



2020 Legislative Session Updates

Members Set Legislative Priorities

Last week at the Annual Meeting, members approved the [2020 Legislative Priorities](#) for NMIDEA. The legislative priorities include increasing important investments in existing economic development programs and incentives, the creation of new economic development tools, and the extension of existing tools.

The NMIDEA Legislative Committee will use the policy agenda set by members to guide the organization's engagement and positions over the course of the legislative session. If there is bill that is important to economic development that you do not see on our list of tracked bills, please send it to our lobbyist Jason at jespinoza.kw@gmail.com

Additionally, members from around the state met with dozens of lawmakers about the importance of supporting and increasing investment in economic development.

Legislative Roundup - Week 1

Last week marked the beginning of the Second Session of the 54th Legislature. This year's 30-day legislative session is constitutionally focused on budget and appropriations; however, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham can add other items to the call at her discretion.

On the first day of the legislative session, Governor Lujan Grisham delivered the annual State of the State Address. In her address she stated, "as outlined in my budget proposal, we will build on the record Local Economic Development and Job Training Incentive funding we delivered throughout New Mexico in Year One. Thank you for your support for these essential programs: The local jobs we created last year paid 20% better than over the last 8 years. Manufacturing jobs, IT jobs, engineering and tourism and outdoor recreation jobs – we're creating pathways into these careers; we're getting New Mexicans the skills they need to succeed." Read the full text of the Governor's address [here](#).

Through the first week, the House of Representatives introduced 274 pieces of legislation and the Senate introduced 183 pieces of legislation. Altogether, that represents over 450 memorials, bills, constitutional amendments, and rules introduced in just the first week. The last day that legislators can introduce bills is February 5th.

Economic Development Bills Scheduled this Week

Several NMIDEA legislative priorities have already been scheduled to be heard in their first committee this week.

This afternoon, [House Bill 149 \(Investment Credit Act Changes\)](#) sponsored by Javier Martinez is scheduled to be heard by the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee at 1:30 pm. The bill extends the availability of the credit to 2030 and adopts other changes that offer much-needed predictability to employers in the manufacturing sector considering New Mexico for investment and job creation.

[House Bill 145 \(Fire Suppression Equipment Tax Credit\)](#) sponsored by Javier Martinez is also scheduled to be heard by the House Commerce & Economic Development Committee at 1:30 pm this afternoon. The bill allows businesses located in designated New Mexico MainStreet Districts and state authorized Arts and Cultural Districts to receive a tax credit equal to 50 percent of the total costs of installing qualified fire suppression equipment. The credit is capped at \$50 thousand per business and may be carried forward up to five consecutive taxable years.

Additionally, **Economic Development Department Secretary Alicia Keyes** will be presenting the department's budget to the Senate Finance Committee on Friday, January 31st at 1:30 pm in room 322. NMIDEA's legislative priorities support the department's request for increased investment in the department's base budget, as strong investment JTIP, LEDA, and other economic development incentives.

NMIDEA Tracked Bills

Members can access the [full list of bills](#) that NMIDEA is currently tracking. The document includes bill number, synopsis, title, sponsor, committee referrals, positions, and date of scheduled hearing.

As always, please feel free to reach out to NMIDEA's lobbyist, Jason Espinoza, with any questions or comments. He can be reached at 505-417-4001 or jespinoza.kw@gmail.com