

**MINUTES
of the
FIRST MEETING
of the
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**May 1, 2024
State Capitol, Room 322
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order by Representative Debra M. Sariñana, chair, on May 1, 2024 at 10:18 a.m. in Room 322 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Rep. Joy Garratt
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto*
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez*

Absent

Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Vice Chair
Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Sen. William F. Burt
Rep. Jason C. Harper
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez
Rep. Charlotte Little
Sen. William P. Soules

Advisory Members

Rep. Christine Chandler

Rep. Gail Chasey
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Rep. Jenifer Jones
Rep. Willie D. Madrid
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill
Rep. Larry R. Scott
Rep. Linda Serrato

*Appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate as a voting member for this meeting only.

Staff

Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Sabina Gaynor, Staff Attorney, LCS
Ralph Vincent, Systems Consultant, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

Wednesday, May 1

Welcome and Introductions

Representative Sariñana welcomed the committee, and members of the committee and staff introduced themselves.

Overview of Sectors Impacted by Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use

Melanie Moses, Ph.D., professor, Department of Computer Science, University of New Mexico (UNM), provided an update on the evolution of AI and provided examples of how generative AI works. She described work at UNM using AI and also provided the members with ideas of what legislators can do to shape the future of AI in New Mexico. Dr. Moses stressed that members should provide "guardrails" for the use of AI to not only protect election campaigns but also to look at state protections for health care, public safety, public education and other areas. She emphasized the importance of providing transparency on AI algorithms that are used to make decisions that affect people's freedoms, financial situation, health and safety. Committee members questioned Dr. Moses on transparency and equity concerns around the use of generative AI. Members also discussed the electrical and water usage concerns for large AI data and computing centers. Dr. Moses stated that powering AI systems may soon consume about 10% of the electricity used in the United States. Dr. Moses suggested that the legislature create a study group to discuss the future of AI and the needs for development and regulation. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=5/1/2024&ItemNumber=1>.

2024 Proposed Work Plan and Meeting Schedule

Mr. Edwards presented the proposed work plan for the 2024 interim, and committee members discussed it. With regard to AI, the committee decided to focus on:

A. transparency, including where AI is being used and how it is used. As a starting point, that examination will begin with government uses and a look at House Bill 184 (2024) but may expand to look at private-sector uses as time and available presenters permit;

B. literacy, particularly as part of K-12 education but also programs for adults;

C. impacts on the provision of services, particularly in health care and expanding into other areas as time permits; and

D. resource demands, including how increased AI use will increase the demand for electricity, water and labor. Potential areas of investigation include what type of workforce will be needed to meet an AI-driven economy and by how much labor needs will be reduced through the use of AI.

Following the discussion, committee members voted to approve the proposed work plan and meeting schedule, as amended. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=5/1/2024&ItemNumber=2>.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.