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For Immediate Release

April 7, 2021

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signs SB 146 into law

SANTA FE, N.M. – New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed Senate Bill 146 into law on April 5, 2021, which amends the emergency activation of the New Mexico State Defense Force for “militia duty” by order of the Governor.

The New Mexico State Defense Force operates under the oversight of the Adjutant General of New Mexico, a command relationship which would continue during state activation of the New Mexico State Defense Force.

This bill ensures the New Mexico National Guard remains agile, relevant and prepared to defend our state and nation.

“I want to thank Senator William Burt for sponsoring SB 146 which authorizes our Governor to activate State Defense Force personnel as a force multiplier for the New Mexico National Guard during disaster/domestic missions,” said Maj. Gen. Ken Nava, the Adjutant General of New Mexico. “Thank you to our Senators and Representatives for their work on the bill and Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham for signing the bill into law.”

Additionally, House Bill 31, which was sponsored by Representative Debbie Sarinana and signed by the Governor, is a positive change on an important social and military justice issue regarding sexual assault. House Bill 31 updates Section 20-12-51 of the Code of Military Justice relating to rape and other sex crimes. The bill substantially expands the scope of conduct that will subject a person covered by the Code of Military Justice to criminal prosecution for rape and sexual assault, and adds additional crimes of aggravated sexual contact and abusive sexual contact.

This bill applies only to military members of the New Mexico National Guard. It does not apply to other Reserve service members or to Guardsmen deployed under federal law.

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