

Good morning, Lobo Friends,

The 2022 state legislative session is nearing the home stretch. With about 75 hours left to go, key aspects of the state's budget picture and other items with fiscal implications for UNM are coming into full resolution. With much thanks to all your hard work, community-focused mindset, and attention to legislative detail, we are seeing positive progress in an impressive number of areas.

To be sure, there is much work still to be done. Nonetheless, UNM senior leadership in conjunction with the Office of Government and Community Relations is pleased to provide you with the below updates, latest-version reference documents, and other information related to policy priorities as noted below.

- **House Bill 2**, as the state's primary budget bill, has cleared the Senate Finance Committee, and, as of Sunday, Feb. 13, awaits a floor hearing in the Senate. This would be its final step before heading to Governor for signature or potential vetoes. Please see HB2 summary documents from SFC and supporting LFC staff: [SFC HB2 Narrative with Spreadsheets](#); HB2 [High-Level Detail](#); and HB 2 [Institutional Detail](#).
- **The Junior Bill (SB 48)** is expected to be heard in House Appropriations and Finance Committee (HAFC) on Monday, Feb. 14. At that point, we should see the House's additions to this bill. The bill as it stands currently includes the Senate "adds" only. This legislation serves as an ancillary funding mechanism for RPSPs, among other types of projects.
- **The GO Bond bill (HB 153)** cleared House Taxation and Revenue Committee yesterday, Feb. 12, as an important milestone in the development of the package. As you will see in the bill's [agency-by-agency analysis](#) (see page 6), UNM's largest capital requests for the 2022 session, including the Center for Collaborative Arts and Technology and also the Children's Psychiatric Center, have been well-supported in the 2022 legislative process to date. Please see attached HTRC summary for the bill that was adopted yesterday in HTRC. The bill passed the House floor late in the evening on Saturday, Feb. 12, on a 66-2 vote. If adopted by the legislature, these items would be up for a popular vote in the November, 2022 general election.
- As of Sunday evening, Feb. 13, the **Capital Outlay / Severance tax bonds (STBs) package, SB 212**, is yet to emerge. While slow to get out of the gate this year because of some Legislature vs. Executive branch dynamics, we still firmly anticipate that the bill should still be enacted, even if the Legislature must call a special session to finally get it done. As of Feb. 13, the bill and [agency-by-agency](#) summary is a largely empty "shell" showing only a few major items per this year's LFC framework. This draft as introduced doesn't yet include the Governor's projects, other statewide negotiated projects between the executive and legislative branches, nor individual discretionary capital outlay requests that we're all eagerly awaiting.

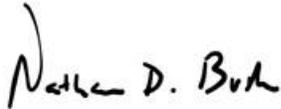
- [SB 140](#), the Governor's **Opportunity Scholarship package**, was debated on Sunday, Feb. 13 on the Senate floor and passed by a wide margin. The updated bill rolls together several higher education scholarship programs, including the Opportunity Scholarship, the Legislative Endowment Scholarship, and the College Affordability Grant program, but it no longer encompasses in the Lottery Scholarship. It instead treats the Opportunity Scholarship as a separate stand-alone scholarship program offering, and according to current funding and policy being developed this session, the Lottery Scholarship program would receive full funding from the State of New Mexico for at least the next 4 years. The Governor's bill moved quickly through SFC the morning of Sunday, Feb. 13 as an SFC committee substitute bill, and was prepared for an immediate Senate floor hearing the same afternoon where it was amended twice on the floor. This is evidence for increased cooperation between the Executive and Legislative branches on this bill.
  - Underlying bill (SFC committee sub from this morning) may be found here:  
<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/22%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0140FCS.pdf>
    - i. Senate Floor Amendment 1:  
<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/22%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0140FS1.pdf>
    - ii. Senate Floor Amendment 2:  
<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/22%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0140FS2.pdf>
- [SB 41](#), a bill **amending the University Research Parks Economic Development Act**, or URPEDA, is due to be heard this afternoon, Feb. 14, in House Judiciary. If adopted, this bill would change state laws related to higher education-affiliated research parks. Despite the fact that each research park organized under URPEDA is currently organized as a separate nonprofit, SB 41 would deem such entities a "public employer" for certain purposes, and is therefore in conflict with the letter and intent behind the initial state statutes that created university research park corporations in the first place in 1989.
- [Senate Bill 119](#), a proposal for a **School of Public Health** at UNM that would also grow an associated program partnership with NMSU, is in position for a hearing before the Senate Finance Committee. On Feb. 13, the Senate Finance Committee adopted a revised version of HB 2 that includes \$15 million to HED for spending on "salaries, operations, program development, and a space utilization study for a School of Public Health" through FY24, with those funds further specified and broken down as \$10 million for UNM Health Sciences and \$5 million for NMSU. That funding is not contingent on the adoption of SB 119.
- We continue to see positive movement on **workforce pipeline initiatives** related to both teacher education and nursing, as these are top priorities for both UNM and the state. HB2 includes \$20 million for the Teacher Preparation Affordability Scholarship and \$500 thousand for the Grow Your Own Teacher Scholarship. It furthermore includes \$250 thousand dollars for a new Teacher Education Consortium to be housed at the Higher Education Department, with an additional \$4.5 million added by the Senate Finance Committee for teacher residency programs (for a total of \$10 million), and \$50 million dollars for Endowed Faculty Positions in Educator Preparation Programs. HB2 also includes \$100 thousand for teacher pipeline initiatives on the

Albuquerque campus. Additionally, the latest version of HB 2 retains two new nonrecurring appropriations for statewide nursing workforce development: a \$15 million appropriation from the Higher Education Department's Program Enhancement Fund will support nursing programs with one-time costs, and an additional infusion of \$30 million will be used to create Endowed Faculty Positions that will increase nursing degree production statewide.

Please continue to check our [UNM Office of Government and Community Relations website](#) for updates on our collective legislative progress.

With so much tremendous teamwork reflected in the above developments, we want to pause for a moment and again thank our students and other learners, faculty, staff, Senior Leadership, Regents, and of all our internal and external community partners. We appreciate greatly all your combined efforts to cover many bases in recent weeks and ensure UNM interests are being effectively promoted, accurately analyzed, and well-represented in the halls of the Roundhouse by all available means.

Together we howl,



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