurrola, Silva

Prohibits employers from taking any adverse employment action against an employee for refusing to go to an employer-sponsored political meeting or to listen to a speech or communications about political matters – including labor organizations. **Died in Senate Judiciary**

### HB 230 Cannabis Testing Certain Employees

Szczepanski, Thomson,

### SB 269 Cannabis Testing Certain Employees

López, Pinto

Prohibits random drug testing for cannabis of an employee who is a qualified patient pursuant to the Lynn and Erin Compassionate Use Act. **Died in Senate Judiciary**

### HB 438 Employee Payment for Unused Leave

Lujan, Roybal Caballero

Requires that an employee of the state or of a political subdivision be paid the full value of all unused compensatory leave at the end of each calendar year. **Died on the House Floor**



### **SB 59      Public Works Minimum Wage Definitions**

**Padilla, Chávez**

Amends the Public Works Minimum Wage Act to make prevailing wage and benefit rates and minimum wage and fringe benefits on public works applicable to off-site fabricators or any combination of laborers, mechanics and off-site fabricators. Failure-to-pay provisions resulting in termination of contract also apply. Applicable to proposals, invitations for bid, and other procurement for public works projects issued on or after July 1, 2025. **Signed by the Governor**

### **SB 376      State Employee Health Benefit Contributions**

**Stefanics, Muñoz**

Starting July 1, 2025, sets the state share in the cost of group (term life, medical, or disability income) insurance for employees at 80%. Prohibits certain hospitals from charging or collecting an amount higher than the maximum allowed by an employee's plan. Requires Health Care Authority agency to base its budget request for employee health benefits on actuarially sound rate adjustments and establish a program to make health benefits more affordable for certain employees using appropriations from the Health Care Affordability Fund. Expands purposes of the Health Care Affordability Fund. **Signed by the Governor**

## **Fire & Emergency Management**

### **HB 192      Digital Trunked Radio Communications**

**Hernandez, Nava, Cullen, Block J., Cates**

Directs the Department of Information Technology to report annually by December 1 to the Legislative Finance Committee on the subscriber fees and users for the next fiscal year for the digital trunked radio communications system. Appropriates \$2 million (GF, nonreverting) to the department for use in FY2026 and subsequent years to fund the payment of subscriber fees for the digital trunked radio communications system to municipal, county, and tribal public safety agencies that provide law enforcement, fire, medical, or other emergency services. **Signed by the Governor**

### **HB 220      Ignition-Resistant Construction**

**Lujan, Sanchez**

Relating to property law. Proposes to void any covenant or other restrictions on real estate titles that prohibit or unreasonably restrict ignition-resistant construction or that promote construction or landscaping that is a fire hazard; and amends the Homeowner's Association Act to the same effect. **Died in Senate Judiciary**

### **HB 405      Volunteer Firefighter Training**

**Gonzales, De La Cruz, Sanchez, Hernandez, Abeyta**

Allows volunteer firefighters with their chief's approval to apply for a leave of absence not to exceed 112 hours per calendar year (about 4.67 days) in an effort to retain more volunteer firefighters. **Died on the Senate Floor**

### **HB 439      Public Safety Telecommunicator CPR Training**

**Lujan**

Amends the Public Safety Telecommunicator Training Act to require that dispatcher training include high-quality telecommunicator cardiopulmonary resuscitation using the most current nationally recognized emergency cardiovascular care guidelines. **Signed by the Governor**

### **SB 31      Zero-Interest Natural Disaster Loans**

**Campos, Sanchez, Gonzales, Vincent**

Directs the Department of Finance and Administration to provide zero-interest loans to political subdivisions and electric cooperatives that have been approved for FEMA funding for a federally declared natural disaster. Creates the Natural Disaster Revolving Fund and transfers money from the Appropriation Contingency Fund to it. Creates the Federal Reimbursement Revolving Fund. Appropriates \$150 million (GF, nonreverting) to the Natural Disaster Revolving Fund for use in FY 2025 and subsequent years. Makes changes to the terms of the Appropriation Contingency Fund and provides a new listing for the State Reserves. **Signed by the Governor**

**SB 33 Wildfire Prepared Act****Stefanics, Vincent, Ortiz, Gonzales**

Cited as the "Wildfire Prepared Act," it seeks to strengthen preparedness of structures for wildfires through the newly created Wildfire Prepared Fund and the awarding of grants for a Wildfire Prepared Program.

**Signed by the Governor**

**SB 81 NM Property Insurance Program Association Board****Wirth, Vincent, Gonzales**

Creates the New Mexico Property Insurance Program Association Board to establish and administer the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan (FAIR Plan) to provide property and commercial property insurance to persons unable to obtain insurance in the regular market. Appropriates \$50 million from the GF to the Office of the Superintendent of Insurance to administer the FAIR Plan Act and fire mitigation programs. **Died in House Judiciary**

**SB 137 Rename Enhanced 911 Act****Padilla**

Renames the Enhanced 911 Act the "911 Act"; renames the fund created in the act and related bond act the "911 Emergency Service Fund," and the "911 Bond Act." Makes a number of clarifying and conforming changes throughout the act, including several technical definitions. Increases the 911 surcharge per subscriber access line from \$0.51 to \$1 monthly, deposited in the 911 Emergency Service Fund. Also makes "primary or secondary public safety answering points" as well as local governing bodies, Indian nations, tribes, and pueblos eligible for grants from the fund to provide 911 services. **Died in House Judiciary**

**SB 197 EMS System Improvement Projects Funding****Campos, Vincent**

Grants municipalities and counties the authority to issue bonds against the distributions to the municipality or county from the Emergency Medical Services Fund. Proceeds to be used for emergency medical system improvement projects or emergency medical services vehicles. **Signed by the Governor**

**SB 353 Search and Rescue Emergency Responses****Steinborn, Pinto**

Amends the Search and Rescue Act to establish a search and rescue (SAR) emergency response protocol for federal, state and local agencies when NM Search and Rescue is required in a SAR emergency. Requires the state SAR Resource Officer to establish standard criteria for notifying the state SAR Control Agency (State Police) and to train emergency response personnel in those protocols. Requires consultation with other emergency responder agencies. **Signed by the Governor**

**SB 535 Public Peace, Health, Safety & Welfare State Fees & Funds****Muñoz, Sedillo Lopez**

Raises the rates of two state revenues. Beginning July 1, 2025, increases both the workers' compensation fee paid by employers and the fee paid by employees by \$0.50 per calendar quarter. This hike is phased in over eight years: \$0.25 /quarter on July 1, 2025, \$0.13 on July 1, 2028, and the final \$0.12 on July 1, 2033. Employer fees then will be \$2.80/quarter and the employee fees \$2.50/quarter. **Signed by the Governor**

**SM 2 Wildfire Study Group****Woods**

Asks the Legislative Council to direct the creation of a Wildfire Study Group to study and develop a comprehensive approach to address and mitigate wildfires in New Mexico. Asks that the group include stakeholders to study and develop and make recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative committee for a comprehensive statewide approach to address, avoid, and mitigate wildfires, including recommendations for necessary funding and proposed legislation. **Signed by Officers of the Senate**

## General County Government

### **HB 113**      **Animal Welfare Trust Fund**      **Lujan, Szczepanski, Sanchez, Borrego, Cervantes**

Creates the Animal Welfare Program in the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) to fund projects to support the welfare of domestic cats and dogs. DFA may make grants to municipalities or counties, or contract with nonprofit organizations, for animal shelters and other animal welfare projects. Creates the Animal Welfare Trust Fund and transfers \$10 million (GF, nonreverting) to it; and creates the Animal Welfare Program Fund to receive a reverting annual five percent pour-over from the trust fund for project funding by DFA beginning in FY2029. **Signed by the Governor**

### **HB 143**      **Lobbying Activity Report**      **Silva, Steinborn**

Creates a new requirement for a lobbying activity report that includes bills lobbied and the position taken by a lobbyist or the lobbyist's employer and requires that reports be kept for a period of at least ten years. **Vetoed by the Governor**

### **HB 284**      **Free Roaming Horse & Livestock Code**      **McQueen, Woods**

Amends the Livestock Code to provide for registration of facilities and qualified free-roaming horse experts by the Livestock Board; provides for state, county or municipal governments to contract for their services and for control and humane management of free-roaming horse herd populations, including fertility management, except where preempted by federal or tribal authority; provides for rulemaking; prohibits slaughter or export for slaughter of free-roaming horses; removes provision for "wild horses" and "Spanish colonial horses" from the code; establishes fines and penalties. **Pocket Vetoed by the Governor**

### **SB 274**      **Board of Finance Approval for Land Sales**      **Wirth, Lujan**

Amends the Procurement Code to increase the threshold for State Board of Finance or legislative approval of sales, trades, or leases of property by state agencies, local public bodies, and school districts. Amends the definition of "local public body." **Signed by the Governor**

## Health Care

### **SB 1**      **Behavioral Health Trust Fund**      **Stefanics, Muñoz, Woods, Block J., Hochman- Vigil**

Establishes the Behavioral Health Program Fund to provide services and programs related to behavioral health. Transfers \$1 billion from the General Fund to the newly created Behavioral Health Trust Fund. **Signed by the Governor**

### **SB 3**      **Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act**      **Wirth, Stewart, Sharer, Block J., Hochman-Vigil**

Creates the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act; directs creation of Behavioral Health regions (geographic area that encompasses one or more counties or judicial districts); in which behavioral health services will be provided—meaning an array of services for the treatment, rehabilitation, prevention and identification of mental illnesses and substance abuse—pursuant to a phased-in regional plan for the continuation and expansion of behavioral health services. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is charged with designating health regions, coordinating regional meetings, completing resource mapping and coordinating development of regional behavioral health plans. **Signed by the Governor**

### **SB 45**      **County Health Care Assistance Fund Use**      **Steinborn, Stefanics**

Amends the Indigent Hospital and County Health Care Act to authorize use of the County Health Care Indigent Fund for all or a portion of the monthly premiums of health insurance policies for indigent patients or for out-of-pocket costs, including copayments and deductibles, incurred by indigent patient insureds pursuant to a health insurance policy. **Signed by the Governor**

### **SB 120**      **No Behavioral Health Cost Sharing**      **Hickey, Steinborn**

Amends the Health Care Purchasing Act and the New Mexico Insurance Code to permanently eliminate cost sharing on behavioral health services. **Signed by the Governor**



### SB 219 Medical Psilocybin Act

Steinborn, Hickey, Thomson, Brandt, Romero

Proposes to allow the beneficial use of psilocybin in a regulated system for alleviating qualified medical conditions. (Psilocybin is a psychedelic compound in certain mushrooms.) Creates a Medical Use of Psilocybin Program, an advisory board, and two funds. Provides a gross receipts tax deduction for sale of products sold in accordance with the act. Appropriates a total of \$4 million (GF) to the Department of Health and the two new funds. **Signed by the Governor**

## Inspection of Public Records

### HB 139 Inspection of Public Records Act Changes

Cates

Significant and notable changes are made to almost the entirety of the Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA). Public bodies are required to appoint custodians to oversee requests for public documents, create procedures for documents and information that include electronic records, and the inspection of records. Provision is made for cost recovery; limits obligation to create and maintain records; specifies general exemptions from disclosure and exemptions for specific types of records. Provides relief for public bodies from "vexatious" requesters. Provides for enforcement. Includes 42 new and restated definitions. **Died in House Government, Elections and Indian Affairs**

### HB 497 Revise Inspection of Public Records Act

Brown

Revises IPRA to provide additional exemptions from inspection; to designate additional records as law enforcement records; to revise the procedures for requesting and denying requests for public records; and to revise provisions for enforcement. **Died in House Government, Elections and Indian Affairs**

### SB 57 Medical Provider Patient IPRA Info

Wirth, Szczepanski, Nava

Exempts from IPRA disclosure of personal identifying information or sensitive information related to the practice of a medical provider employed by a public body who performs medical services related to abortion. **Signed by the Governor**

## Law Enforcement

### HB 12 Extreme Risk Firearm Protection Order

Garratt, Chandler, Duhigg, Berghmans

Amends the Extreme Risk Firearm Protection Order Act to allow a law enforcement officer to file a petition to enjoin a respondent from possessing firearms based on information collected while carrying out official duties. Also requires relinquishment of all firearms in a respondent's possession immediately upon service of the order or as directed by the court (current statute requires relinquishment within 48 hours of service or sooner at the court's discretion). **Signed by the Governor**

### HB 309 Removal of Unlawful Occupants from Real Property

Sanchez, Pettigrew, Brown

### SB359 Removal of Unlawful Occupants from Real Property

Brandt

Provides a process for a property owner to remove persons who are unlawfully occupying the owner's real property. "Unlawfully occupying" is a crime constituting trespassing. **HB 309 died in House Consumer and Public Affairs. SB 359 Died in Senate Judiciary**

### HB 332 Crime of Unlawful Squatting

Cullen, Montoya, Henry

Creates the crime of unlawful squatting; provides penalties; provides for civil damages for injury to property occurring in the course of unlawful squatting. Provides a process for removing an alleged unlawful squatter and for contesting a citation for squatting; requires a trial to determine property rights in a contest between a purported owner and an alleged squatter; providing for damages. **Died House Consumer and Public Affairs**

### SB 364 Law Enforcement Qualifications

Nava, Martinez, Brandt, Padilla, Cervantes

Allows people who are not U.S. citizens to serve as law enforcement officers if they have work authorization documents from U.S. citizenship and immigration services; makes changes to Sec. 29-1-9, Sec. 29-2-6, and Sec. 29-7-6 to allow this — in effect potentially broadening the recruitment pool for law enforcement. **Signed by the Governor**

### SB 505 Insurance Tort Liability: Nonuse of Body Cameras by Peace Officers

Cervantes

Strengthens the presumption of bad faith for peace officers who fail to comply with the policies and procedures of the use of body-worn cameras. Amends the definition of "law enforcement agency" to include police departments of public post-secondary educational institutions. **Died on the Senate Floor**

## Natural Resources & Renewable Energy

### HB 128 Solar Access Fund

Szczepanski, Pope, Roybal Caballero, Lujan, Hernandez

Creates the Local Solar Access Fund in the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) to provide grants for solar energy systems owned and operated by a county, municipality, school district, land grant-merced, or Indian nation, tribe or pueblo. Appropriates \$60 million (GF, nonreverting) to the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department for use in FYs 2026 and beyond for NMFA to carry out the purposes of the fund. **Signed by the Governor**

## Taxes: GRT & Property

### HB 14 Earned Income Tax Credit

Lente, Martínez

Effective for taxable year 2026, it replaces the working families tax credit with a state Earned Income Tax. The federal earned income tax credit phases out as income rises. So too will the proposed state earned income tax credit, but the phase-out starts at a higher income level than the federal credit and uses a lower phase-out percentage. The effect is that, in addition to the higher credit amounts, more NM households would qualify for some amount of state earned income tax credit than under the existing working families tax credit and also includes a credit for foster parents. The package extends the deduction from gross receipts tax for health care practitioners' receipts of commercial contract services or Medicaid Part C services paid for by a managed care organization or health care insurance provider. There is an increase in the liquor excise tax: on spiritous liquors, from \$1.60 to \$1.92 per liter; on beer, from \$0.41 to \$0.49 per gallon; on wine, from \$0.45 to \$0.54 per liter; on fortified wine, from \$1.50 to \$1.80 per liter; on cider, from \$0.41 to \$0.49 per gallon. Reduces the distribution to the Local DWI Grant Fund from 45% to 39% and terminates the long-standing monthly \$20,750 (\$249,000 annual) distribution to Farmington. Adds a distribution to the Tribal Alcohol Harms which is created as a nonreverting fund administered by the Department of Finance and Administration. Money to be used for alcohol harms prevention, treatment and recovery services to individuals on lands of Indian nations, tribes and pueblos.

**Vetoed by the Governor**

### HB 46 Real Property from Health- Related Equipment

Chávez

Amends the Hospital Equipment Loan Act to remove real property from the definition of "health-related equipment" subject to the Hospital Equipment Loan Program. Imposes restrictions on property tax exemption on real property acquired from bond proceeds issued under the act. **Died in House Taxation and Revenue**

### HB 47 Veteran Property Tax Exemption

De La Cruz, Martinez A., Terrazas

Brings two veteran-related property tax exemptions into law as a result of constitutional amendments that were approved by voters at the November 5, 2024, General Election relating to veterans. Expands both the veteran exemption at Sec. 7-37-5 and the disabled veteran exemption at Sec. 7-37-5.1. **Signed by the Governor**

### HB 218 Tax Changes

Lente

This 426-page bill makes predominantly minor and technical amendments throughout the tax statutes (other than property tax). More substantive provisions are included as well such as: removing Attorney General approval of closing agreements, rebates and abatements; repealing some little-used credits; allowing any amended return to also constitute a claim for refund; freezing the petroleum product loading fee at \$150 per load; and allowing local governments to change local option gross receipts tax rates only once per year, instead of twice, absent a declaration of emergency. **Signed by the Governor**

### HB 295 Tax On Property Owned by NM RETA

Small, Pajaron

Exempts from property tax the electrical transmission and interconnected storage facilities and all related structures, including leasehold improvements, that are (1) owned by the NM Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (NMRETA) and which qualify as an eligible facility under the New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority Act but (2) are leased to a nonexempt entity to construct, operate or assist NMRETA in constructing or operating the eligible facility. **Signed by the Governor**

### HB 494 Tax Exemptions for Veterans

Martinez A.

Removes the provision in Sec. 7-38-17 that a disabled veteran or unmarried surviving spouse who provides proof of eligibility for a property tax exemption shall be allowed the exemption for the current tax year, but not for tax due for previous tax years (Sec. 7-38-17.E.) thereby allowing the exemption to be applied generally. **Vetoed by the Governor**

### SB 186 Multifamily Housing Valuation

Wirth, Muñoz, Hernandez

Creates a special method valuation for residential multifamily property that sets its valuation for the current property tax year at the lower of the current and correct value or the actual costs of construction and land. The general 3% cap on year-to-year increases in valuation of residential property applies. No value shall be attributed to amenities or ancillary improvements and the per-unit value shall not exceed the total property value divided by the number of units, multiplied by 40%. **Died on the Senate Floor**