

April 11, 2025

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 28

The Honorable Mimi Stewart, President Pro Tempore
and Members of the New Mexico State Senate
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

President Pro Tempore Stewart and Members of the Senate:

I have decided to veto SENATE BILL 315, which designates the tortilla as the official state bread, as well as SENATE BILL 327 and SENATE BILL 377, which create low-rider and New Mexico United license plates, respectively.

I am vetoing this legislation to send a clear message: in a time of extraordinary challenges, New Mexicans need discipline and urgency from their elected officials. What they received this session was far too often the opposite. Hundreds of bills never saw the light of day on the House or Senate floor or even in committees, not because they lacked merit, but because the Legislature ran out of time or simply refused to give the legislation a hearing. Some, like legislation to regulate synthetic cannabinoids and keep dangerous substances out of the hands of children, died while waiting for concurrence—a process that can take less than a minute.

Yet in those final hours of the session, and in the wake of a mass shooting in Las Cruces that went unacknowledged by House leadership, the House found time to debate the merits of a state bread. And the Legislature found time to pass not one, not two, but three separate license plate bills—despite already having 40 specialty plates on the books. One of those license plate bills even made it through the Senate Finance Committee, where lawmakers claimed they did not have time to hear a bill that would have helped build more housing for New Mexicans. That was not just a missed opportunity—it was a misuse of time and priorities.

Of course, I enjoy celebrating our unique culture. But New Mexico already has a state cookie, a state amphibian, *two* state vegetables, a state song, a Spanish language state song, a state ballad, a state bilingual song, *and* a state cowboy song. The question should not be how many more symbols we can collect—but whether we are meeting the moment with the gravity it demands. We are living in perilous and unprecedented times. The stakes for our State have never been higher. We need a Legislature that rises to the occasion and focuses on the work that truly matters to the people of New Mexico.

Because of these issues, and pursuant to my authority under Article IV, Section 22 of the New Mexico Constitution, I have vetoed SENATE BILL 315, SENATE BILL 327, and SENATE BILL 377, enacted by the Fifty-Seventh Legislature, First Session, 2025.

Despite my frustration with the Legislature, I want to applaud Adaline McIntosh, the Las Cruces student whose idea led to the legislation designating an official state bread. Allowing our students to be a part of the legislative process inspires civic engagement that will hopefully last for years to come. I hope Ms. McIntosh continues to advocate for issues that are important to her, and I look forward to a personal conversation with her to discuss those ideas.

Respectfully yours,

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

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Time: _____ a.m. p.m.
Date: _____ 2025

By _____
Secretary of State

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.
Date: _____ 2025

By _____
Chief Clerk of the Senate