



New Mexico Department of Finance & Administration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Department of Finance and Administration Supports SB 345

Per Diem and Mileage Act Changes sponsored by Senator Gonzales

SANTA FE – The Department of Finance and Administration supports SB 345, *the Per Diem and Mileage Act Changes* sponsored by Senator Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales. SB 345 amends NMSA Section 10-8-4 to change travel reimbursement rates for in-state and out-of-state travel for certain public officers and employees. Specific rates are statutorily set and do not allow reimbursement rates to adjust without action by the Legislature. SB 345 is a much-needed amendment to the current law to bring state payments for per diem and travel reimbursements to match the modern meeting landscape and to evolve appropriately when needed.

Current law has no distinction for meeting duration or location, requiring the state to pay a flat per diem reimbursement for all meetings, committees, and boards. It also does not explicitly address virtual meetings. Existing law also allows for meeting attendees to receive reimbursements for multiple meetings of the same board or committee on the same day. The bill will allow DFA to set the amounts annually in consultation with federal General Services Administration (GSA) rates. This change intends to reimburse public officers and employees while streamlining administrative processes more fully.

The bill is scheduled for the New Mexico Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee on March 8th, 2021. The hearing will be available to the public via webcast at <https://www.nmlegis.gov/>