

April 6, 2022

Greetings Lobos,

The 3rd Special Session of the 55th New Mexico Legislature completed its work in just under 12 hours, start to finish, after kicking off yesterday at 9am.

Two major pieces of legislation were being considered: first, a revisitation of the “Junior” appropriations bill from the 2022 Regular Session (SB48, now repackaged as [Senate Bill 1](#) for the Special Session) which was vetoed in its entirety by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham in early March for reasons we outlined in previous communications. Importantly, [SB48 had included 30 different line items of funding](#) totaling \$3.7 million for UNM projects and programs that support our students, faculty, staff, and the communities we are proud to serve as Lobos. Second, Legislative Leadership and the Governor joined forces in the Special Session on a tax rebate package (introduced as [House Bill 2](#)) intended to stave off continued worrisome effects of inflation and increased gas prices on everyday consumers.

In support of UNM’s Junior Bill appropriations and in preparation for the Special Session, the Office of Government and Community Relations, under the direction of President Stokes, triangulated with dozens of constituent groups across campus to develop a suite of resource materials for legislators, legislative appropriations and finance staff, and the Governor’s team that served to further justify [each SB48 appropriation](#). These briefing materials provided a comprehensive look at each of the programs and projects—including associated budget and spending plans—that were dependent on the passage of SB48 in the 2022 Regular Session while providing rationale for further adoption. The document was well-received and was even quoted in the [State’s official analysis of SB1](#) (see page 3).

At the end of the day yesterday, SB1 was successfully passed by the Legislature and is now on its way to the Governor’s desk, with all UNM appropriations from the Regular Session’s Junior Bill fully reinstated. The Legislature and Governor agreed to insert new language that allows for full public disclosure showing which lawmakers sponsored which Junior Bill projects, with that information to be released on a prescribed timeline after the Governor has completed her actions on the bill. Our office will issue a final report on SB1 from this Special Session after the Governor has had time to review and, we expect, sign the bill.

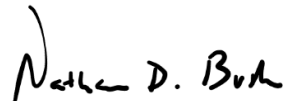
In other news, the tax rebate package (HB2) also passed after undergoing several hours of debate, including various committee reviews and floor hearings in the House and Senate. A state analysis of that bill may be found [here](#).

We encourage you to stay informed on legislative developments by joining our UNM Government Relations community and receive regular legislative updates by [submitting an online request](#) to be added to our listserv.

One obvious takeaway from the state legislative events of recent weeks is that Lobos are a determined bunch, and if we remain focused and work together as the Pack, then temporary adversity can be overcome, and even new leadership opportunities may emerge. It is in this spirit of collaboration that we, as Lobos, remain committed to appropriately informing the work of our state's elected and appointed officials as we continue our quest to be a trusted voice and community partner.

With many thanks to all who join us in aspiring to excellence in service,

Nathan



Nathan Bush
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University of New Mexico