

# LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

VOL. 2011-9

MARCH 24, 2011

## **League Priorities Fare Well**

The First Session of the 50th Legislature ended at noon on Saturday, March 19 when both Houses adjourned Sine Die. The main issue for this session was undoubtedly the budget deficit. Legislators sent the Governor a budget that featured a cap on the state's film credit and an increase in state workers' and teachers' retirement contributions. The Governor has until April 8 to act on the legislation sent to her office.

### **LEAGUE PRIORITIES**

#### **Maintaining Municipal Revenue Sources**

The League's 2011 main legislative priority – maintaining municipal revenue sources – was achieved. The hold harmless distribution for food and certain medical services was not reduced, but the legislature did impose an administrative fee of 3.25 percent on the hold harmless distributions to municipalities where it had not been previously applied. The legislature also increased the administrative fee charged to municipalities and counties for the administration of their local gross receipts tax distributions by an additional .25 percent to 3.25 percent. The increase in the administrative fees amounts to approximately \$4.4 million, the majority of which will be borne by municipalities. The increase was included in House Bill 2 et al, the budget bill that the Governor has yet to sign.

#### **Municipal Judge on Judicial Standards Commission**

Having a municipal judge serve as a member of the Judicial Standards Commission has been a League priority for several years. Two pieces of legislation were introduced this year to allow that to happen. House Majority Leader Ken Martinez introduced House Bill 285 and House Joint Resolution 18 and were passed in both Houses. House Joint Resolution 18 is a Constitutional Amendment to change the number of members of the Commission to include a municipal judge and another member on the Commission. This must go before voters in the 2012 General Election. House Bill 285 is the enabling legislation to change the statute to accommodate the increase in the number of members.

#### **E-911**

House Bill 328, Surcharges Imposed on Communications Services, introduced by Representative Bobby Gonzales and the identical Senate Bill 422, E-911 Surcharge on Communications Services introduced by Senator Nancy Rodriguez, impose the E-911 Surcharge on Voice over Internet Protocol and pre-paid wireless communications. As amended, the surcharge would apply to calls commencing on or after July 1, 2011 and would not apply to broadband internet access services. Each bill passed both Houses and has been sent to the Governor.

## **Building Inspectors**

Senate Bill 262, Construction Commission Inspector Authority, introduced by Senator Bernadette Sanchez, unanimously passed both the Senate and the House. As amended, the bill gives municipal and county building inspectors state-wide jurisdiction.

The League thanks all the sponsors of these bills for their efforts and considerations.

## **Some Statistics**

This year the House introduced 655 bills, 24 Joint Resolutions, 5 Resolutions, 51 Joint Memorials and 82 Memorials. The Senate introduced 682 bills, one Concurrent Resolution, 19 Joint Resolutions, 4 Resolutions, 38 Joint Memorials and 84 Memorials. Together, both House introduced a total of 1,645 pieces of legislation, which is approximately 80 percent of introductions in the last 60-day session in 2009. A total of 285 bills passed both Houses, or approximately 21 percent. The Governor has until noon on Friday, April 8 to take action of the bills sent to her.

## **Acknowledgements**

Bill analysis for the weekly *Legislative Bulletin* was performed by Diane Lang, Roger Makin and Anita Hisenberg. The front page was written by William Fulginiti and Roger Makin. Production and distribution of the printed *Bulletin* was coordinated by Anita Tafoya, Jackie Portillo, Sharon Griego and Eliesa Webb. The League thanks all the legislators, their staffs, the office of the Governor and League staff for their work during the First Session of the 50<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

*Please make your plans now to attend the League's District meetings that are scheduled in eight locations across the state. They begin March 31 in Española. Registration forms and general information are located on the League's web site at **[www.nmml.org](http://www.nmml.org)**.*