

From the UNM Retiree Association Legislative Committee:

Greetings UNM Retiree Association,

We are now entering the third week of the sixty-day State of New Mexico 57th Legislative Session. Several bills dealing with the Public Employee Retiree Association COLA were heard the second week of the session. It was PERA, PERA, PERA week. The PERA bills heard were - HB 96, PERA Member Temporary Payment; SB 30, Two Percent Cost-of-Living Adjustments; and SB 117. All three bills received a DO PASS. They are now waiting to be scheduled in committees, (see below),

The State of New Mexico has two employee pension systems. They are the Education Retirement ACT (ERA/ERB) and the Public Employee Retiree Association, (PERA). The benefits for both systems are regulated by the New Mexico Legislature. The ERB and PERA each have their own boards, executive directors, and investment officers. Both retirement systems have different retirement calculations for benefits and COLA.

Currently, the Educational Retirement Board is recommending one piece of legislation. HB 75 is sponsored by Senator Natalie Figueroa. This legislation affects unclaimed member contributions; payment of allowed member service within ninety days; restrictions on gifts received; disability status; and retired member information. HB 75 was scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee, February 3, 2025, at 9AM, however, the SEC Chair, Senator Soules, rolled it over to another time.

You can count on your UNM Retiree Association to alert you if any other ERB bills arise during the session that concerns retirement benefits for ERB active or retired members.

On a sad note, we are reporting the passing of Vi Florez Tighe's spirit. The UNM Retiree Association, University of New Mexico, and State of New Mexico will miss Vi, who gave so much of her talents and energy to advance education in our state. Vi served on the UNM Retiree Association Board and as the Legislative Committee Co-chair where she provided a steady, guiding voice. Her legacy will continue in the many lives she touched.

<https://www.legacy.com/.../viola-florez-tighe-obituary...>

ERB Legislation:

SB 75, Educational Retirement Changes Sponsor: Senator Natalie Figueroa,

Synopsis: Relating to educational retirement; making changes to the educational retirement act; clarifying restrictions on receipt of gifts; providing for unclaimed member

contributions to be deposited into the educational retirement fund; clarifying certain terms; allowing for a member on disability status who is over sixty and who receives an annuity adjustment to continue receiving the annuity adjustment; requiring payment of allowed service within ninety days; allowing for disclosure of member or retired member information to the public employees retirement board to administer.

Status: Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee on February 3, 2025, at 9 A.M. It was rolled over to an undetermined time.

Current Location:

PERA Legislation:

HB 96, PERA Member Temporary Payment

Sponsors: Representative Joseph Sanchez, Cynthia Borrego, and Nicole Chavez

Synopsis: Would provide an additional payment to those receiving pension benefits from the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) in FY26 and FY27. Payments would equal 2 percent of the beneficiary's payments from the prior fiscal year. The additional payments would only be distributed in FY26 and FY27 and would not be considered when calculating future cost-of-living adjustments.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sess.../25%20Regular/firs/HB0096.PDF>

Status: HB 96 was heard in House Labor, Veteran's, and Military Affairs Committee on January 23, 2025, and received a DO PASS, 10 Yes, 0 No.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/.../25.../bills/house/HB0096LV1.pdf>

The bill was referred to the House Appropriations Finance Committee, (HAFC).

Current Location: Assigned to the House Appropriations Finance Committee and awaiting a hearing date.

SB 30, PERA Two Percent Cost of Living Adjustments

Sponsors: Senators Liz Stefanics, Alan Martinez, Joy Garratt, Linda Trujillo, and Cynthia Borrego,

Synopsis: Relating to Public Employees Retirement; Restoring a 2% Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Certain Retired Members; Making an Appropriation.

Status: It was heard in the Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee on January 21, 2025, where it received a DO PASS and was referred on to the Senate Finance Committee.

Current Location: It is waiting to be scheduled for the Senate Finance Committee calendar.

SB 117, PERA Cost of Living Adjustment

Sponsor: Senators Michael Padilla and Liz Stefanics

Synopsis: Relating to public employee retirement; repealing and reenacting a new section 10-11-118 nmsa 1978 (being laws 2020, chapter 11, section 61) relating to cost-of-living adjustment provisions for qualified pension recipients; providing cost-of-living adjustments that are equal to social security and supplemental security income cost-of-living adjustments; making an appropriation.

Status: Senate Health and Public Affairs on January 23, 2025, and received a DO PASS. It was sent to the Senate Finance Committee.

Current Location: It is waiting to be scheduled for the Senate Finance Committee calendar.

Committee testimonies can be done via zoom. You can watch floor and committee hearings by the public via webcast. If you are planning on going to the Roundhouse to visit a legislator or attend a session in the House or Senate, please follow all Roundhouse guidelines.

Please stay tuned for future updates!

IT IS UP TO ALL OF US, RETIREES AND THOSE STILL WORKING, TO PROTECT OUR BENEFITS!!! WHAT CAN YOU DO??

- Track the bill – State bill finder site - https://nmlegis.gov/Legislation/Bill_Finder
- Sign up with UNM Government and Community Relations to receive bill updates and alerts – <https://govrel.unm.edu/updates/index.html>.
- UNM 2024 Legislative Priorities - <https://govrel.unm.edu/.../2022-legislative-priorities3.pdf>
- Know your state senator's and representative's contact information before you really need it - Find your legislator by address - https://www.nmlegis.gov/Members/Find_By_Address
- Write, call, or tweet legislators - CAPITOL SWITCHBOARD - (505-986-4300) & nmlegis

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION CALENDAR:

- Thursday, January 2 – Friday, January 17 - Legislation may be pre-filed.
- Tuesday, January 21 - Opening day (noon)
- Thursday, February 20 - Deadline for introduction (Note: Legislation filed as a dummy bill can be introduced at any time.)

- Saturday, March 22 - Session ends (noon)
- Friday, April 11 - Legislation not acted upon by the governor is pocket vetoed.
- Friday, June 20 - The effective date of legislation, not a general appropriation bill or a bill carrying an emergency clause or other specified date.

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Members/Find_By_Address