

2026 Final Legislative Report

Session Summary

Another successful legislative session for New Mexico Counties has concluded. Thirty-day sessions are always fast-paced and difficult to maneuver with such limited time. However, all NMC priorities crossed the finish line and were signed by Governor Lujan Grishman by the March 11th deadline. In total, 686 bills were introduced and 71 were signed into law. Let's break it down.

NMC Key Budget Items

HB 2 initiatives made it through the session and avoided the line-item veto pen (except for a couple of instances where the veto was beneficial and the Governor broadened funding and lifted requirements.)

- Detention Reimbursement - \$4.975M (with a commitment from Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) to include the Sentencing Commission's average in next year's agency request).
- 700 MHz Trunk Radio Subscriptions - \$5M (the Governor line-item vetoed language requiring a local government match).
- 700 MHz Trunk Radio Network - \$21M
- District Courthouse Renovations - \$1.2M (with larger amounts going to individual counties).

NMC Priority Bills selected by the Board of Directors

HB 285, Disabled Veteran Exemption Clean up (De La Cruz, Martinez and Pope), passed late on the final evening of the session. The bill passed the House, Senate and all committees unanimously. This was a group effort with the bill sponsors, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Taxation and Revenue Department. This is a great win for the Assessors who have needed the clean-up language since the veterans' exemptions passed to ensure counties could adequately plan for the revenue loss.

Public safety funding is always a priority and historically has been in the form of separate appropriation funds in HB 2. This year, NMC worked closely with DFA to create HB 255, the Public Safety Workforce Building Program (Little, Dixon and Brown), within DFA to provide grants for initiatives to increase the state's public safety workforce. The fund includes law enforcement, firefighting, EMS, and detention/corrections. The bill also creates the non-reverting Public Safety Workforce Capacity Building Fund, administered by DFA, to support the program's objectives and transfer unexpended balances from three current workforce capacity funds to the new fund. This fund is non-reverting and will provide predictable and targeted recruitment funding, hopefully resulting in better retention.

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HJM2, Study Inspection of Public Records Act changes (Brown), passed in the final hours of the session. The memorial requests that the Attorney General be directed to convene a task force to study implementation of IPRA; to gather data from relevant stakeholders to determine whether legislative changes are necessary and, if so, to draft and propose such legislation for consideration during the First Session of the 58th Legislature (2027). We are hopeful the study results in much needed changes to IPRA and helps to eliminate the costs to counties due to the weaponizing of information requests. Since the end of the session, several have expressed interest in continued work on legislation to improve IPRA costly requirements for local government.

Affordable Housing

As always, there is significant defensive work during the legislative session. This session NMC saw more bills to address affordable housing than ever before. Some of these measures we were able to support, but NMC has a standing position to oppose bills that erode the Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) and property tax base. SB 92, construction materials and labor GRT deduction for affordable housing (Padilla and Nava), was bundled into the tax package, SB 151. Responding to concerns from local government, a sunset of 2029 was included in Senate Finance Committee. NMC is hopeful the impact will be minimal with the sunset and strict affordability guidelines to meet New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) requirements.

House Taxation & Revenue amended the tax package further and removed the GRT deduction for medical equipment. NMC worked diligently throughout the interim and session to share how GRT deductions significantly erode the counties' critical GRT base, and legislators are starting to hear us. A special thank you to Representatives Duncan and Cadena for supporting the counties and pushing to remove the medical equipment deduction. The Governor signed SB 151 into law with minutes remaining on March 11th.

HB 148, Property Tax Affidavits (Lundstrom, Lente, Martinez, Duncan, Padilla), would have set a permanent 5% cap on property tax for commercial properties with no sunset. It was accompanied in the Senate with a constitutional amendment that removed the word 'residential' from the constitution, requiring tax limitations on all property, residential and commercial. The NMC Legislative team and several Assessors met with Senator Padilla, Representative Lundstrom, and the proponents (mainly NAIOP, the commercial real estate group) of the bill to try to come to some agreement with very little time given to us to organize. Senator Padilla and Representative Lundstrom agreed, given the complexity of the issue and its impact on counties' property tax base, more time was needed. We expect the interim Revenue Stabilization Tax Policy Committee to form a working group to address the multifamily property tax and equitable disclosure issues.

Mitigation and Immigration

Much needed assistance for Torrance, Cibola and Otero counties came with the mitigation package, SB 273 (Munoz), and will cover the loss of GRT due to the passage of HB 9, the Immigration Safety Act. The bill targets lost first-year GRT revenues (\$642K to Torrance, \$375K Cibola), prisoner transport costs for Torrance (\$425K) and Cibola (\$1.6M) Counties, and non-reverting bond payback assistance for Otero County (\$5.9M). This would not have been possible without the leadership of Senator Munoz and his fellow sponsors, Senators Townsend, Charley, Wilson and Thornton. SB 273 was signed into law with a line-item veto removing cumbersome monthly payouts; providing counties one lump sum.

Elections

SJR 1, School Elections Timing (Trujillo), 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. This was a big win for the Clerks Affiliate who have worked for years to pass the joint resolution. SJR 1 was signed by Officers of Senate and will now go to the voters for approval.

SB 261 (Cervantes), another concerning gun bill, would have removed the conceal carry language and prohibited armed law enforcement from polling places. NMC was able to work with the sponsor to amend the bill in Senate Rules Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee but were unsuccessful in making significant changes to address all concerns. Ultimately the sponsor agreed to not move forward with the legislation, and it died in House Government, Elections, and Indian Affairs Committee.

Medical Malpractice

Although NMC did not take a position on HB 99, Medical Malpractice Changes, it was an important bill to watch as malpractice reform affects all New Mexicans. The soon-to-be law amends the Medical Malpractice Act to establish limitations on the claims for and the amount of punitive damages in a malpractice case and redefines "occurrence" in the context of a malpractice claim. This would not have been possible without the leadership of Representatives Chandler, Gallegos, Armstrong, and Senator Stefanics.

Other Key Legislation Signed into Law

SB1 Medical Licensing Compacts
SB2 \$1.5 billion transportation bonding package
HB50 Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact
HB241 Child Case Assistance Program Act

Water

HB63 NMFA Water Project Funds
HB64 Public Project Revolving Fund Appropriations

Once again, your engagement mattered and your voices were heard as a result. There were countless committees and floor debates where legislators talked about hearing from their county officials, and it truly moved the needle towards better outcomes. Please reach out to the legislative team throughout the interim as issues arise that affect your counties. The interim is the best time to connect with legislators about how legislation impacts local government.

Priority Bills

HB2 General Appropriation Act of 2026

Small, Dixon

General Appropriation Act of 2026, represents the total in appropriations for FY2027. HB2 appropriates a total of \$11,252,983,500 (General Fund (GF)); \$6,692,848,800 (other state funds); \$2,040,951,300 (internal service funds and interagency transfers); and \$13,891,584,200 (federal funds) for a FY2027 grand budget total of \$33,878,367,800. The following appropriations were directed to county priorities:

- Detention Reimbursement - \$4.975M
- 700 MHz Trunk Radio Subscriptions Statewide - \$5M
- 700 MHz Trunk Radio Network - \$21M
- Capital Outlay - District Courthouse Renovations - \$1.2M

Signed by the Governor

HJM2 IPRA Implementation Study Task Force

Brown, Figueroa, McQueen

House Joint Memorial 2 requests that the Attorney General be directed to convene a task force to study implementation of the Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA); to gather data from relevant stakeholders to determine whether legislative changes are necessary and, if so, to draft and propose such legislation for consideration during the First Session of the 58th Legislature (2027). House Judiciary Committee Substitute clarifies that the taskforce should consider both administrative and legislative solutions that may be necessary or desirable. The Substitute also adjusted the members of the taskforce.

Passed

HB201 IPRA Task Force Funding

Brown, Figueroa

Appropriates \$125,000 (GF) to the Attorney General for use in FYs 2026 and 2027 to hire staff to assist a task force convened by the AG to study the Inspection of Public Records Act.

Died House Appropriations & Finance Committee

HB255 Public Safety Workforce Building Program

Little, Dixon, Silva, Brown

HB255 creates the Public Safety Workforce Building Program within the Department of Finance and Administration to provide grants for initiatives to increase the state's public safety workforce, including law enforcement, firefighting, detention or corrections, and attorneys. Creates the Public Safety Workforce Capacity Building Fund, administered by DFA, to support the program's objectives; transfers balances from three current workforce capacity funds to the new fund.

Signed by the Governor

HB285 Disabled Veteran Property Tax Changes

De La Cruz, Martinez A., Sariñana, Pope, Terrazas

House Bill 285 amends the Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption to clarify that the exemption applies if the disabled veteran continuously occupies the property as the veteran's principal place of residence. If two or more veterans qualify for the disabled veteran exemption on the same property, requires the exemption to be determined using the highest disability percentage among the eligible owners. House Labor, Veteran's, and Military Affairs Committee streamlined the language of the bill but made no substantive changes.

Signed by the Governor

Appropriations & Finance

HB247 Capital Outlay Changes

Lente

Another in a line of attempts to corral the state's capital outlay process. Except for proposals making a technical change, sets rules for reauthorizations or reappropriations of capital outlay projects. Bars capital outlay authorization and appropriation of \$100,000 or more for a project unless the project is included in an infrastructure capital improvement plan. Amends Laws 2024, Chapter 66, Section 1 and Laws 2025, Chapter 159, Section 2 (both dealing with General Fund appropriation reversions) to require that, unless it has already reverted before May 20, 2026, unexpended appropriation balances revert to the Capital Development and Reserve Fund or the Tribal Infrastructure Project Fund instead of the General Fund. House Taxation and Revenue Committee and Senate Finance Committee amended HB 247 to remove language barring political subdivisions from receiving funding for water-related projects. They also require DFA to freeze capital outlay accounts by January 1 of the year in which they are set to revert if no amount has been encumbered or expended and provide a report on frozen accounts to the Legislature annually. Senate Finance Committee added a provision addressing proposed authorizations or appropriations of frozen balances that involve extensions of tax-exempt bonds beyond the federal 3-year limit.

Signed by the Governor

SB2 State Highway Projects Bonds

Gonzales, Muñoz, Campos, De La Cruz, Shendo

Authorizes \$1.5 billion highway bonding with new revenue sources; increases the Weight Distance Tax on non-bus commercial vehicles; and increases passenger vehicle registration fees, thereby expanding the State Transportation Department's ability to finance highway projects using bonds. It also creates new, additional annual registration fees for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles (under 26,000 lbs.) and adjusts how certain motor vehicle fee revenues are distributed, largely increasing the share going to the State Road Fund for purposes of maintaining New Mexico's highways. Senate Finance Committee added an amendment requiring the Department of Transportation to provide the legislature with a list of proposed bond sales for each year in order for more bonds to be authorized for a state highway project. **Signed by the Governor**

SB151 Corporate Income Tax Changes

Wirth, Parajón, Berghmans, Figueroa

Senate Bill 151, as twice substituted and amended is the Legislature's tax package--an agglomeration of various personal and corporate tax credits and deductions, tax credits for certain wages paid by local news printers, and a one-percent salary increase for state employees and one proposed tax credit converted to a grant program. Includes (1) CIT Decoupling from three H.R. 1 provisions; (2) Local Journalist Tax Credit; (3) Construction GRT Deduction; (4) Physician Tax Credit; (4) Local News Printer Tax Credit; (5) High-Wage Jobs Credit; (6) State Agencies, Public Schools and Higher Education 1% salary increase. Senate Finance Committee Substitute added a personal and corporate income tax credit for certain wages paid by local new printers. It also dropped a hold-harmless for local governments related to GRT deductions for in-office equipment and medications, a quantum facility infrastructure project funds and personal and corporate income tax credits for donations to childcare facilities. A Senate floor amendment added additional requirements for persons seeking GRT deductions for construction services and materials and added additional medical practitioners included in a GRT deductions. House Taxation and Revenue Committee amended the tax package made significant changes and included a 1% salary increase for state and school employees. It pushed the sunset for new personal and corporate income tax credits for employment of local journalists and new printers to 2031 and changed the requirements for digital publications.

Signed by the Governor

SB187 NMFA Water Project Fund

Campos

Appropriates \$222 million (GF) to the Department of Finance and Administration for the New Mexico Finance Authority's Water Project Fund for use in FYs 2026 and 2027 for water projects authorized by the Legislature in the current session.

NMC Support; \$100 million incorporated into HB2

SB273 Correction Facility Loss of Revenue

Muñoz, Charley, Wilson, Townsend, Thornton

Senate Finance Committee substitute for SB273 (a dummy bill) appropriates \$10.5 million of General Fund money to Estancia, Grants, Milan, Cibola County, and Otero County to hold them harmless from the potential loss of revenues they might have received from contracts with private ICE/correctional facilities. The appropriation is made to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration for use in FYs 2027 and 2028, with one twenty-fourth (1/24th) of the amount to be disbursed monthly. A second substitute removed specific reference to agreements with private facilities to detain individuals for federal civil rights immigration violations and instead refers to the use of municipal or county facilities for any purpose for which the municipality or county may collect revenue that is being held harmless by the appropriations of the bill. After amendments in House Appropriations and Finance, the final appropriations include: \$300,000 for Torrance County, \$5.94 million for Otero County \$1.975 million for Cibola County as well as funds for the city of Estancia, Milan, and Grants for a total of \$15.04 million. Appropriations are for FY2027.

Signed by the Governor

Building & Zoning

HB77 Affordable Housing Revitalization Tax Credit

Dow, Nava, Hernandez, Gonzales

House Bill 77, for taxable years 2026 through 2036, provides a nonrefundable corporate income tax credit against rehabilitation expenses for a revitalization project in New Mexico. Annual cap on aggregate eligible credits is \$100 million but only \$50 million may be allowed for projects not in rural areas. To be eligible for the credit, entities must qualify as a grantee under the Affordable Housing Act.

NMC Support; Died House Taxation & Revenue Committee

HB122 Expand Limitation on Municipal Annexation

Borrego

House Bill 122 expands New Mexico's municipal annexation law to limit a municipality's power to annex property in a Class A County—without county approval—from one to four additional counties.

Died House Rules and Order of Business Committee

HB138 Zoning Lot Size Requirements

Romero, A.

Amends county and municipal zoning authority laws to prevent local governments from imposing lot size requirements in residential zones.

NMC Oppose; Died House Rules & Order of Business Committee

HB168/HB200 New Homes for New Mexico Program

Parajón, Martínez J., Berghmans, Nava

HB168 creates the "New Homes for New Mexico Program" within the New Mexico Finance Authority to provide loans for eligible buyers to purchase starter homes from eligible builders. House Commerce and Economic Development Committee requires "competitive proposals to participate in the program and removes references to the procurement code. Appropriates \$10 million (GF, nonreverting) to NMFA to conduct the Program.

NMC Support; Signed by Governor

HB194 Expand Metro Redevelopment Code & Projects

Parajón, Wirth, Tobiassen

HB194 expands the Metropolitan Redevelopment Code to include housing shortage areas and to provide for the development of additional qualifying multifamily housing. Extends property tax exemptions for qualifying multifamily housing in a redevelopment plan. Requires local governments to adopt resolutions finding that one or more housing shortage areas exist in their jurisdiction and that the construction or development of qualifying multifamily units is necessary before the local government can exercise any of its powers conferred by the Redevelopment Law. Local governments may declare any area within their jurisdictions as housing shortage areas and metropolitan redevelopment areas applicable only to qualifying multifamily properties and are to include housing shortage areas and multifamily housing in their redevelopment plans. Extends the exemption from property taxes and assessments for qualifying multifamily property to the 20th anniversary from the date of acquisition if included in the applicable redevelopment plan.

Died House Rural Development, Land Grants, and Cultural Affairs Committee

SB131 Residential Apartments in Commercial Zones

Maestas, Berghmans

Prohibits a county or municipality from restricting building heights or number of stories allowed, or imposing minimum parking mandates. Authorizes additional dwelling units, residential apartments in commercial zones, and small-scale commercial uses in residential zones. Details a process for appeals of zoning ordinances.

Died Senate Health & Public Affairs Committee

SB283 Metro Redevelopment Code Change

Tobiassen, Wirth

A proposal to expand the provisions of the Metropolitan Redevelopment Code to apply to housing shortage areas as well as to slum or blighted areas. In a Senate Tax Business and Transportation Committee Substitute the property tax exemption period was shortened from 20 to 14 years, periodic inspections of properties to ensure compliance with local rules were required, the duties of local governments, lessees or owners were defined, and provisions for enforcement of the metropolitan redevelopment code were outlined.

Died Senate Floor

Clerks & Elections

SB261 Possession of Firearm at Polling Place

Cervantes

Amends Sec. 1-20-24 relating to the crime of unlawful possession of a firearm at a polling place, particularly within 100 feet of the voter entrance at a school building or at any other voting location during early voting or on election day. A violation of these prohibitions is a petty misdemeanor. A

Senate Rules Committee Substitute prohibited police officers from carrying a gun at a polling place unless an election official asked them to be there.

Died House Government, Elections & Indian Affairs Committee

SB264 Election Rights & Troops at Elections

Duhigg, Berghmans, Nava, Charley, Cervantes

Adds new provisions to the Election Code to prohibit interference with elections, including ordering troops to a polling place; imposing restrictions on voters or elections contrary to the laws of New Mexico; or interfering with election officials, all “under color of law.” Imposes penalties and provides procedures for emergencies impacting election operations. The Senate Rules Committee Substitute strengthens the states authority to protect elections by adding “under color of law or otherwise” in several sections of the Election Code, making parking areas for polling locations protected areas, and increasing the penalty for interfering with an election to a fourth-degree felony.

Signed by the Governor

SJR1 CA, School Election Timing

Trujillo, Figueroa

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.

NMC Support; Passed

Detention

HB9 Immigrant Safety Act

Chavez, Rubio, Romero A., Anaya, Cervantes

House Bill 9, known as the “Immigrant Safety Act,” prohibits New Mexico public bodies from participating in the federal civil immigration detention system. The law bans the use of public resources or property to hold individuals for federal immigration violations and mandates the cancellation of all current detention contracts. An amendment in House Judiciary set explicit limits on extending, renewing, or modifying existing agreements and barred agreements that deputize local officers or employees from acting as immigration officers.

Signed by the Governor

Employment

SB129 Adverse Employment Action & Cannabis

Berghmans, Szczepanski

Expands the protections against adverse employment actions, under the Lynn and Erin Compassionate Use Act, for use of medical cannabis to prohibit a state or political subdivision employer from controlling an employee's use of medical cannabis outside the employee's hours of work as long as the employee remains a qualified patient and unless use is limited by other state law. A Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee substitute added a provision to prohibit the state or political subdivisions from controlling an employee's use of medical cannabis outside their hours of employment.

Died Senate Judiciary Committee

Fire & Emergency Management

HB55 1st Responder Retirement Tax Deduction

Martinez A., Block J., Vincent

Grants an income tax deduction of 50% of retirement pay earned for service as a first responder to a taxpayer who is a first responder retiree or the retiree's unmarried surviving spouse. The deduction applies to retirement pay includable in net income. Applies to taxable years beginning January 1, 2026.

NMC Support; Died House Taxation & Revenue Committee

HB155 Fireworks Bans, Violations, & Fines

Dixon, Garratt, Thornton

HB155 amends the Fireworks Licensing and Safety Act to authorize a local government to prohibit the sale or use of certain fireworks based on dangerous weather or environmental conditions in addition to drought. Authorizes the State Fire Marshal to prohibit the sale or use of fireworks, even if an order preempts any conflicting proclamation of a local government. Prescribes enhanced penalties for violation of the act. Appropriates \$750,000 total (GF) for fireworks safety.

NMC Support with Amendments; Died House Rules & Order of Business Committee

HB198 Behavioral Health & First Responder Training

Martinez A., Vincent

Appropriates \$2 million (GF) to the Department of Health for use in FY2027 to provide behavioral health treatment and training to first responders.

NMC Support; Died House Appropriations & Finance Committee

General County Government

HB315 Free-Roaming Horse Management

McQueen

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.

NMC Support; Died House Agriculture, Acequias & Water Resources Committee

SB38 Fees on Registered Pet Food

Wirth, Parajón, Ferray

Takes action to continue a spay and neuter program that authorized the NM Department of Agriculture (NMDA) to collect an annual fee on each pet food that is registered with the department under the Commercial Feed Act. The annual fee was enacted in 2020 for a five-year period that ends on July 1, 2026. SB38 repeals the sunset date provision, thereby leaving the fees established by the 2020 law in place. (Specifically, repeals Ch. 69, Sec. 5, Laws 2020 entitled Spay and Neuter Program Fee.)

NMC Support; Signed by the Governor

SB146 Civil Rights Act Claim Changes

Muñoz, Block J.

SB146 amends the New Mexico Civil Rights Act to streamline and narrow how civil rights claims against public bodies are initiated and compensated. It lowers the maximum recovery limit for claims, prohibits exemplary or punitive damages, reduces the time for making a claim, and includes strict notice deadlines.

NMC Support; Died Senate Health & Public Affairs Committee

SB153 Procurement Changes

Padilla

Senate Bill 153 makes a series of definition, administrative and procedural changes to the state's Procurement Code. Raises various threshold limits for procurement of goods or services. Defines "resident business."

NMC Support; Died Senate Judiciary Committee

Health Care

HB50 Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact Herndon, Sedillo Lopez, Trujillo, Roybal Caballero, Silva
Enters New Mexico in the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact for the purpose of facilitating interstate practice of regulated social workers and improving public access to competent social work services. The Social Work Licensure Compact Commission would serve as the national administrative body. The compact preserves the regulatory authority of states to protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure.

NMC Support; Signed by the Governor

HB99 Medical Malpractice Changes Chandler, Armstrong, Hochman-Vigil, Silva, Gallegos
Amends the Medical Malpractice Act to establish limitations on the claims for and the amount of punitive damages in a malpractice case. Extends the time frame for use of the Patient's Compensation Fund to cover judgments against a hospital or hospital-controlled outpatient health care facility. Redefines "occurrence" in the context of a malpractice claim.

Signed by the Governor

HB104 County & Tribal Health Councils Act Funding Lujan, Hernandez, Stefanics, Thomson
Appropriates \$8 million (GF) to the Department of Health for use in FYs 2027 and 2028 to carry out the provisions of the County and Tribal Health Councils Act. \$1 million is to be used to contract for services to assist DOH with supporting county and tribal health councils.

NMC Support; Died House Appropriations & Finance Committee

SB1 Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Act Trujillo, Duhigg, Tobiassen, Herndon, Matthews
Enters New Mexico in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact for the purpose of facilitating interstate practice by physicians and improving public access to physician services. The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission would serve as the national administrative body, and the bill authorizes the Governor to appoint two members to the Commission.

NMC Support; Signed by the Governor

Law Enforcement

SB17 Stop Illegal Gun Trade Act O'Malley, Romero A., Berghmans, Little, Roybal Caballero
Creates the Stop Illegal Gun Trade and Extremely Dangerous Weapons Act to require licensed firearms dealer security measures to prevent theft and loss of firearms; employee training; records maintenance; and reporting of crime gun traces, multiple firearm sales, thefts, and losses. Prohibits the sale or transfer of certain specified dangerous weapons to an unlicensed person. Prescribes penalties.

NMC Oppose; Died House Judiciary Committee

SB50 Law Enforcement Training Requirements Maestas, Brantley, Herndon, Chavez
Amends the Law Enforcement Training Act and the Public Safety Telecommunicator Training Act to retain the requirement for annual in-service training, but it removes certain specifics of the required annual in-service training for police officers and public safety telecommunicators. Nothing in the bill affects the requirements for basic recruit and Academy training programs.

NMC Support Died House Judiciary Committee

Natural Resources & Renewable Energy

HB109 Water Project Fund Changes

Garratt, Herrera, O'Malley

House Bill 109 changes how water projects are prioritized under the Water Project Finance Act by using a weighted scoring system. Authorizes the New Mexico Finance Authority to make prioritized grants and loans from the Fund without legislative approval until December 31, 2029, as amended by House Agriculture, Acequias, and Water Resources Committee; requires a two-thirds' majority vote of the Legislature to extend that date.

NMC Support; Signed by the Governor

HJR3 CA: Environmental Rights

Ferrary, Roybal Caballero, Sedillo Lopez, Hernandez

Proposes to amend Article 2 of the Constitution of New Mexico with the addition of a new section that vests the people of the New Mexico with environmental rights. The proposal directs the state, counties and municipalities to serve as trustees of the natural resources of the state for the benefit of all the people. Provides that monetary damages shall not be awarded for a violation of the section, but that it is enforceable against the state, counties and municipalities.

NMC Oppose; Died House Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Taxes: GRT & Property

HB103 Cap Residential Property Tax Rates

Parajón, Berghmans, Montoya

Amends Sec. 7-36-21.2, which imposes a three percent limit on the year-to-year increase in the valuation of most residential properties, to allow the limit to remain in place when the property's zoning changes. Currently, the limit is effectively canceled for the year when zoning changes.

NMC Support; Died Senate Floor

HB148 Property Tax Affidavits

Lundstrom, Lente, Martinez J., Duncan, Padilla,

Revises the Property Tax Code to provide a temporary limitation on an increase in valuation of nonresidential property but also requires filing of an affidavit on transfer of any real property.

NMC Oppose; Died House Commerce and Economic Development Committee

SB92 Construction Materials Gross Receipts

Padilla, Nava, Stefanics, Parajón, Berghmans

Creates for the period July 1, 2026 through July 1, 2033 a gross receipts tax deduction for receipts from selling construction materials and labor if they are used to develop affordable multifamily residential housing and are sold to a qualifying grantee pursuant to the Affordable Housing Act (which applies to households in which income is at or below 80% of the area median income).

Incorporated into SB 151 with limitations

SJR5 CA Nonresidential Property Valuation

Padilla

Proposes to amend Article 8, Section 1 of the Constitution of New Mexico to empower the Legislature to limit by law the annual increase in the value of nonresidential property; it already has the power to limit residential property value increases.

Died Senate Rules Committee

2026 NMC Board of Directors & Executive Committee Actions as of February 11, 2026

NMC Board Priorities

- HB 2 General Appropriations Act of 2026
 - Detention Reimbursement Fund
 - Courthouse Funding
 - 700 MHz Radios
 - RISE Funding
- HB 255 Public Safety Workforce Building Program
- HJM 2 AG Task Force on Inspection of Public Records
- HB 201 Appropriation: Study Inspection of Public Records Act
- HB 285 Changes to Claiming Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption

Support

- HB 10/45 Physician Assistant Licensure Interstate Compact
- HB 11 Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact
- HB 12 Physical Therapy Licensure Compact
- HB 13 Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact
- HB 14/44 Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact
- HB 31 Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact
- HB 32 Interstate Counseling Compact
- HB 33 Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact
- HB 50 Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact
- HB 55 Income Tax Deduction for First Responder Retirement Income
- HB 77 Affordable Housing Revitalization Corporate Income Tax Credit
- HB 103 Residential Property Valuation Increases
- HB 104 Appropriation for County and Tribal Health Councils
- HB 109 Priorities for Funding Water Projects
- HB 168/200 New Homes for New Mexico Program
- HB198 Appropriation: First Responder Behavioral Health Treatment and Training
- HB 315 Free-Roaming Hose and Livestock Code
- SB 1 Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
- SB 38 NMDA Agriculture: Annual Fees for Spay & Neuter Program Continued
- SB 50 Remove Certain Law Enforcement & Telecommunicator Training Requirements
- SB 78 Nuclear Energy as a Renewable Energy Source
- SB 146 NM Civil Rights Act Recovery Limits
- SB 153 Procurement Code Changes
- SB 187 Appropriation: Finance Authority's Water Project Fund
- SB 254 Appropriation: Subscriber Fees for Digital Trunked Radio Communications
- SJR 1 CA: Mandate Removed for Separate School Elections

Support with Amendments

- HB 155 Fireworks Restrictions

Oppose

- HB 138 Prohibits Lot Size Requirements in Residential Zones
- HB 148 Temporary Limitation of Increases Valuation of Nonresidential Property
- HJR 3 CA: Declaration of Environmental Rights of the People in Perpetuity