

Subject: UNM Retiree Association Legislative Update 3.02.2026

Greetings UNM Retiree Association,

The thirty-day State of New Mexico 57th Legislative Second Session has adjourned. We want to thank all those who called or wrote your elected officials and voiced your opinion about HB 40, Temporary COLA Payment. While HB 40 died in committee, your board is already working on ways to gain support in 2027 for legislation that can help our retirees.

SM 31, PERA Work Group, passed the Senate and is on the Governor's desk awaiting her signature. The sponsors of the bill were Senators Liz Stefanics, Linda Trujillo, Natalie Figueroa, Michael Padilla, and Peter Wirth. Even though this does not directly affect ERB members, we will be following what the PERA Work Group recommends. <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Agendas/Floor/sFloor021626.pdf?t=63906845085402641>

You can read the Fiscal Impact Report at this

link. <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/26%20Regular/firs/SM031.PDF>

Governor, Michelle Lujan Grisham, has until March 11 to either sign the bill on her desk or pocket veto bill. The governor proposed calling a special session if medical malpractice reform was not addressed. There will be no need, House Bill 99 was approved by the Senate on the last days of the session and was sent to the governor's desk.

The Governor has signed the following bills:

House Bill 1 – Feed Bill

Senate Bill 19 – School Finance Unit Value Reset

Senate Bill 1 – Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

House Bill 50 – Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact

Senate Bill 2 – Transportation Bonding Bill

House Bill 9 – Immigrant Safety Act

Other legislation passed to address the shortage of doctors and access was the following:

- ? Create a \$10,000 income tax credit for doctors.
- ? Increasing funding for student loan repayment program for aspiring doctors.
- ? Increasing revenue to the state's Health Care Affordability Fund.
- ? Funding provided for the new University of New Mexico medical school building.
- ? Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact.
- ? Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Act.

In a surprise turnaround in the last week of the session, the LFC earlier recommended an \$11.1 billion budget without a 1% raise for educators. The Senate supported the budget without the teacher's raise. It was later restored in a Corporate Income Tax change bill. HB 2 was approved in the House on a 55-15 vote and the Senate on a 23-16 vote. HB 2 has been sent to the governor for her signature. State employees in K-12 and higher education will benefit from this legislation.

FAILED LEGISLATION:

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. **Died in 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 PERA 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. **Died in 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. **Died in 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. **Died in Committee**

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. **Died in 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; **Died in Committee**

HB 11, Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Compact; **Died in Committee**

HB Physical Therapy Licensure Compact; **Died in Committee**

HB 13, Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact; **Died in Committee**

HB 14, Dentist & Dental Licensure Hygienist Compact; **Died in Committee**

HB 31, EMS Personnel Licensure Compact; **Died in Committee**

HB 32, Counseling Licensure Compact; **Died in Committee**

HB 33, Psychology Inter jurisdictional Compact; **Died in Committee**

HB 44, Dental & Dental Hygienist Compact; **Died by Committee**

HB 45, Physician Assistant Licensure Compact; **Died in Committee**

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??**

- 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

Interim committee testimonies and comments can be made in person or via zoom. You can watch committee hearings by the public via webcast. If you are planning on going to the Roundhouse for an interim committee hearing, 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.