

Subject: UNM Retiree Association Legislative Update 1.26.2026

Greetings UNM Retiree Association,

As we enter the second week of the thirty-day State of New Mexico 57th Legislative Second Session, Governor Lujan Grisham has no intention of being a lame duck governor. Her work is not done and outlined an extensive agenda on public safety, the environment, education, and healthcare in her opening address to the legislature last Tuesday. She asked for bipartisan support on all these issues; especially public safety bills and healthcare legislation concerning joining several interstate medical and changes to the state's medical malpractice laws. She emphasized the latter stating, "We've done as much as possible to protect health care coverage; now we need to do more to expand healthcare access." Now it is up to the legislators to get the job done for the good of New Mexico.

The legislators in the House and Senate heard the governor and are delivering. The second day of the session ten bills addressing healthcare interstate compacts passed their first committee. And in a bipartisan action, on Friday, January 23, the Senate approved Senate Bill 1, the Medical Licensure Interstate Compact Act. A legislative body willing to be receptive to addressing the healthcare crisis sends an excellent message to New Mexico citizens. If approved, New Mexico will become the 45th state to join the Medical Licensure Compact.

A bill important to ERB retirees is House Bill 40, Temporary ERB Payment, sponsored by Representative Cynthia Borrego. This legislation appropriates \$65.5 million from the general fund and proposes to provide ALL ERB retirees and eligible beneficiaries with a non-compounding 13th check equal to 2 percent of their annualized benefit, in fiscal years 2027 and 2028. The bill will be heard in the House Education Committee on Wednesday, January 28, at 8:30 am. Please contact members of the House Education Committee.

House Education Committee Representatives

Andreas Romero – Chair - andres.romero@nmlegis.gov – aide, Mary Wommack - 505-946-5610

Joy Garratt – Vice Chair - joy.garratt@nmlegis.gov – aide, Lien-Shin Wang Offerman - 505-946-5629

Brian Baca – Ranking Member - brian.baca@nmlegis.gov – aide, Ariana Saiz - 505-946-5608

Jack Chatfield – Member - jack.chatfield@nmlegis.gov – 505-986-4467

Cathrine Cullen – Member - catherine.cullen@nmlegis.gov – aide, Tonja Brandt - 505-946-5657

Martha Garcia – Member - martha.garcia@nmlegis.gov – 505-986-4464

Anita Gonzales – Member - anita.gonzales@nmlegis.gov – aide, Maria Lowe - 505-946-5670

Yanira Gurrola – Member - yanira.gurrola@nmlegis.gov – aide, Odalys Marquez - 505-946-5616

Raymundo Lara – Member - raymundo.lara@nmlegis.gov – aide, Faustino Peres - 505-946-5634

Tanya Mirabal Moya – Member - Tanya.MirabalMoya@nmlegis.gov – aide, Dasha Wood – 505-946-5607

Patricia Roybal Caballero – Member - pat.roybalcaballero@nmlegis.gov – aide, Nicole Maestas – 505-946-5613

Diane Torres Velasquez – Member - diane.torres-velasquez@nmlegis.gov – aide, Kendall Kappler – 505-946-5630

Harlan Vincent – Member - Harlan.Vincent@nmlegis.gov – aide, Coda Omness - 505-946-5656

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

UNM has a long list of priorities for this session to advance health care, campus public safety, workforce development, and statewide opportunities. Go here to read more about these investments in our students, research, and workforce.

<https://news.unm.edu/news/unms-2026-legislative-priorities-advance-health-care-public-safety-workforce-development-and-statewide-opportunity>

<https://govrel.unm.edu/state-legislative-sessions/2026/index.html>

ERB Legislation:

HB 40, ERB Member Temporary Payment

Sponsor: Representative Cynthia Borrego

Synopsis: Appropriates \$65.5 million from the general fund and proposes to provide ALL ERB retirees and eligible beneficiaries with a non-compounding 13th check equal to 2 percent of their annualized benefit, in fiscal years 2027 and 2028.

Status: To be heard in the House Education Committee, Wednesday, January 28, 8:30 a.m.

Current Location: House Education Committee

PERA Legislation:

HB 41, PERA Member Temporary Payment

Sponsor: Representative Cynthia Borrego

Synopsis: Appropriates \$70 million from the general fund and proposes to provide ALL ERB retirees and eligible beneficiaries with a non-compounding 13th check equal to 2 percent of their annualized benefit, in fiscal years 2027 and 2028.

Status: Heard in the House Government, Elections and Indian Affairs Committee on Monday, January 26 and received a unanimous **Do Pass**.

Current Location: Awaiting a committee assignment.

SB 52, PERA Cost-of-Living Adjustments

Sponsor: Senators Michael Padilla and Peter Wirth

Synopsis: Relating to public employee retirement; repealing and reenacting a section of the public employee retirement act 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: Awaiting a committee hearing in Senate Health and Public Affairs.

Current Location:

SB 71, PERA Changes

Sponsor: Senator David Gallegos

Synopsis: Relating to public employee retirement; including public safety telecommunicators as police members under the public employee retirement act; providing for elections pertaining to the adoption of the police member coverage plans for current public safety telecommunicators.

Status: No committee assignment.

Current Location: No committee assignment.

Other Bills:

HB 92, Social Security Income Expansion

Sponsor: Representatives Elaine Sena Cortez, & Rep. Cathryn N. Brown.

Synopsis: Relating to taxation; expanding the social security income exemption.

Status: Awaiting a hearing in the House Commerce & Economic Development Committee

Current Location: House Commerce & Economic Development Committee

Health Care Compact Bills - These bills streamline the licensing process for professionals to practice in multiple locations, particularly for telehealth and in-person care.

HB 10, Physician Assistant Interstate Compact.

HB 11, Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Compact.

HB Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.

HB 13, Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact.

HB 14, Dentist & Dental Licensure Hygienist Compact.

HB 31, EMS Personnel Licensure Compact.

HB 32, Counseling Licensure Compact.

HB 33, Psychology Inter jurisdictional Compact.

HB 44, Dental & Dental Hygienist Compact.

HB 45, Physician Assistant Licensure Compact.

HB 50, Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact.

The House bills are scheduled for a second hearing on January 26, 2026, in the House Judiciary Committee.

SB 1, Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Act. SB 1 was approved in the Senate on Friday on 131-9 vote and now goes to the House.

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 2026 Legislative Priorities –

[2026 Legislative Session: Office of Government & Community Relations | The University of New Mexico](#)

- Know your state senators and representatives 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

Committee testimonies and comments can be made in person or 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.

2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION CALENDAR:

- Friday, January 2 – Friday, January 16 - Legislation may be pre-filed.
- Tuesday, January 20 - Opening day (noon)
- Wednesday, February 4 - Deadline for introduction (Note: Legislation filed as a dummy bill can be introduced at any time.)
- Thursday, 19 - Session ends (noon)
- Wednesday, March 11 - Legislation not acted upon by the governor is pocket vetoed.
- Wednesday, May 20 - The effective date of legislation, not a general appropriation bill or a bill carrying an emergency clause or other specified date.