

THE DISABILITY COALITION
Advocating for People with Disabilities of All Types

**DISABILITY ISSUES IN THE 2021 LEGISLATURE
STATUS REPORT #6**

Jim Jackson, Coalition Chair
February 28, 2021

(See page 9 for a list of abbreviations, including legislative committees, used in this report.)

Committee hearings:

*Monday morning: HHHC – HB 151 MH consortium for planning, HB 272 Health coverage enrollment
HSEIC – HB 210 Interstate compact for audiologists/SLPs
SEC – SB 289 Special education act*

Monday afternoon:

*HAFC – HB 222 Special education ombud
SHPAC – HB 47 End of life options; SB 285 Transport for MH evaluations*

No “love handles” on the budget bill. The House has passed its version of HB 2, the budget bill that will fund state agencies for the coming year. The bill increases recurring state spending by \$332 million (about 4.6%) to a total of \$7.4 billion. But HAFC chair Rep. Patty Lundstrom described this HB 2 as the “cleanest bill I’ve seen in the past 20 years”, adding that there are “no love handles” on the bill. It provides for 1.5% raises for most state employees and teachers. It also allows for around \$1 billion from the state’s cash reserves to be used for one-time expenses, such as roads and other infrastructure, pandemic relief for businesses and low-income workers, and replenishing the state unemployment fund, while still leaving over \$1.7 million in reserves (about 24% of the annual budget). The bill passed the House 60-10, reflecting broad bipartisan support; although all ten “no” votes were cast by Republicans, the majority of House Republicans supported the bill. HB 2 is now in the Senate.

Independent DVR bill on hold. SB 354 would have taken the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation out of PED and established it as a separate state agency overseen by an independent commission appointed by the governor. However, in the wake of the abrupt departure of DVR director Diane Mourning Brown this past week, the bill is not expected to move forward anytime soon. There have been legislative proposals in past years to move DVR into the Department of Workforce Solutions, but those failed to pass the Legislature and there has been no recent movement in that direction.

Deaf education bill hits nerve. This year’s session has been marked by vigorous and contentious debate on high-profile bills such as the repeal of criminal penalties for abortions, civil rights, tapping the permanent fund for early education, and legalizing recreational cannabis. For a few days this past week, though, the sparks were really flying over HB 237, a bill addressing concerns over the adequacy and equity of educational services for deaf and hard of hearing children in public schools. Although the sponsors disputed this, opponents saw the bill as threatening the role and level of financial support for the NM School for the Deaf. Some 300 people joined the Zoom for the bill’s hearing, with



countless others watching the webcast. After hours of public comment and additional hours of committee debate, and despite a substantial amendment offered by the sponsor that eliminated any reference to the School for the Deaf, the bill was eventually tabled in HHHC. Stung by what he described as the “largest disinformation campaign” he had seen in all his years in the Legislature, the bill’s lead sponsor, Rep. Antonio Maestas, accepted the committee’s recommendation that the issue be addressed later this year in an interim committee, providing an opportunity for input from all stakeholders.

Public input/viewing information. Committee agendas are available through the legislative website (nmlegis.gov) under the “What’s Happening” tab on the legislative homepage. These agendas include information about how the public can comment on bills being heard in the committee. Committee meetings are also being webcast for viewing by people who don’t wish to provide comment and therefore don’t need to be part of the Zoom meeting; find them under the “Webcast” tab.

Reminder: Senate committees require you to alert the committee by email well in advance of the meeting if you want to provide public comment on a bill. House committees don’t ask you to sign up in advance but you have to have a Zoom account in order to join the meeting; sign up for free at <https://zoom.us/freesignup/>.

Bills and Memorials Introduced in the 2021 Session

This list is grouped by specific disability or subject matter and shows the bill number, sponsor, a description of the bill, the current committee assignments and action taken on the bill or memorial. Since the session is now half-way over, there are only two ways to introduce new bills: by request of the governor, or by conversion of one of the place-holder (“dummy”) bills assigned to party leaders and committee chairs. Memorials and resolutions can be introduced at any time.

Note: Due to the pandemic, both the House and the Senate have been holding less frequent floor sessions than they do in normal times, when they meet almost daily. This means that information on the legislative website, including the daily bill locator, may not reflect committee action on a bill until long after it occurs, because committee “reports” reflecting actions taken on a bill must be accepted by the full chamber before they become part of the official record. That in turn means that this status report may not capture all committee action on some bills.

State Budget

HB 2 General Appropriations Act. Rep. Patty Lundstrom. This bill is now in the Senate Finance Committee, which will be reviewing and presumably revising it in the coming weeks. The current version of the bill as passed by the House affects disability agencies and programs in the following ways, compared to the current year’s budget:

- NMCDHH – Adds about \$210,000 in state funding, but overall funding reduced by \$800,000
- NMCB – Slight reduction (\$42,000) in state funding, and total reduction of \$374,000 (2.7%)
- Medicaid (including Medicaid behavioral health) – the LFC summary of the bill indicates that there is a \$64 million increase in state funding, which will generate a very large increase in federal funds.
- BHSD in HSD – Level funding

- DVR Rehabilitation Services –Reduction of \$92,000 in state funding and total fund reduction of 0.3%
- DVR Independent Living - \$34,000 reduction in state funding (5%)
- GCD – \$70,000 reduction in state funding, total reduction of \$79,000 (4%)
- DDPC general programs – level funding [no increase for Special Education Ombud]
- DDPC Office of Guardianship – Increase in state funding of \$700,000 to continue and expand guardianship services, but no new funding to support proposal for guardianship licensure/monitoring. The bill includes a one-time appropriation of \$15,000 for a Supported Decision-making Task Force as called for in HB 94, an additional special appropriation of \$500,000 for guardianship services, and a supplemental appropriation of \$250,000 to meet a shortfall in the current year budget.
- DDS in DoH – About a \$7 million increase in state funding, to replace a reduction made in this year’s budget (the equivalent of level funding). However, there should be an increase in total funding available due to the extra monies anticipated due to the extension of time during which the state will receive a higher federal match rate for Medicaid-funded services.

Behavioral Health

HB 125 Behavioral health practice and oversight. Rep. Day Hochman-Vigil. Modifies some of the licensure requirements for psychologists and therapists, such as extending the period of temporary New Mexico licensure for those licensed in another state and practicing here during a health care emergency. Passed the House 68–0; SHPAC/SJC.

HB 151 BH consortium for planning. Rep. Karen Bash. Calls for the establishment of a large “Bridges Across New Mexico” consortium of politicians, architects, business people and social service agencies to consider the need for additional residential facilities for mental health and substance abuse treatment, and for transitional and longer term housing. It also would develop a drug prevention program for students and review DWI laws and penalties. Same as SB 191, below. HHC/HAFC. *HHC hearing scheduled for Monday, March 1.*

HB 178 Counseling and therapy practice extension. Rep. D. Wonda Johnson. Extends the board that oversees these practitioners for another six years (to 2027) and makes a few technical changes to the current authorizing statute. Unless extended, the board will terminate this July 1. Passed the House 67–0; awaiting Senate committee assignments.

HB 202 Child welfare improvements. Rep. Meredith Dixon. Calls for amending the Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative’s state behavioral health plan to include specific provisions for children and youth in CYFD custody, and a process for HSD and CYFD to work together to provide trauma-informed services and supports to those children and youth. Except in “extraordinary circumstances”, prohibits placement of children in hotels or motels, state offices or out-of-state facilities, or moving children who are placed out of their home more than three times within 1,000 days (about 3 years); upon a third change, additional planning for the child would have to occur. Passed HHC; pending in HJC and amendments expected.

HB 215 BH screening, intervention and referral. Rep. Day Hochman Vigil. Calls on HSD to provide Medicaid coverage for screening, brief intervention and referral for treatment (SBIRT) for persons who appear to have a substance abuse disorder or certain mental health conditions identified by HSD. Passed HHC and HJC, awaiting House vote.

SB 119 Interstate compact on psychology. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. Allows someone appropriately licensed in another state to practice temporarily in New Mexico, and the same opportunity for those licensed here to practice in other states. Passed SHPAC, pending in SJC.

SB 128 Suicide prevention, response and treatment. Sen. Bill O’Neill. The substitute version of this comprehensive bill calls for a number of steps to be taken to assess whether a person admitted to an

ER or mental health facility may be suicidal and to intervene when a person is believed to be suicidal. It establishes the BH Purchasing Collaborative as the lead agency to plan and coordinate these interventions. Passed SHPAC, pending in SJC.

SB 191 BH consortium for planning. Sen. Linda Lopez. The amended version of this bill is similar to but no longer identical to HB 151, above. Passed SHPAC, pending in SFC.

SB 285 Emergency transport for MH evaluation. Sen. Daniel Ivey-Soto. Under current law, police officers have the authority to detain and transport persons with a mental disability to an evaluation facility if they are suicidal or presenting a danger to themselves or others due to their disability. This bill would allow a police officer in such circumstances to have an EMT or other emergency medical responder transport the individual for the evaluation. SHPAC/SJC. *SHPAC hearing scheduled for Monday, 3/1.*

Brain Injury

SB 65 Brain injury study. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. Appropriates \$150,000 to the Department of Health to collect data, review existing services, and recommend steps to improve and expand services to persons with brain injuries. Passed SHPAC, pending in SFC

SB 109 Brain injury services. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. Appropriates \$500,000 to the brain injury fund to support services for persons with brain injuries. Passed SHPAC, pending in SFC

Civil Rights

HB 4 Civil Rights Act. Rep. Georgene Louis. Allows an individual to sue any state or local public agency, including a school district, if it deprives the individual of rights granted under the state constitution. The defense of qualified immunity would be eliminated, and a successful litigant would be entitled to attorney's fees. Passed the House (39–29); SHPAC/SJC.

HB 111 Housing discrimination issues. Rep. Andrea Romero. This bill includes a number of provisions to protect low income tenants in rental arrangements with a current or prospective landlord. It also prohibits refusing to show an available housing unit if the refusal is based on a prospective tenant's disability or any other characteristic protected by the Human Rights Act. It creates a presumption that if a landlord/owner decreases services, increases a tenant's rent without increasing rents for others, or terminates or refuses to renew a lease within six months of the tenant having requested a reasonable accommodation based on disability, such action is prohibited retaliation. Passed HCPAC, pending in HJC.

HB 192 Human Rights Act Amendments. Rep. Brittney Barreras. Extends the anti-discrimination provisions of the state Human Rights Act, which currently applies to private businesses and the state as a whole, to any public body funded by a governmental entity, including school districts. Deletes outdated references in the current statute to "mental or physical handicap" and replaces them with "mental or physical disability". Passed HLLC and HSEIC, awaiting House vote.

Criminal Matters

HB 143 Crime victim interviews. Rep. Meredith Dixon. Authorizes children and incapacitated adults to refuse pre-trial interviews by defense attorneys in criminal cases or arrange for limited interviews conducted by a law enforcement officer rather than counsel for a defendant. Passed HCPAC, pending in HJC.

SB 69 Crimes against children with disabilities. Sen. Linda Lopez. This bill would increase the penalties for abandonment or abuse of a child if the child has a disability, making abandonment a fourth-degree felony rather than a misdemeanor; where the abandonment results in death or great bodily harm, it would be a first-degree rather than second-degree felony. Passed SHPAC, pending in SJC, then referred to SFC.

Developmental Disabilities

SB 9 Special Olympics. Sen. Peter Wirth. Appropriates \$300,000 to the Department of Tourism to support Special Olympics. Passed SHPAC, pending in SFC.

SB 33 Early detection of cerebral palsy. Sen. Greg Schmedes. Appropriates \$200,000 to the Early Childhood Education and Care Department to fund training and technical assistance to health care workers to promote early detection of cerebral palsy (CP) in young children. Passed SHPAC, pending in SFC.

SB 190 Revise DDPC provisions in NM law. Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill. Updates provisions of state law applying to the DDPC to align with current federal law provisions. These changes involve the membership of the Council and its duties. In keeping with the intended alignment, the bill changes the name of the agency to the Developmental Disabilities Council. Passed SHPAC, pending in SJC.

SB 342 Pay increase pass-through. Sen. Liz Stefanics. Requires that at least 70% of any rate increases provided by the Legislature for services that are provided by direct care workers in the DD waiver programs be passed on to increase worker compensation, and that provider agencies report how they spent the new funding so that compliance can be tracked. Includes some basic data reporting about the direct care workforce employed by DD waiver provider agencies to inform policymaking in this area. SHPAC/SFC.

Education/Special Education

HB 93 Limiting suspension/expulsion. Rep. Ray Lara. Requires school districts to adopt disciplinary policies that provide that suspension or expulsion be used only as a last resort following use of alternative interventions and upon a determination that suspension or expulsion is the only safe response. Although the bill addresses behaviors that may be attributed to homelessness, adverse childhood experiences, or similar causes, its provisions would apply to suspension or expulsion of students with disabilities as well. Passed HEC and HSEIC, awaiting House vote.

HB 116 Add more professionals to 3-tier licensure. Rep. Liz Thomson. This bill would add a long list of school support professionals, such as audiologists, therapists, social workers and psychologists, to the three-tier salary structure established in state law that currently covers only teachers and administrators. The intent of the legislation is to make it more likely that when funds are appropriated in the state budget to increase teacher salaries, these other professionals would receive the same increases. Passed HEC, tabled in HAFC.

HB 213 Special ed fund for parent use. Rep. Candie Sweetser. This bill would require school districts to set aside a portion of the funds they are generating during the current school year based on special education enrollment, and allow parents to get reimbursements from those funds if they have had to pay other providers for services in a child's Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) that were not provided by the school. HEC/HAFC. *Heard but set aside by the chair of the committee; the bill's future is uncertain.*

HB 222 Special education ombud. Rep. Liz Thomson. Creates the Office of the Special Education Ombud within the DD Planning Council and appropriates \$295,000 to the Council for its operation. The Ombud program would investigate and resolve problems experienced by parents and students in obtaining appropriate special education services and assist in protecting the educational rights of students and parents, but the scope of the Ombud's authority in pursuing remedies remains vague. The Ombud would also identify systemic concerns and recommend solutions, review and comment on proposed changes to laws and policies, and provide an annual report on its activities and recommendations. Same as SB 346, below. Passed HEC, pending in HAFC.

HB 237 School for the Deaf and public schools. Rep. Antonio Maestas. This bill originally authorized the NM School for the Deaf to provide services to deaf or hard-of-hearing students who attend public school, prohibited NMSD from charging public schools when NMSD staff participate in IEP meetings or evaluations of public school students, and sought to achieve equity in funding for all school-age

children with hearing impairment, most of whom are served in public schools around the state rather than at NMSD. It generated a storm of criticism from NMSD supporters who believed that it could result in diverting funding away from that institution. The bill was amended to remove all references to NMSD; nonetheless, after hours of debate over two days, the bill was tabled in HHHC.

HB 266 Special education licensure. Rep. Natalie Figueroa. This bill affects persons who have been licensed as special education teachers based on “alternative” criteria related to their previous professional experience and education. It would impose some additional requirements for relevant training, mentoring, etc. in order to maintain licensure. Passed HEC with a minor amendment, pending in HSEIC.

SB 233 Student Bill of Rights. Sen. Linda Lopez. Establishes a very wide variety of rights for students in public schools, such as the right to be free from discrimination based on disability, the right to have teachers and other school personnel follow IEPs and Section 504 plans, and to access available mental health services. There is no mechanism in the bill to enforce these rights. SEC/SJC. *Tabled in SEC.*

SB 289 Special Education Act. Sen. Linda Lopez. The bill enacts the “Special Education Act”, which establishes Special Education as a division within PED and has its staff report to a deputy secretary within PED. It strengthens and broadens the role of this division, including monitoring, training and technical assistance etc. It would move some existing provisions of state law regarding special education into the new act. It also appropriates \$1 million to the PED to provide training to school employees on working with and meeting the needs of special education students. SEC/SFC. *SEC hearing scheduled for Monday morning 3/1.*

SB 319. Seclusion/restraints in schools. Sen. Linda Lopez. This bill would prohibit the use of seclusion in public schools; make it clearer that restraint is to be used on a student only as a last resort in emergency situations; strengthen requirements for schools to report promptly to parents any use of restraint; require annual reports to the Public Education Department detailing all incidents of the use of restraints on students; require opportunity for public input into school policies on use of restraints; and require training of at least some school staff on alternatives to restraint and safe methods of restraint. SEC/SJC.

SB 346 Special education ombud. Sen. Linda Lopez. Creates the Office of the Special Education Ombud within the DD Planning Council and appropriates \$295,000 to the Council for its operation. Same as HB 222, above. SEC/SJC/SFC.

Employment of people with disabilities

HB 110 Minimum wage changes. Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero. There are a number of categories of employees that are currently exempted from the state’s minimum wage law, and this bill would eliminate nearly all of these exemptions and gradually raise the state minimum wage to \$15 per hour in 2024. It would repeal the existing but unused provision of state law that provides for an exemption allowing non-profit agencies and other businesses to pay employees with disabilities less than the state minimum wage, based on their productivity compared to employees without disabilities.

HLVMC/HCEDC. Passed HLVMC; heard and temporarily tabled in HCEDC. Amendments are being considered.

HB 214 Repeal of sub-minimum wages. Rep. Joanne Ferrary. Repeals the existing but unused provision of state law that provides for an exemption allowing non-profit agencies and other businesses to pay employees with disabilities less than the state minimum wage, based on their productivity compared to employees without disabilities. Passed HHHC and HLVMC, awaiting House vote.

SB 354 Create VR Commission to replace DVR. Sen. Linda Lopez. This bill would take DVR out of the PED and establish it as an office under a new independent commission. SRC/SJC. *This bill is on hold and probably will not advance in this session.*

Guardianship and protective arrangements

HB 94 Supported decision-making task force. Rep. Joanne Ferrary. Appropriates \$35,000 to the DD Planning Council to create a task force to study supported decision-making as an alternative to guardianship and recommend changes in NM law to allow and support it. Passed HHHC, tabled in HAFC. *There is \$15,000 for this purpose in the House version of HB 2.*

HB 234 Guardianship licensure. Rep. Marian Matthews. Requires that professional guardians and conservators (individuals who are paid to provide these services to more than two persons not related to the individual) be licensed, and designates the Office of Guardianship at the DDPC as the licensing entity. Licensees would have to be certified by an authorized state or national organization. The Council would be authorized to investigate complaints against these guardians and conservators and suspend or revoke their license if appropriate. The bill also updates various provisions of law applicable to the Office of Guardianship, and appropriates \$285,000 to the Council to fulfill these new duties. HSEIC/HAFC.

SB 189 Financial exploitation protections and penalties. Sen. Katy Duhigg. The original version of this bill called on financial institutions to report suspected financial exploitation of vulnerable adults and allowed them to delay transactions that appear to be exploitative or fraudulent, but those provisions have been removed from the bill, apparently because existing New Mexico law already covers those matters. The new version focuses on allowing adults who have been the victim of financial exploitation to obtain relief through the courts, including recovery of the funds in question, attorney fees, and in some cases punitive damages. Passed STBTC, pending in SJC.

SB 221 Criminal penalties for financial exploitation. Sen. Michael Padilla. Makes it a crime for a person, whether in a fiduciary relationship or not, to trick, coerce or use undue influence to gain control of the resources or property of an elderly, disabled, or otherwise vulnerable adult. A first offense would be a third-degree felony; further offenses by the same person would be second-degree felonies. Passed SHPAC, pending in SJC, then referred to SFC.

Health Care

HB 47 End-of-life options. Rep. Debbie Armstrong. Authorizes prescriptions to be issued by a qualified health care provider that an individual with a terminal illness who is expected to die within six months could self-administer that would bring about the person's death. For persons who have a current diagnosis or recent history of mental illness or intellectual disability, or appear to have such a disability, an evaluation would be required by a health care professional with appropriate expertise to determine if the person has capacity to provide voluntary, informed consent. Same as SB 308, below. Passed House (39–27); SHPAC/SJC. *SHPAC hearing Monday, 3/1.*

HB 122 Health care affordability fund. Rep. Debbie Armstrong. Creates a health care affordability fund and imposes an additional state tax on health insurance premiums to provide revenue for the fund. The fund would be used to expand access to health care coverage for low-income New Mexicans. Passed HHHC and HTRC, but now referred to HAFC.

HB 154 Prescription drug affordability board. Rep. Angelica Rubio. Creates a state oversight board that would have the authority to review and approve (or disapprove or limit) major price increases for prescription medications. Passed HHHC, pending in HSEIC.

HB 203 Health Security Act planning board. Rep. Debbie Armstrong. Creates a board that would be charged with developing a plan over the next two years to provide health coverage, including behavioral health services but excluding long-term care, for all New Mexicans (except those with job-based coverage that is not subject to state regulation). Appropriates \$600,000 to the Office of the Superintendent of Insurance to cover the cost of the board, staff and other support. Passed HHHC, pending in HAFC.

HB 210 A/SLP Interstate compact. Rep. Brittney Barreras. Would commit New Mexico to an interstate compact so that a licensed audiologist or speech/language pathologist (SLP) in good standing

in another state could practice in New Mexico, and vice versa for audiologists and SLPs licensed in New Mexico. Passed HHHC, pending in HSEIC. *HSEIC hearing scheduled for Monday, 3/1.*

HB 272 Easy enrollment for health coverage. Rep. Liz Thomson. Would facilitate enrollment into Medicaid or the Health Insurance Exchange based on a person voluntarily agreeing to have information in state tax returns shared with the state agencies running those health coverage programs so they can be made aware of coverage options that may be available to them. HHHC/HTRC. *HHHC hearing scheduled for Monday, 3/1.*

SB 60 Physical therapy interstate compact. Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill. Would commit New Mexico to an interstate compact so that a licensed PT in good standing in another state could practice in New Mexico, and vice versa for PTs licensed in New Mexico. Passed SHPAC, heard and tabled SJC.

SB 308 End-of-life options. Sen. Liz Stefanics. Same as HB 47, above. SHPAC/SJC.

SM 6 Long-term care task force. Sen. Carrie Hamblen. Requests that ALTSD establish a task force to look at ways of ensuring that nursing homes are better prepared in the future to deal with public health emergencies. The task force is also asked to look at encouraging placements in the community rather than in nursing homes; and improving staffing, physical plant issues, and resident quality of care. SRC/SHPAC.

Independent Living/Community Services

HB 223 Voluntary MVD disability registry. Rep. Liz Thomson. Allows but does not require individuals to note, in conjunction with their car registration, that they or a regular passenger in their vehicle have a disability that might affect their ability to communicate. Law enforcement officers would be required to consult the registry prior to interacting with a motorist and to take appropriate steps when attempting to communicate with a driver or passenger who is on the registry. Passed TPWC, pending in HJC.

SB 47 AT and home modifications. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. Appropriates \$300,000 to the Governor's Commission on Disability to increase their ability to provide assistive technology and home modification services. SHPAC/SFC. Passed SHPAC, pending in SFC

SB 299 Accessibility logo on specialty license plates. Sen. Mark Moores. Allows auto owners with a disability to obtain a specialty license plate of their choice that would also feature the logo that allows for parking in designated accessible parking spaces. STBTC/SFC.

SB 322 Zoning accommodations. Sen. Gregg Schmedes. Requires local zoning authorities to permit a second small home on a residential lot, even in an area zoned for only one home per lot, if the second home is for the residence and care of a family member with disabilities. SHPAC/STBTC.

SB 394 MVD fee waiver. Sen. Linda Lopez. Would waive the usual automobile registration fee for one vehicle owned by a low-income person with a significant disability. STBTC/SFC .

Paid Sick Leave

HB 20 Paid sick leave. Rep. Christine Chandler. Requires most employers in NM to provide sick leave to their employees and allow the leave to be used for purposes including caring for a family member with a physical or mental illness or health condition. A new version that incorporates some provisions from HB 37, below, and changes some details in the bill was adopted in HLVMC; passed HJC, awaiting House vote.

HB 37 Paid sick leave. Rep. Angelica Rubio. Required most employers in NM to provide sick leave to their employees, and allow that leave to be used for purposes including caring for a family member with a physical or mental illness or health condition. Identical to SB 198, below. *This bill has been combined into a new version of HB 20, above.*

HB 38 Paid family and medical leave. Rep. Christine Chandler. Creates a program funded by employers and employees that would provide paid leave for employees needing to take time off work to care for a newborn or for a family member with a disability. As amended, the program would not go

into effect until 2024, and cities and counties would be prohibited from enacting their own separate programs or requirements. Passed HCEDC and HJC, but now has been referred to HAFC.

SB 198 Paid sick leave. Sen. Linda Lopez. Identical to the original version of HB 37, above. STBTC/SJC

Miscellaneous

HB 174 Increase tax exemptions. Rep. Phelps Anderson. Would double the current exemption from state income tax for persons who are over 65 or blind from \$8,000 to \$16,000 of income. Passed HHHC, heard and tabled in HTRC.

HB 253 Confidentiality exception for research. Rep. Day Hochman Vigil. Changes the confidentiality provisions of the state Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities Code to allow for limited data-sharing related to children, for approved research purposes only. The data would not be publicly available. Passed HHHC and HJC, awaiting House vote.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

Legislature and Committees

HB	House Bill
HAFC	House Appropriations and Finance Committee
HCEDC	House Commerce and Economic Development Committee
HCPAC	House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee
HEC	House Education Committee
HHHC	House Health and Human Services Committee
HJC	House Judiciary Committee
HLVMC	House Labor, Veterans, and Military Affairs
HLLC	House Local Government, Land Grants and Cultural Affairs Committee
HSEIC	House State Government, Elections and Indian Affairs Committee
HTPWC	House Transportation and Public Works Committee
HTRC	House Taxation and Revenue Committee

SB	Senate Bill
SEC	Senate Education Committee
SFC	Senate Finance Committee
SIEC	Senate Indian, Rural and Cultural Affairs Committee
SJC	Senate Judiciary Committee
SHPAC	Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee
STBTC	Senate Tax, Business and Transportation Committee

State Agencies

CYFD	Children, Youth and Families Department
DDPC	Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
DoH	Department of Health
DVR	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (within PED)
GCD	Governor's Commission on Disabilities
HSD	Human Services Department
NMCB	New Mexico Commission for the Blind
NMCDHH	New Mexico Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
PED	Public Education Department

Other

IEP	Individualized Education Program
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