PERA Solvency

As we prepare for the 55th Legislative Session this next week, NMML has been at work and currently there are 53 pre-filed bills being watched. One is particular that can have an enormous impact on municipalities is PERA. Below is a summary of the Governor’s PERA Solvency Task Force Recommendations.

- Recommendations projected to eliminate PERA’s $6.1 billion unfunded liability within 25 years
- Recommendations projected to result in an immediate $700 million reduction to PERA’s unfunded liability
- Recommendations replace previous proposals to freeze COLAs for three years with a 2% “13th Check” payment that pauses the compounding factor for the next 3 years
- Recommendations preserve a COLA for current and future retirees with a minimum COLA of .5% and a maximum of 3% based on a profit share model tied to investment performance. Once PERA achieves 100% funded level, maximum COLA increased to 5%
- Recommendations begin to address disparity in funding levels among PERA Divisions by exempting State Police and Adult Correctional Officers from proposed contribution increases
- Recommendations protect lowest income retirees by guaranteeing a COLA of 2.5% for retirees with pensions below $25,000 who have worked 25 years or receiving disability retirement
- Recommendations protect lowest income active members by exempting those with incomes of $25,000 or less from proposed contribution increases
- Recommendations eliminate the current 7 year wait to receive a COLA and reinstates the 2 calendar year wait
- Recommendations eliminate current earnings cap of 90% to encourage employees to work longer
LEAGUE OFFICE PARKING DURING THE SESSION

Because of the demand for parking around the Capitol during the session, we must protect the availability of parking for our municipal officials and staff. In order to reduce the possibility of accidents, a few areas in our lots are designated by signs as “NO PARKING” AREAS.” If you are visiting the session and need to park in the League lots, please help us by observing the following rules:

1. Do not park in the areas designated as “NO PARKING” zones
2. Obtain a League Parking Permit from the reception desk and leave it on the rear-view mirror of your car so that it’s easily visible
3. DOUBLE PARKING OR PARKING BEHIND ANOTHER CAR IS NO LONGER PERMITTED IN OUR LOTS

YOUR LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

This is the first in the series of weekly League Legislative Bulletins designed to communicate with municipal officials, legislators and the Executive Branch of state government.

This year the League will publish the Bulletin electronically and will not distribute a printed copy. We will post the Bulletin on Friday mornings on the League’s website under the listing of “Publications.” We will then e-mail a link to the document to our membership through our list serve that we use to distribute The Municipal Reporter as well as send push notifications through the NMML App.

Municipal officials who receive the Bulletin include all mayors, commissioners, councilors, trustees, managers, clerks, municipal judges, police chiefs and many other municipal officials.

The Legislative Bulletin contains:
◊ a brief review of all bills of municipal interest of which we have received a copy since the prior Bulletin (it will save you and us time if you make a note of the House or Senate Bill number you are interested in);
◊ a brief analysis of key legislative developments of the past week;
◊ detailed explanations of key municipal bills; and, perhaps,
◊ an Action Call if any important municipal bill is scheduled to be heard in committee or on the floor of either house

For updated Committee assignments or additional information click here to be directed to the Legislative Home Page.

Your legislator can be reached by name through the Legislative Switchboard: (505) 986-4300 in Santa Fe. For those on line, the Legislature’s web site also contains the e-mail addresses of those legislators who use the service. That address is: http://www.nmlegis.gov. Also check the League’s web site (www.nmml.org) for League information.

CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDING BILLS

Capital outlay project requests in recent years have not been introduced as legislative bills, but submitted as “capital outlay requests.” All approved requests are then included in a major capital outlay bill for final passage.

In past years we have reported these requests as we received the printed copies. The legislature will track all capital outlay requests electronically only. Therefore, we are no longer able to report the requests for you as we had in the past. However, the good news is that all requests will be listed on the legislative web site at nmlegis.gov (click on Capital Outlay). Each request is listed under the appropriate county and then alphabetically by title and includes the description of the request along with the dollar amount. Legislative Council Service will be updating the information every Tuesday and Friday evenings so the new introductions will be available for you early on Wednesdays and Saturdays. As always, you can contact your legislators directly to find out when your project will be scheduled for hearing.
BIOGRAPHY OF A BILL

A bill is introduced by a sponsoring legislator on the floor of either house, numbered by the clerk and referred for consideration to one or more committees of that house. The deadline for introduction of all bills except appropriations bills or bills requested by the Governor (special messages) is Noon on the 15th day of a 30-day session (January 31).

Committee recommendations usually determine the success or failure of a bill. A bill may be amended in committee or on the floor at any point in the process — sometimes changed so severely that its own author would not recognize it — or a substitute measure with the same number and general subject matter may be put in its place.

If you are interested in a particular bill, do not be dismayed if it seems to sit for a long time in committee, particularly in a tax, finance or appropriations committee. Bills which ask for money or for taxing authority often lie dormant until the last few days of a session and then move with unbelievable speed.

If a bill passes successfully through its committee referrals, it returns to the floor of the house in which it was introduced for floor consideration. If it passes that house, it goes to the other house. However, it may also be tabled, referred again or defeated.

In the second house the bill is again considered in one or several committees and it may again be amended or substituted. If it gets through its committee assignments, it returns to the floor of that house for consideration and may from there be referred, tabled, passed or defeated.

If the bill passes the second house and it has been amended or substituted by the second house, the originating house must concur or fail to concur with the changes. If the originating house fails to concur, a conference committee representing both houses is appointed to decide what to present to both houses for acceptance.

A bill that has been passed in some agreed-upon form by both the House and the Senate goes to the Governor for signature. The Governor may choose to sign or to veto the bill. If the bill contains an appropriation, the Governor may veto portions if she wishes (line item veto); if it does not, she may only veto the entire bill. If vetoed, 2/3 of the House and 2/3 of the Senate must vote in favor of the bill in order to override the veto. If the veto override fails, the bill is dead.

Most bills do not reach the Governor's desk before the Legislature adjourns (Noon, February 15). The Governor has 20 days following the close of the session (Noon, March 7) to sign, veto or fail to sign (pocket veto) any bill that he did not act on during the session. Any bill is much more likely to have died in committee or on the floor before even reaching the Governor's desk.

In New Mexico, no more than 1/4 to 1/3 of bills introduced ever make it all the way to enactment. The historic trend in New Mexico is for more and more introductions each succeeding session.

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**HOUSE COMMITTEES**

- HAFC: Appropriations and Finance
- HAWC: Agriculture and Water Resources
- HBIC: Business and Industry
- HCPAC: Consumer and Public Affairs
- HEC: Education
- HENRC: Energy, Environment and Natural Resources
- HHHC: Health and Human Services
- HJC: Judiciary
- HLEDC: Labor and Economic Development
- HRC: Rules and Order of Business
- HLELC: Local Government, Elections, Land Grant & Cultural Affairs
- HSIIVC: State Government, Indian & Veterans Affairs
- HTVC: Taxation & Revenue
- HTPWC: Transportation, Public Works & Capital Improvements

**SENATE COMMITTEES**

- SCC: Committee's Committee
- SCONC: Conservation
- SCORC: Corporations and Transportation
- SCW: Committee of the Whole
- SEC: Education
- SFC: Finance
- SIAC: Indian and Cultural Affairs
- SJC: Judiciary
- SPAC: Public Affairs
- SRC: Rules
- SPRF: Senate Pre-file
NMML Legislative Bulletin

H 16 PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT (Christine Chandler)

House Bill 16 creates the Paid Family and Medical Leave Act (PFMLA) and sets forth policies, procedures, trust fund, exceptions, and administrative penalties, and provides administration of the program by the Workforce Solutions Department. HB 16 makes an appropriation of one-million dollars ($1 million) from the General Fund.

H 22 SPECIFY MILITARY LEAVE FOR CIVIL AIR PATROL (Dayan Hochman-Vigil)

House Bill 22 relates to military affairs, specifically addressing the Civil Air Patrol. HB 22 specifies what constitutes military leave and who may authorize military leave for members of the civil air patrol with an effective date of July 1, 2020.

H 25 ADD PREGNANCY TO HUMAN RIGHTS ACT (Gail Chasey)

House Bill 25 amends the Human Rights Act by adding certain definitions and protection for pregnancy, childbirth or related conditions.

H 26 HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECT FUND (Patricia A Lundstrom)

House Bill 26 creates the Highway Project Fund and changes the Local Government Transportation Project Fund to the Transportation Project Fund. This latter fund may finance Indian nation, tribe or pueblo projects. It adds a formula for distributing revenue to the State Road Fund and the Transportation Project Fund in excess of a five-year average of money received by the state pursuant to the Federal Mineral Leasing Act. HB 26 makes an appropriation of two hundred million dollars ($200,000,000) to the Highway Project Fund.

H 27 AUTHORIZE NMFA TO MAKE LOANS FROM THE PPRF (Patricia A Lundstrom)

House Bill 27 authorizes the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) to make loans for public projects from the Public Project Revolving Fund (PPRF) and declares an emergency. HB 27 is endorsed by the NMFA Oversight Committee.

H 28 PARCELS DIVIDED FOR OIL OR GAS OPERATIONS (Greg Nibert)

House Bill 28 exempts parcels divided for oil or gas operations from the New Mexico Subdivision Act.

H 29 SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME FROM INCOME TAX (Cathrynn N Brown)

House Bill 29 exempts Social Security income from state Income Tax.

H 31 LICENSURE OF RESERVE POLICE OFFICERS (William Rehm)

House Bill 31 enacts the Reserve Police Officer Act and authorizes governmental entities to commission reserve police officers to assist police officers. It amends sections of the Peace Officers’, New Mexico Mounted Patrol Members’ and Reserve Police Officers’ Survivors Supplemental Benefits Act, the Criminal Procedure Act, the Magistrate Costs Act, the Tort Claims Act and the Motor Vehicle Code to
include reserve police officers.

H 38 PROHIBITING DUI OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (William Rehm)

House Bill 38 amends sections of statute relating to driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs. HB 38 prohibits driving with certain amounts of controlled substances or metabolites in the blood. HB 38 provides that the ignition interlock requirement be applied only to offenders with alcohol concentration. HB 38 provides that it is unlawful to drive if test results indicate a concentration of drugs or alcohol is two one hundredths or more.

H 45 CHANGES TO THE RETIREE HEALTH CARE FUND (Tomas E. Salazar)

House Bill 45 makes changes to Section 10-7C-15 NMSA 1978. HB 45 increases employee and employer contribution rates to the Retiree Health Care Fund. HB 45 transfers money from the General Fund to the Retiree Health Care Fund and makes a recurring appropriation. HB 45 is effective on July 1, 2020.

H 46 CHANGES TO THE EDUCATIONAL RETIREMENT FUND (Tomas E. Salazar)

House Bill 46 provides for automatic increases and a distribution from Gross Receipts Tax to the Educational Retirement Fund. HB 46 makes an appropriation. This bill is endorsed by the Investments and Pensions Oversight Committee.

H 47 LOCAL GOVT PLANNING FUND APPROPRIATION (Tomas E. Salazar)

House Bill 47 makes a recurring appropriation from the Public Project Revolving Fund to the Local Government Planning Fund, starting in FY2021. HB 47 provides appropriation use guidelines.

H 50 AMENDING THE INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BOND ACT (Nathan Small)

House Bill 50 changes the Industrial Revenue Bond Act to include certain electric transmission facilities as eligible projects. HB 50 changes the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act to include certain electric transmission facilities as eligible projects. HB 50 requires payments to the state for certain projects. HB 50 is effective on July 1, 2020.

H 60 DIFFERENTIAL RATES FOR THE INVESTMENTS (Sheryl Williams Stapleton)

House Bill 60 (H 60) enacts Section 7-27-5.27. NMSA 1978. HB 60 provides for the investment of the Severance Tax Permanent Fund in New Mexico renewable energy businesses, projects, and bonds. HB 60 allows differential rates for the investments. HB 60 changes Section 7-27-5. NMSA 1978 to now reference Section 7-27-5.27. NMSA 1978. HB 60 defines terms.

H 61 RETURN OF AN IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE (Sheryl Williams Stapleton)

House Bill 61 adds to the motor vehicles statutes to require the return of an ignition interlock device or a police report of the theft of an ignition interlock device prior to reinstatement of a driver’s license. HB 61 also allows additional payments from the interlock device fund.
H 74 EXPAND RURAL HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER CREDIT (Miguel P. Garcia)

House Bill 74 expands and increases the Rural Health Care Practitioner Tax Credit by adding pharmacists, social workers, and certain behavioral health therapists to the eligible taxpayers that qualify for the credit.

H 76 EASTERN NM WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP (Randall Crowder)

House Bill 76 amends the Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority Act by removing Curry County and the villages of Melrose and Grady from the membership of the Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority.

H 77 SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME TAX EXEMPTION (Daymon Ely)

House Bill 77 exempts a maximum of twenty-four-thousand dollars ($24,000) of Social Security Income from income tax.

H 79 PRC ENERGY TRANSMISSION LINE JURISDICTION (Matthew McQueen)

House Bill 79 provides jurisdiction by the Public Regulation Commission (PRC) over transmission line locations. HB 79 requires PRC approval of renewable energy transmission authority facilities.

H 80 RETURN OF DWI INTERLOCK FOR LICENSE (Daymon Ely)

House Bill 80 amends sections of the motor vehicle statutes for licensing of operators and chauffeurs, which provides for the return of an ignition interlock device, related fees, and reinstatement of a driver’s license or registration. HB 80 also allows for addition uses of the interlock device fund to replace or remove the interlock device for indigent people.

H 82 INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE (Patricia Roybal Caballero)

House Bill 82 introduces graduated increases in the minimum wage, provides cost-of-living increases beginning in 2025, and makes changes to wages of tipped employees. HB 82 eliminates statute that reduces minimum wage for people with disabilities.

H 83 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE FUND (Doreen Y. Gallegos)

House Bill 83 creates the Early Childhood Education and Care Fund and the Early Childhood Education and Care Program Fund and provides for distributing revenue from the Oil and Gas Emergency School Tax Act and from the federal Mineral Leasing Act to the Early Childhood Education and Care Fund. HB 83 also makes an appropriation of three-hundred, twenty-million dollars ($320,000,000) from the General Fund to the Early Childhood Education and Care Fund for expenditure.

H 91 LIMIT PROPERTY TAX VALUATION INCREASES (Matthew McQueen)

House Bill 91 limits the existing property tax valuation increases to 3 percent for owners’ primary residence and raises the cap to 10 percent for other property not occupied by the owner.
H 93 ADOPTION OF RATE ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM (Matthew McQueen)

House Bill 93 modifies the Efficient Use of Energy Act by clarifying that a rate adjustment mechanism can be adopted to separate a utility’s revenue per customer from the amount of electricity or natural gas it sells.

H 94 PUBLICATION OF CAPITAL OUTLAY (Matthew McQueen)

House Bill 94 requires publication of allocations by legislators and the governor of capital outlay appropriations or bond authorizations.

S 5 EXTREME RISK FIREARM PROTECTION ORDER ACT (Joseph Cervantes)

Senate Bill 5 creates the Extreme Risk Firearm Protection Order Act (also known as red flag law) and provides for court orders as a requirement to surrender firearms temporarily under certain circumstances. SB 5 provides penalties.

S 6 AMENDS TO THE INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BOND ACT (Steven P. Neville)

Senate Bill 6 amends the Industrial Revenue Bonds Act and the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act to include certain transmission facilities as eligible projects. SB 6 also requires annual payments to the state to be deposited in the General Fund.

S 17 TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE (Michael Padilla)

Senate Bill 17 creates Gross Receipts and Compensating Tax deductions for broadband telecommunications network facilities components.

S 18 ENACTING A RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION TAX (Michael Padilla)

Senate Bill 18 creates the Renewable Energy Production Tax Act, imposes an excise tax and distributes to the new Early Childhood Program Fund.

S 19 NMFA LOANS OR GRANTS FOR WATER PROJECTS (Jacob Candelaria)

Senate Bill 19 authorizes the New Mexico Finance Authority to make loans or grants from the Water Project Fund for certain water projects throughout the state. It declares an emergency. The New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee endorsed this bill.

S 20 FEE FOR ELECTRIC AND HYBRID VEHICLES (Bill Tallman)

Senate Bill 20 imposes an additional registration fee for electric vehicles and hybrid electric vehicles. SB 20 distributes the additional fees to the State Road Fund.

S 23 PUBLICATION OF CAPITAL OUTLAY AUTHORIZATIONS (Bill Tallman)

Senate Bill 23 requires publication of allocations by legislators and the governor of capital outlay appropriations or authorizations. SB 23 declares an emergency.
S 27 POLICE OFFICERS STATIONED IN MUNICIPALITIES (Sander Rue)

Senate Bill 27 makes changes to Section 29-2-21. NMSA 1978. SB 27 requires the governor to detail a select group of state police officers to be stationed in municipalities with a population of five-hundred thousand (500,000) persons or more, as per the most recent federal decennial Census from July 1, 2020, until June 30, 2021. SB 27 is effective on July 1, 2020.

S 29 SOLAR MARKET DEVELOPMENT INCOME TAX CREDIT (Mimi Stewart)

Senate Bill 29 creates the New Solar Market Development Income Tax Credit.

S 34 COLA INCREASES TO RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT (Craig Brandt)

Senate Bill 34 makes changes to Section 10-11-8. NMSA 1978 to allow cost-of-living adjustment increases for retired law enforcement officers hired as school security personnel.

S 50 EASTERN NM WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP (Pat Woods)

Senate Bill 50 amends the Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority Act by removing Curry County and the villages of Melrose and Grady from the membership of the Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority.

S 52 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR LEDA RECIPIENTS (Bill Tallman)

Senate Bill 52 modifies reporting by Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) recipients. SB 52 imposes a penalty for revelation of confidential taxpayer information and requires Taxation and Revenue, Economic Development, and Workforce Solutions Departments to provide data. SB 52 appropriates one-hundred, eighty-eight thousand dollars ($188,000) to the Legislative Finance Committee.

S 57 PET FOOD FEE FOR NEUTERING & SHELTERING (Jacob Candelaria)

Senate Bill 57 relates to animals. SB 57 imposes an additional fee on pet food for dogs and cats to fund the Dog and Cat Spay and Neuter Assistance Program and the Animal Sheltering Act. SB 57 establishes a household income level for assistance. SB 57 requires the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to: 1) include information on the total number of dogs and cats spayed and neutered and the average costs per surgery paid for from the statewide Spay and Neuter Subaccount of the Animal Care and Facility Fund; and 2) provide for inclusion in the annual report the number of pet foods registered pursuant to Section 76-19A-10 NMSA 1978 for the current and previous year listed by registrant. SB 57 provides for a delayed repeal effective July 1, 2026. SB 57 is effective July 1, 2020.

S 60 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT BOARD CHANGES (George K. Munoz)

Senate Bill 60 modifies the members of the Public Employees Retirement Board and removes certain election requirements.

S 63 TENANCY TAX ACT (George K. Munoz)

Senate Bill 63 creates the Tenancy Tax Act and establishes eligible uses of the tax.
Senate Bill 64 eliminates an exception to public inspection for records pertaining to insurance coverage created or maintained by the Risk Management Division of the General Services Department and clarifies the authority of the legislature to obtain records pertaining to certain claims against governmental entities, public officers or public employees. SB 64 removes the one-hundred-eighty-day delay in releasing public records pertaining to claims against governmental entities, public officers or public employees after the occurrence of certain events. It changes and removes the events that trigger release of these public records and eliminates criminal penalties for revealing confidential records pertaining to these types of claims.

Senate Bill 65 increases the in-state per diem rate for public officers and employees. SB 65 excludes alcohol and entertainment from reimbursement of expenses and expands the agencies allowed rulemaking authority under the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

Senate Bill 71 provides for an investment performance-based framework for the compensation of the Public Employees Retirement Association and Educational Retirement Board staff. SB 71 exempts those agencies’ investment staff positions from the Personnel Act. SB 71 requires yearly reporting. SB 71 is effective on July 1, 2021.

Senate Bill 72 proposes a number of changes to the Public Employees Retirement Association fund. Coverage plan funded ratios and adjustment of contribution rates are subject to certification. SB 72 clarifies municipal resolutions regarding contributions and changes cost-of-living provisions. Certain contributions are increased. Income threshold is modified for contribution tiers. Vesting periods are shortened. Maximum benefit cap is eliminated. Revises certain law enforcement coverage plans. SB 72 provides for elections when adopting certain plans. This bill is endorsed by the Investments and Pensions Oversight Committee and makes an appropriation of seventy-six million dollars ($76 million).

Senate Bill 76 appropriates one-hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) from the General Fund to the Aging and Long-term Services Department to purchase New Mexico-grown fruits and vegetables for senior center meal programs.

Senate Bill 79 makes a nonrecurring FY2021 appropriation of two-hundred-fifty-thousand-dollars ($250,000) from the General Fund to the Office of the State Auditor to provide assistance to land grants-Mercedes and Acequia associations in complying with the Audit Act, Section 12-6. NMSA 1978.
S 80 COMMUNITY SOLAR ACT (William Soules)

Senate Bill 80 enacts the Community Solar Act. SB 80 provides for the establishment and interconnection of community solar facilities. SB 80 requires rulemaking by the Public Regulation Commission no later than January 1, 2021. SB 80 creates the Community Solar Energy Assistance Fund. SB 80 establishes that renewable energy certificates from community solar facilities are owned by the public utility. SB 80 makes a recurring appropriation from the General Fund to the Community Solar Energy Assistance Fund, starting in FY2021. SB 80 requires the Public Regulation Commission, no later than November 1, 2023, to provide a report. SB 80 defines terms. SB 80 adds community solar facilities to Section 62-16-5 and Section 62-17-10 NMSA 1978.

S 82 REFUNDABLE TAX CREDIT (James P White)

Senate Bill 82 creates a refundable tax credit for 2019 and includes a provision for interest. SB 82 appropriates seven-hundred, fifty thousand dollars ($750,000).

S 85 LOCAL LIQUOR EXCISE TAX CHANGES (Jerry Ortiz y Pino)

Senate Bill 85 authorizes all counties to impose a local liquor excise tax. SB 85 extends the amount of time an imposition of the tax may be in effect. SB 85 allows subsequent impositions of the tax. SB 85 changes how the proceeds from the tax may be used. SB 85 provides for the continuation of ordinances imposing the tax prior to the effective date of this act. SB 85 is effective on July 1, 2020.

S 86 BH PURCHASING COLLABORATIVE MEMBERSHIP (Jerry Ortiz y Pino)

Senate Bill 86 adds representatives of behavioral health providers and local government associations and members of the public to the membership of the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative. SB 86 declares an emergency.

S 92 NO ALCOHOL SALE BY SCHOOLS OR CHURCHES (Linda M. Lopez)

Senate Bill 92 amends definitions in the Liquor Control Act. SB 92 amends restrictions on licensing locations near a church or school, including specifying how measurements will be taken to meet the requirement that a business selling alcohol cannot be within 300 feet of a church or school.

S 94 RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT RETURNING TO WORK (Clemente Sanchez)

Senate Bill 94 amends public employee retirement statutes to allow retired law enforcement officers to return to employment as law enforcement patrol officers under certain conditions.

SJM 3 FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A NM HISTORY ROOM (Michael Padilla)

Senate Joint Memorial 3 requests the Cultural Affairs Department, in cooperation with the Public Education Department, the Indian Affairs Department, the New Mexico Municipal League and New Mexico counties, to conduct a study of the feasibility of creating a New Mexico History Room in a local library in each county in the state and to report the findings and recommendations from the study to the governor and the legislature.