

**2016 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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Work Plan

The Economic and Rural Development Committee (ERDC) was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council on May 9, 2016. During the 2016 interim, and as time permits, the ERDC proposes to explore and discuss major areas and specific issues affecting economic and rural development in the state as follows:

A. regulation, licensing and policy revisions, including:

1. liquor licensing, unintended consequences of the current regulatory scheme and industry suggestions to address licensing concerns specific to rural communities;
2. workers' compensation, including a summary of its historical development;
3. prevailing wage and minimum wage issues; and
4. New Mexico's competitiveness with other states in creating a business-friendly environment;

B. taxes and financial incentives;

C. business development resources and state-supported strategies, including:

1. economic and rural development strategies and successes from other states; and
2. public-private partnerships and the promotion of private industry investment in the state;

D. infrastructure, utilities and basic needs in New Mexico communities, including:

1. health care workforce development;
2. building a smarter energy infrastructure through a balanced energy mix;
3. established and developing energy industries and the status of the energy economy and its prospects for the future;
4. mining in Cibola County;
5. affordable broadband expansion in rural New Mexico; and
6. the status of and need for utility infrastructure in rural New Mexico;

E. workforce training, education and research;

F. reports from executive agencies, political subdivisions and legislative committees, including:

1. current and proposed programs and 2017 legislative session priorities of the Economic Development Department;
2. current and proposed programs and 2017 legislative session priorities of the Workforce Solutions Department;
3. current and proposed programs and 2017 legislative session priorities of the Regulation and Licensing Department and its associated divisions;
4. updates and 2017 legislative session priorities of the Taxation and Revenue Department;
5. the Jobs Council's job creation plan;
6. updates and 2017 legislative session priorities of acequias;

7. updates and 2017 legislative session priorities of the New Mexico Film Division and the film industry;
8. updates on allocations from the Public School Capital Outlay Fund for broadband infrastructure in rural schools;
9. a report from the Elephant Butte Irrigation District on water issues significant to lower Rio Grande users; and
10. progress reports on the expenditure of funds specifically appropriated by the legislature for economic development purposes;

G. additional topics relating to rural and economic development in the state, including:

1. the development and promotion of agritourism in New Mexico;
2. the development of biotechnology industry in the state;
3. New Mexico First town hall recommendations on economic development policy;
4. the economic impact of the Gathering of Nations;
5. the Site Selectors Guild criteria for corporate site selection;
6. the economic impacts of opioid use in rural communities; and
7. industrial hemp and its potential as an alternative cash crop; and

H. proposed economic-development-related legislation and reevaluation of previously proposed or committee-endorsed legislation.

**Economic and Rural Development Committee
2016 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 3	Santa Fe
July 13-14	Grants
August 3-4	Las Cruces
September 1-2	Roswell
October 11-12	Anton Chico — joint meeting with Land Grant Committee; Las Vegas
November 2-3	Santa Fe