

Subject: UNM Retiree Association Legislative Update 2.9.2026

Greetings UNM Retiree Association,

We have 11 days left until the thirty-day State of New Mexico 57th Legislative Second Session ends on Wednesday, February 19, at noon. Many bills are stalling in committees. Bill HB 40, ERB Member Temporary Payment, continues to linger on the House Appropriations and Finance Committee calendar. The bill appropriates \$65.5 million from the state general fund to ERB for a 13th non-compounding COLA's check for eligible retiree members. The legislature approved a similar bill, SB 72, in 2020 for PERA retirees. That previous PERA appropriation for a temporary, non-compounding COLAs infusion of monies had a final cost of \$43,270 million below the final \$55 million appropriation of the \$75 million originally requested. <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/20%20Regular/firs/SB0072.PDF> Please call the House Appropriations and Finance Committee, (HAFC), to voice your opinion about HB 40 and request the bill be heard in committee. A link to the HAFC members is included here. https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Standing_Committee?CommitteeCode=HAFC You can count on your UNM Retiree Association to alert you if any other bills arise during the session concerning retirement benefits 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>

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

ERB Legislation:

HB 40, ERB Member Temporary Payment

Sponsor: Representatives Cynthia Borrego, Eli Thompson, and Joseph Sanchez.

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: It was heard in the House Education Committee on Wednesday, January 28, where it received a **DO Pass**, with 12 yes and 1 no vote.

Current Location: House Appropriations and Finance Committee.

PERA Legislation:

HB 41, PERA Member Temporary Payment

Sponsor: Representatives Cynthia Borrego, Liz Stefanics, Joseph Sanchez, Wonda Johnson, and Charlotte Little.

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: House Appropriations and Finance Committee.

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: Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee.

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: Awaiting a committee hearing in the Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee.

Current Location: Senate Health and Public Affairs.

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: Received a **Do Pass** in the House Commerce & Economic Development Committee and referred to the Senate Tax & Revenue Committee

Current Location: Senate Tax & Revenue 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. – Signed by the Governor
SB 1, Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Act. SB 1 – Signed by the Governor
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.