

DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO

Legislative

2023-2024

Michelle Dennisson Chairman

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Greetings, as December is upon us. Remember, that doing work for the Veterans and Active-duty personnel in our lives is a great privilege. As a Legislative chair, I ask you to educate yourselves in the Legislators in our state. New Mexico has a complete committee that brings forth Veterans Issues.

I have attached the following list of people including the description of the committee ideals, that they described in the committee formation. This is our State, our Veterans and our concern. Together we can make a great life for our Veterans!

2023 APPROVED WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE for the MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Members Rep. Harry Garcia, Chair Sen. Harold Pope, Vice Chair Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon Rep. Art De La Cruz Sen. Brenda G. McKenna Sen. Shannon D. Pinto Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez Rep. Luis M. Terrazas Advisory Members Rep. John Block Sen. Craig W. Brandt Sen. William F. Burt Rep. Meredith A. Dixon Rep. D. Wonda Johnson Rep. Stefani Lord Rep. Alan T. Martinez Sen. Michael Padilla Rep. Andrea Reeb Rep. Debra M. Sariñana Rep. Harlan Vincent

What does their Job duty consist of?

The Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee was first created by statute for the 2009 interim. The committee was permanently reauthorized by statute during the 2010 regular legislative session. The committee has various statutory duties, including making an annual report; recommending any necessary legislation to the next session of the legislature; and requesting necessary action to the United States Congress, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the United States Department of Defense. The committee is required to conduct meetings in several geographically dispersed areas of the state and to conduct hearings relating to military issues and veterans' issues. During the 2023 interim, as time permits, the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee will: A. receive updates from New Mexico's military installations; B. study issues relating to female veterans; C. receive

updates regarding college credit for military service from the Higher Education Department and the Veterans' Services Department; D. receive testimony regarding jobs and business opportunities for veterans; E. study long-term care options for veterans; F. study transportation to and from medical providers for veterans, particularly those living in rural areas of the state; G. receive testimony pertaining to educational opportunities and outreach offered by state educational institutions and public community colleges to veteran students; H. examine options for the prevention of homelessness and support for homeless veterans in areas throughout the state; I. receive testimony regarding health care options both within the Veterans Administration system and outside of it, including behavioral health care, suicide prevention and treatment for posttraumatic stress disorder; J. examine actions New Mexico can take to improve quality of life for military and veteran families; K. study the creation of veterans' courts in various judicial districts in New Mexico; L. examine issues relating to New Mexico's active duty, reserve and National Guard military personnel, veterans and military families; M. examine various issues relating to veterans and taxes; N. examine the issue of the inspection of public records for military records; O. examine housing issues near New Mexico's military installations; and P. receive testimony from the Veterans' Services Department to better define the needs of the department

The meeting for November was the last meeting this year, the work they have done will now come in January, to the Floor For voting and to address issues. It is at this level; we can all help out with Veteran's needs. Keep fighting for our veterans with emails and phone calls, remember that we have a Voice!

Keep involved, be a presence for our veterans. Remember to report your activities and together we can all make the difference!

Have a Blessed Month! Merry Christmas!

Michelle