

## Legislature 2019: Session Summary

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*In the 2018-19 New Mexico Legislative Session*, legislators passed bills with wide-ranging implications for New Mexico's future. The 2019 legislative session was one of the busiest in recent state history. Here is a summary of some of the legislation debated during the 60-day session:

### Budget/taxes

**Passed:** A \$7 billion budget bill with hefty spending increase for public schools; a broad tax package that increases some tax rates and expands a working families tax credit; lifting the annual spending cap on film incentives from \$50 million to \$110 million; \$933 million package for infrastructure projects.

**Failed:** Expanding early childhood education by tapping into the Land Grant Permanent Fund; increasing the state's gasoline tax rate by 10 cents per gallon; allowing municipalities in the Oil Patch to impose a 5 percent tenancy tax on long-term renters.

### Guns

**Passed:** Requiring background checks before nearly any firearm sale; prohibiting gun possession by domestic abusers or people subject to an order of protection under the Family Violence Protection Act.

**Failed:** Allowing courts to order the temporary taking of guns from someone deemed an immediate threat; criminal penalties for failing to properly secure firearm arms around children.

### Business/labor

**Passed:** Raising the statewide minimum wage to \$12 an hour by 2023; regulating the production, research and manufacturing of hemp; doubling state investment in the nonprofit Small Business Investment Corp.; barring counties from enforcing local "right-to-work" ordinances.

**Failed:** Capping interest rates for payday loans at 36 percent.

### Education

**Passed:** Creating a Cabinet-level department of early childhood education; repealing the state's A-F grading system for schools; increasing pay for teachers; establishing four centers of excellence at colleges and universities; extending school year.

**Failed:** Implementing a moratorium on new charter schools around the state through 2021.

### Ethics/transparency

**Passed:** Setting the powers and procedures of a voter-approved ethics commission; requiring lobbyists to start reporting their cumulative spending on individual meals or other items that cost less than \$100 each.

**Failed:** Allowing government agencies to withhold the identities of all but three finalists for some public jobs; making it clear that the University of New Mexico Foundation and similar groups must operate in public and release public records upon request.

### Drugs

**Passed:** Reducing penalties for marijuana possession.

**Failed:** Legalizing recreational marijuana through state-run stores; making possession of all types of drugs a misdemeanor offense; setting new guidelines on driving under the influence of drugs.

### Elections

**Passed:** Overhauling campaign finance regulations; creating legislative caucus committees; allowing voter registration on Election Day; expanding automated voter registration at Motor Vehicle Division; signing New Mexico onto national popular vote compact.

**Failed:** Opening primary elections to independent voters.

### **Criminal Justice**

**Passed:** Allowing people to seek court approval to wipe an arrest or conviction from their records; creating a data-sharing network for criminal justice agencies; expanding pre-prosecution diversion; prohibiting employers from asking job-seekers about criminal history on an initial application.

**Failed:** Revising “three strikes” law; eliminating the statute of limitations for second-degree murder.

### **Health/family**

**Passed:** Allowing medical marijuana at school and making other changes to the medical cannabis program; requiring health insurance policies to cover contraception; adding diaper-changing stations to new restrooms.

**Failed:** Repealing the state’s 1969 anti-abortion law; allowing a terminally ill patient to seek a doctor’s help to end their life; abandoning biannual time changes.

### **Environment/wildlife**

**Passed:** Banning coyote-killing contests; establishing an office of outdoor recreation; identifying and protecting wildlife corridors.

**Failed:** Making trapping illegal on public lands; water planning by Interstate Stream Commission; creating state council to prepare for climate change.

### **Energy**

**Passed:** Establishing an Energy Transition Act to move to carbon-free energy generation by 2045; outlining new rules dealing with violations by oil and gas operators.

**Failed:** Imposing a four-year moratorium on fracking; bringing back a personal income tax credit for installing solar panels; raising royalty rates on oil and gas production on some state trust lands.

## **Scholarship Recipient: *Mckinzey Allee***

*NMPMA congratulates our Scholarship Recipient Mckinzey Allee* of Farmington, New Mexico. She applied for the WPMA Scholarship through NMPMA member Honstein Oil & Distributing.

## **Upcoming Event!**

*The NMPMA Convention and Trade Show* will be held August 19-21, 2019, once again at the Sandia Resort and Casino in Albuquerque, New Mexico