

From the UNM Retiree Association Legislative Committee:

The New Mexico 57th Legislative Session officially adjourned at noon on Saturday, March 22, 2025. Counting dummy bills, 1,328 pieces of legislation were introduced in this session, including resolutions, memorials, and bills. 246 bills were passed in both Chambers, the House and Senate. To date, the Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has signed 22 bills. The Governor has until April 11, 2025, to either sign or pocket veto legislation sent to her desk.

During this session, the Legislature passed HJR 2a that states a reason must be given by the Governor for any legislation pocket vetoed. In the fall, voters will decide if the Governor is required to give a substantiated explanation for a veto.

The ERB bills waiting to be signed on the Governor's desk are SB 133a, Educational Retirees Returning to work and HB 251, Educational Retirement Beneficiary Changes.

The Governor has signed SB 75, Educational Retirement Changes, which makes changes to the technical language.

The UNM Retiree Association thanks you all for your continuing engagement with your elected legislative representatives in the House and Senate. We appreciate the calls, emails, and texts you sent to make your voice heard. Please join our efforts to work on behalf of UNM Retirees.

ERB Legislation:

HB 251, Educational Retirement Beneficiary Changes

Sponsor: Representatives William Hall, Tanya Mirabal Moya, and Brian Baca

Synopsis: The bill allows a retired member under option B or C, with a member's spouse as the designated beneficiary, to exercise a one-time irrevocable option to deselect the designated beneficiary and designate another. If passed, this will bring ERB into parity with PERA.

Status: HB 251 received a unanimous DO PASS in the House Labor, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee. The House Education Committee gave HB 251 a DO PASS. Received a DO PASS in the House. Received a DO PASS in the Senate.

Current Location: On the Governor's desk.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/house/HB0251.pdf>

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/firs/HB0251.PDF>

HB 254a, Educational Retirees Returning to Work Time Period

Sponsor: Representatives Tanya Mirabal Moya, Joy Garrett, Brian Baca, and Anita Gonzales

Synopsis: The bill extends the current 36 months RTW period to 84 months but was amended to extend the current statutory employment period from 36 months to 60 months in the House Labor, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee.

Status: Received a DO PASS with amendment in the HLVMA Committee.

Current Location: SB 133a replaces this bill and it is waiting to be signed by the Governor.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/house/HB0254.pdf>

HB 454, Educational Retirement Changes

Sponsor: Representatives Brian Baca and Joy Garratt

Synopsis: The bill directs sixty million to ERB to provide 13th checks to ERB retirees in fiscal years 2026 and 2027. Sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the educational retirement board for expenditure in fiscal year 2026 and subsequent fiscal years to provide adequate funding to cover the cost of the temporary, additional, non-compounding payments. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

Status: It has been sent to the House Education Committee for a hearing.

Current Location: Dead

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/house/HB0454.pdf>

SB 75a, 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: It received a DO PASS, 9 for, 0 against and sent to the Senate Finance Committee with amendments. It received a DO PASS in the Senate Finance Committee. Passed the Senate Floor, 34 to 0. It received a unanimous DO PASS in the House Education Committee. DO PASS in the House Government, Elections & Indian Affairs Committee. Received a DO PASS in the Senate and the House.

Current Location: The Governor has signed this bill.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0075.pdf>

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/Amendments_In_Context/SB0075.pdf

SB 133a, Educational Retirees Returning to Work

Sponsor: Senators Peter Wirth and Mimi Stewart

Synopsis: The bill amends Section 22-11-25.1 NMSA 1978 of the Educational Retirement Act to raise the maximum amount a retiree may earn per year from return-to-work employment with an affiliated employer, from \$15 thousand to \$25 thousand, without suspending their retirement benefits. This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns if enacted, or June 20, 2025.

Status: SB 133 was heard in the Senate Education Committee (SEC) on Friday, February 7, 2025, where it received a DO PASS, 7 for, 0 against with amendment. It received a DO PASS in the Senate Finance Committee. It received a DO PASS in the House Education Committee.

Current Location: On the Governor's desk.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0133.pdf>

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/Amendments_In_Context/SB0133.pdf

PERA Legislation:

HB 96, PERA Member Temporary Payment

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

Synopsis: Would provide an additional non-compounding 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 the years FY26 and FY27 and would not be considered when calculating future cost-of-living adjustments.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/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.

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. Dead.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/house/HB0096LV1.pdf>

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

HB 164, Increase Retiree COLA

Sponsor: Representatives Joy Garratt and Alan Martinez

Synopsis: House Bill 164 (HB164) would increase annual cost-of-living adjustments for retirees from state government receiving benefits from the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) who House Bill 164 – Page 2 are 65 or older. Additionally, the bill would allow local governments to opt into a program to have cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) increased for retirees from their governments by making contributions to cover the actuarial impact of the increased contribution. HB164 appropriates \$10 million from the general fund to PERA to fund cost-of-living adjustment increases for state government retirees. This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns if enacted, or June 20, 2025. However, the bill's provisions are specific to increase in FY26 and future years.

Status: Scheduled for the House Government and Indian Affairs Committee (HFIAC), Monday, February 10, 8 a.m., Room 305. The bill received a DO PASS.

Current Status: Awaiting a hearing in the House Appropriations Finance Committee. Dead.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/house/HB0164.pdf>

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/firs/HB0164.PDF>

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 amended and received a DO PASS by the Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee, (SHPAC).

Current Location: Senate Finance Committee. Dead.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0030.pdf>

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/firs/SB0030.PDF>

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: Awaits a hearing in the Senate Health and Public Affairs, (SHPAC).

Current Location: Dead.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0117.pdf>

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION CALENDAR:

- 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.