



**MINUTES
of the
FOUR-HUNDRED-NINETEENTH MEETING
of the
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**May 13, 2024
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

The four-hundred-nineteenth meeting of the Legislative Council was called to order by Senator Mimi Stewart, co-chair, on May 13, 2024 at 9:35 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Javier Martínez, Co-Chair
Sen. Mimi Stewart, Co-Chair
Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. Rod Montoya
Sen. Michael Padilla
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Sen. Peter Wirth

Special Advisory Members Present

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm

Guest Legislator

Sen. Joseph Cervantes

Absent

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Gregory A. Baca
Rep. Gail Chasey
Sen. Steven P. Neville
Rep. Andrea Romero
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr.

Special Advisory Members Absent

Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown
Sen. Pete Campos
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Susan K. Herrera
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Matthew McQueen
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Rep. Nathan P. Small
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

Staff

Raúl E. Burciaga, Director, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Shawna Casebier, Assistant Director for Drafting Services, LCS
Anesa Serna-Espinoza, Assistant Director for Administration, LCS
Jeret Fleetwood, Project Coordinator, LCS
Erin Bond, Researcher, LCS
Domenica Nieto, Research Assistant, LCS

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made, seconded and approved, the council adopted the minutes of the March 25, 2024 meeting of the council as submitted.

District Office Staffing: Staff Working Group Recommendations

Mr. Burciaga provided the council with the recommendations made by the staff working group on legislative district offices. He explained that each member would be provided with a year-round district legislative aide (DLA) who would remain in the district, with each member having the ability to opt in or out of having an aide. Additionally, leadership offices would hire district office liaisons to assist with hiring and training DLAs. Mr. Burciaga also noted that because 2024 is an election year, the working group recommended a staggered time line for hiring DLAs. Those members who had no general election opposition could hire a DLA on September 1, 2024; those members who did have general election opposition could hire a DLA on December 1, 2024; and newly elected members would be able to hire a DLA on April 1, 2025. Leadership offices and the LCS could begin hiring district office liaisons and other support staff on July 1, 2024. Mr. Burciaga went on to discuss funding for district staff, noting that while the initial funding appropriated by the legislature would not be sufficient to cover year-round staff, supplemental funding could be placed in the feed bill during the 2025 session.

Representative Martínez thanked the staff for developing the recommendations, noting that he expected the council to vote on them during the June meeting.

Members raised the following concerns about the staff recommendations:

- the management or oversight of district staff;
- hiring and training;
- the status of unused funding;
- the selection and location of district offices;
- any liability of members as employers;
- office space in the State Capitol complex for district office liaisons;
- out-of-state employees;
- PERA benefits; and
- a prohibition on electioneering.

Interim Committees

Mr. Burciaga explained that two interim committees, the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee (LHHS) and Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee (CCJ), would begin work earlier than usual. Staff for those committees presented their work plans, meeting schedules (including additional meeting dates) and budgets to the council. Mr. Burciaga noted that additional meeting dates had already been approved for the LHHS.

On a motion made, seconded and passed, the council approved additional meeting dates and \$5,000 for expert testimony for the CCJ.

Representative Martínez announced the following interim committee appointments:

- Representative William A. Hall will serve as an advisory member on the CCJ and the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee; and
- Representative Jared A. Hembree will serve as an advisory member on the CCJ.

Classification and Compensation Plan: Staff Working Group Recommendations

Mr. Burciaga explained that, after adopting the proposed staff compensation and classification plan, the council directed staff to develop policies to go alongside the plan. He explained that recommendations included updating job descriptions, a review of those descriptions by an outside consultant, the development of policies for salary increases for staff, clerks and agency directors and a determination of salaries for new hires. Standardization of tuition reimbursement policies was also recommended. Additionally, it was recommended that these policies, along with others such as hybrid work schedules, be reviewed every few years.

Executive Session

On a motion made, seconded and passed, the council went into executive session.

Upon returning to open session, the council announced that the council approved a pay increase to the maximum allowed for Mr. Burciaga as a gesture of gratitude for his years of hard work in service to the legislature.

There being no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.