



Guide to the [New Mexico Legislature's Website](#)

Information below follows from left to right the useful tabs across the top of the home page, including What's Happening, Webcast, and Quick Links.

Legislators - Dropdown menu

- Find my legislator
- Leadership
- Districts

Legislation - Dropdown menu

- Find Legislation by Number – Select a session, chamber, & # if available
- Find Legislation by Sponsor – Select a representative or senator
- Bill Finder – Search for bills by key word, sponsor, chamber, and see their status.
- Complete Legislation List- Click on list throughout session to see what has been added.

Though regular legislation must be filed by mid-session, leaders are allowed to file placeholder "dummy bills." These bills, labeled HB# or SB#, have the same innocuous title– "Public Peace, Health, Safety, and Welfare" but no content. This un-transparent practice skirts the deadline for filing bills. The public only gets to see the content of a dummy bill after a committee approves it late in the session, or it appears on a floor calendar renamed.

Key to Abbreviations

Sessions click the arrow and select session

Categories select 1, 2, or all three

Click on **GO** (Exception: Senate pre-filed bills are not available here until session starts.) You will see a list of legislation filed to date. See the Bill ID/#, Title, Sponsor, and actions. To see the text of the bill, click on the BILL ID on the left side of the screen.

Committees – Find links to specific House Committees, Senate Committees, and Interim Committees. Many committees post work plans and handouts under Committee Information. It also has the Legislative Calendar and Upcoming Committee Meetings, and the LegisLetter.

Publications – Find summaries of previous legislative sessions, Legislative Finance Committee and Legislative Education Study Committee analyses, economic summaries and projections, evaluations of state agencies, and more.

What's Happening – This link has the updated agendas for the committees and indicates the legislation that has made it to the chamber calendars. Schedules change frequently, so be sure to refresh your browser. Committee chairs hear bills when sponsors and experts are available, not in numerical order, so bills can be rolled over sometimes for weeks, especially when key legislators don't want them to make it through before the session ends.

Webcast – The legislature is conducted in-person and virtually. [Through this link](#) on you can see what is being webcast now. To comment both in-person and via Zoom, see the committee agenda for the specific information. You may have to register with the committee secretary in advance, though some committee chairs take public comment right after the sponsor presents

the legislation and before committee deliberation. There is no opportunity to comment later in the meeting and no way to see amendments that are presented during the hearing. The amendments are posted in context by the next day and may change the bill entirely. All floor meetings and committee meetings are webcast, and recent [recordings are available](#) here. The webcast page has links to recordings for floor sessions and interim and standing committees back to 2017. Unfortunately, there is no index to recordings, so you must know the date, time, and the committee or chamber when specific legislation was heard.

Quick Links is the best resource. **My Roundhouse** is an effective tool that enables you to track legislation and actions during a session. Once you have registered with your email, username, and password, you can easily add or remove legislation throughout the session and check its status. Click legislation link to see the original text, the amendments, and the Fiscal Impact Report (FIR) if an analysis has been done. Some committees insist on seeing FIRs before considering legislation. If a FIR becomes available, it's a great place to start because it not only summarizes legislation, but it also lists related bills, the legal background, and the projected financial impact. My Roundhouse also indicates when legislation is tentatively scheduled to be heard in a committee and links to the text. The legislative website is updated late each evening, making the tracking information as accurate as possible.

Your locators –n Click on "+". After naming your choices: Click on "Add legislation to locator", Check legislation you want to add, click on "Add checked legislation".

Downloads under Quick Links helps you see the votes that have been taken in committees, floor sessions, and other information. See also [Session Dates](#) List includes Glossary of Legislative Terms, Key to Abbreviations, Legislative Contracts, and more.

Highlights – Summaries of previous sessions provided by the Legislative Council Services.

Contact Info – Legislative Council Service, 505 986-4600, lcs@nmlegis.gov. Ask to be connected to the specific committee secretary to get the planned order legislation listed on the agenda may be heard and to learn schedule updates. Committee secretaries or legislative aides can take messages for your legislators and say when you might be able to see them if you are in the building. **Session Switchboard**, 505 986-4300, has only general information.

Legislative Council Service Library – 505-986-4656 or 505-986-4648. Library staff can help you with the legislative website and find legislation 1996-present and reports required by statute or memorial, historical LCS publications, and biographical information about former legislators.

Courtesy of AAUW-NM, Meredith Machen, State Public Policy Chair. Updated 1/12/22.