

A little more about interim committees

At Monday's excellent RGI meeting, I briefly brought up the importance of interacting with legislative interim committees, especially if we want to propose new legislation in any of our areas of especial interest. So here's a little about them as they are right now (HJR 2, if passed might make some major changes here).

Most of the interim committees have members from both the Senate and the House of Representatives, and most meet during the time between the end of one session (this year, March 22, 2025) and the beginning of the next one (next year, January 20, 2026). The frequency of meetings is determined by the chair – for example, the Legislative Health and Human Services (Interim) Committee met every month from May to November last year in various cities and towns throughout New Mexico. It heard testimony from citizens and experts on subjects ranging from prescription drug prices to improving behavioral health and supporting rural hospitals on agenda items published online in advance.

As another example, the Water and Natural Resources Interim Committee met five times during the same period, discussing such matters as New Mexico's Climate Investment Center, the Interstate Stream Commission, toxic chemical release, state parks, species of conservation need, and budgets for the environment department and the energy, minerals and natural resources department. Take a look at their [work plan](#) for 2024.

Although legislation is not passed during these sessions, much is discussed that will end up as legislation in the ensuing legislative sessions. In my experience, these sessions seem relatively relaxed and thoughtful and the discussions are collegial and respectful.

There were twenty-four interim committees for the 2024 legislative interim, including the New Mexico legislative council, the legislative education study committee, the legislative finance committee, the capitol buildings planning commission, the courts, corrections and justice committee, the economic and rural development and policy committee, the Indian affairs committee, the interim legislative ethics committee, the investments and pensions oversight committee, the land grant committee, the legislative health and human services committee, the military and veterans' affairs committee, the Mortgage Finance Authority Act oversight committee, the New Mexico finance authority oversight committee, the public school capital outlay oversight task force, the radioactive and hazardous materials committee, the revenue stabilization and tax policy committee, the science, technology and telecommunications committee, the tobacco settlement revenue oversight committee, the water and natural resources committee, the transportation infrastructure revenue subcommittee, the senate rules committee, the commission on uniform state laws and the educational commission of the states.

You can find out about interim committees on that wonderful website, nmlegis.com. From the home page, click on “Committees” and then on whatever interim committee you wish. Dates of last year’s meetings and their minutes and handouts are all available there; soon, the 2025 schedule, work plans, and interim committee membership will be available there.

My belief is that we should plan on interacting with the interim committees even more than the session-time committees, as the latter are much less able to take time to consider our views.