



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

**September 11, 2023
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

The four-hundred-fifteenth meeting of the Legislative Council was called to order by Senator Mimi Stewart, co-chair, on September 11, 2023 at 1:36 p.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Javier Martínez, Co-Chair
Sen. Mimi Stewart, Co-Chair
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Gregory A. Baca
Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Rep. Gail Chasey
Sen. Steven P. Neville
Rep. Greg Nibert
Sen. Michael Padilla
Rep. Andrea Romero
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr.
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Sen. Peter Wirth

Special Advisory Members Present

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Sen. Pete Campos
Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil
Rep. Matthew McQueen
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew

Absent

Sen. Katy M. Duhigg
Rep. T. Ryan Lane

Special Advisory Members Absent

Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Susan K. Herrera
Sen. Stuart Ingle
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Rep. Nathan P. Small
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

Staff

Raúl E. Burciaga, Director, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Amy Chavez-Romero, Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, 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
Nancy Martinez, Researcher, LCS
Sara Wiedmaier, Researcher, LCS

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made, seconded and approved, the council adopted the minutes of the June 26, 2023 and July 28, 2023 meetings of the council as submitted.

Pre-Session Approval

Mr. Burciaga explained that council approval is required for the chief clerks to hire pre-session staff.

On a motion made, seconded and passed, the council authorized the house and senate chief clerks to hire core pre-session staff beginning in October.

Interim Committee Business

Mr. Burciaga explained that the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee had requested funding for expert testimony, not to exceed \$5,000, regarding a presentation on artificial intelligence from the Criminal Justice Institute.

On a motion made, seconded and passed, the council authorized funding, not to exceed \$5,000, for expert testimony for the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee.

Mr. Burciaga noted that two interim committees had rescheduled meetings due to funeral services for former Governor Bill Richardson. The Legislative Education Study Committee moved its meeting to September 20-22, and the Indian Affairs Committee moved its meeting to September 25-26.

Appointments

Mr. Burciaga announced that Anjali Taneja was appointed by the speaker to the Insurance Nominating Committee and Nora Vasquez was reappointed to the committee, both for terms expiring on June 30, 2027.

Status of Legislative District/Regional Staff Offices Study

Mr. Burciaga explained that surveys had been sent by Research & Polling, Inc. to legislators and legislative staff. He also noted that Architectural Research Consultants, Inc. were conducting a survey of office space around the state, the National Conference of State

Legislatures was assisting with research regarding legislative staff structures and support and The Focus Group was in communication with at least six other states to gather information.

Mr. Burciaga suggested a council meeting on October 16 for a presentation by the various groups working on the study.

Staff Reports

Mr. Burciaga noted that audiovisual upgrades to committee rooms were still in progress. He said that work on the video boards in each chamber would be completed later in the month.

Mr. Burciaga indicated that he was continuing to develop policies for use of committee rooms and chambers by state agencies, nonprofit organizations and other nonlegislative entities. He noted that the legislature helped a number of organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic with meeting space, webcasting, archiving and closed captioning. However, those are costs that cannot be recouped and even if they could they would be paid into the General Fund, not into legislative funds. He stated that there will be some limitations on what can be provided for nonlegislative entities.

Mr. Burciaga said that long-time legislative employees David Pacheco and Kathy Pacheco-Dofflemeyer lost their mother recently.

Mr. Burciaga also announced funeral services and associated events for former Governor Bill Richardson.

Other Business

Regarding a recent public health order that was challenged, a member inquired about procedures for initiating an extraordinary session, and Senator Stewart clarified that the process would be initiated by legislators rather than the Legislative Council. A member also inquired about Article 4, Section 35 of the Constitution of New Mexico impeachment procedures, and Senator Stewart advised that the member consult Mr. Burciaga.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.