



Legislative Priorities as of 1/23/22
Second Session NM 55th Legislature, January 18 thru February 17, 2022
Committee for Veterans Advocacy, Rudy S. Martinez, Chair

Introduction: We work with legislators to develop legislation and provide the military family viewpoint on the impact of legislation. During the session we have the opportunity to testify in virtual legislative committee meetings during “public comment”. Information on the legislature, including full bill text, committees, and contact information for legislators, can be found at nmlegis.gov. You can join the VMF Caucus by calling 505-357-5334, Claudia Risner, Navy veteran, Caucus Chair.

Priority VMF Legislation we follow:

HB 12 - Landscape Assessment for AmericaServes (Sariñana, Barreras) - Appropriates \$100,000 to enable CNM to implement the statewide landscape assessment for the establishment of the AmericaServes New Mexico program, a coordinating entity for veterans’ benefits, services, and support. **Sent to HEC.**

HB 17 - Expand Rural Health Practitioner Tax Credit (M. Garcia) - Expands the eligibility for the rural health care practitioner tax credit to pharmacists and multiple types of mental health and substance abuse practitioners who practice in underserved rural areas. **Sent to HHHC.**

HB 55 - Public-Private Partnership Act (Garratt, Lundstrom, Brown, Powdrell-Culbert; Gonzales) - Would facilitate public bodies entering into partnerships with private corporations for the purpose of constructing certain public projects, defined herein as a public transportation facility or public transportation infrastructure other than a toll road, and construction or improvement of broadband telecommunications network facilities. **Sent to HCEDC.**

HB 70 - Raising Cap on Rural Universal Service Fund For 2022-2024 (Figueroa) - Would raise the cap on the Rural Universal Service Fund to \$40 million and would require the PRC to report on projects that have received broadband program funding. Would also allow \$75,000 to be spent by the PRC on auditing, measuring, and evaluating projects that receive funds from this program.

HB 76 - Military Retirement Income Tax Exemption (Anderson, H. Garcia, Lane, Garratt, Powdrell-Culbert) - Would provide an exemption from income tax for up to \$30,000 of military retirement pay. (Companion to **SB 85 - Tax Exemption for Military Retirement Pay**). **Sent to HLVMC.**

HB 78 - Cap on Certain Interest (Roybal Caballero) - Caps rate on loans to 36%, unless the prime rate exceeds 10%, in which case the rate is capped at 30% plus the prime rate.

HB 97 – Rural Health Care Project Loans – (Matthews, Hochman-Vigil, Castellano, C. Trujillo, Sariñana) - Authorizes the NM Finance Authority to make loans up to \$500K to eligible healthcare providers in rural areas for health care projects or the purchase of a health care practice. Establishes terms for those loans, creates the rural health care project fund and makes a \$7.5 million appropriation. Includes mental health and substance abuse services in the definition of health care. **Sent to HHHC.**

Continued on Page 2

HB 112 Substance Use Disorder Programs & Clinics (M. Garcia) - Appropriates \$917,800 for the improvement and renovation of a facility for the expansion of integrated substance use disorder programs in San Miguel County. **Sent to HHHC.**

HB 120 Broadband Changes and Definitions (Garratt, Figueroa, Chandler, Sweetser, Herrera) - Amends wording of the Connect New Mexico Act to take out contingent wording, amend definitions and update reporting dates.

HJR 1 - Public Assistance for Household Services, CA (Allison, Chandler, Sweetser, Serrato) - Would, upon approval by the voters, amend the NM Constitution's anti-donation clause to allow the state to provide funds or resources for residential essential household services. These services are defined as infrastructure such as internet, energy, water and wastewater services and others as defined by law. **Sent to HTPWC.**

HJR 6 Veteran Property Tax Exemption, CA (Alcon, Pettigrew, Black, Roybal Caballero) – Would provide a property tax exemption to disabled veterans proportionate to their percentage of disability. **Sent to HLVMC.**

HJR 7 Armed Forces & Widow Property Taxes, CA (Alcon, Pettigrew, Black, Roybal Caballero) – Would raise the property tax exemption for veterans and their widows/widowers to \$10,000 and thence index it to the rate of inflation. **Sent to HLVMC.**

SB 28 - Veterans Hiring Preference (Pope) - Would allow private employers to create a veteran hiring preference for certain veterans, their spouses, widows, or widowers.

SB 39 - Procurement Preference Changes (Shendo; H. Garcia) - Eliminates sunset on veteran procurement preference and further gives preferences to Native American veteran businesses. May run concurrently with **SB 28** - watch for amendments or committee sub. **Sent to SIRC.**

SB 42 - Utility Easements for Broadband (Padilla) - Authorizes the use and sharing of easements for providing communications services. Supports the broadband initiatives passed last session for which we advocated.

SB 45 – Veteran Business & Contractor Procurement (Pope) - DPNMVMF requested bill; eliminates 2022 sunset on veteran procurement preference.

SB 47 – Substance Use Disorder Treatment Fund (Steinborn) - Creates a substance use disorder treatment fund, to be funded by ten percent of the net receipts of the Cannabis Excise Tax.

SB 63 – Homeless Shelter Support Services (Stefanics) - Appropriates \$2 million for homeless shelter support services. **Sent to SHPAC.**

SB 85 - Tax Exemption for Military Retirement Pay (Pope) - Would provide an exemption from income tax for up to \$30,000 of military retirement pay. (Companion to **HB 76 - Military Retirement Income Tax Exemption**). **Sent to STBTC.**

SB 96 – Santa Fe Homeless Shelter (Rodriguez) - Appropriates \$300,000 for operational support of a homeless shelter and supportive housing in Santa Fe. **Sent to SHPAC.**

SB 107 – Installment Loan Percentage Rates (Soules, Duhigg) - Caps rate on loans to 36%, unless the prime rate exceeds 10%, in which case the rate is capped at 36% plus the percentage above 10%. (Identical to **SB 129**).

Continued on Page 3

SB 128 – Uniformed Service Retiree Income Tax Deduction (Burt, Moores, D. M. Gallegos) - Allows a uniformed services retiree, their surviving spouse, or the surviving spouse of a uniformed service member killed in the line of duty to take an income tax deduction, phased in over the period of three years and limited to phased amounts, not to exceed \$50,000 in the third year.

SB 129 – Installment Loan Percentage Rates (Schmedes) - Caps rate on loans to 36%, unless the prime rate exceeds 10%, in which case the rate is capped at 36% plus the percentage above 10%. (Identical to **SB 107**).

SB 134 – NM Housing Trust Fund (Rodriguez; Small) - Authorizes the allocation of two and one-half percent of the severance bond bonding capacity to fund the New Mexico Housing Trust Fund.

SJR 7 – Use of State Funds for Household Services, CA (Ortiz y Pino) - Would, upon approval by the voters, amend the NM Constitution's anti-donation clause to allow the state to provide funds or resources for residential essential household services. These services are defined as infrastructure such as internet, energy, water and wastewater services and others as defined by law. Also, would allow expenditures for the community well-being, defined as "infrastructure and services that address accessibility of food, water and sanitation; affordable housing; accessibility of health services; adequate and equitable education; transportation availability; social networks and social supports; a healthy environment; and employment opportunities and livable wages." **Sent to SRC.**

SM 7 - Military Spouse License Reciprocity (Gonzales) - A memorial that affirms New Mexico's commitment to military spouse license reciprocity and further urges the supreme court and the New Mexico board of bar examiners to adopt rules that accommodate the unique needs of military spouse attorneys. **Sent to SRC.**

Key to Committee Abbreviations

House

HEC	House Education Committee
HHHC	House Health & Human Services Committee
HCEDC	House Commerce & Economic Development Committee
HLVMC	House Labor, Veterans' & Military Affairs Committee
HTPWC	House Transportation & Public Works Committee

Senate

SIRC	Senate Indian, Rural & Cultural Affairs Committee
STBTC	Senate Tax, Business & Transportation Committee
SHPAC	Senate Health & Public Affairs Committee
SRC	Senate Rules Committee