

We're just 8 days away from the end of the 2025 New Mexico Legislative Session! While we've discussed SB5 ad-nauseum, some might be surprised to learn it's not the only thing we've had been focused on this year. Below is a recap of the 24 bills that we have been actively monitoring which would have an impact on the outfitted hunting & fishing industry. The bills are segmented by their status as March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

And for the record, this year is at least the 3<sup>rd</sup> session in a row that NMCOG has been the **ONLY hunting or landowner organization** to lobby against, and oppose in committee, bad gun legislation.

Here's a short recap of our key priorities this session:

#### SUPPORTED BY NMCOG

SB5 (Game Commission Reform) – this omnibus game department modernization legislation was originally a bad bill made **WAY better** through our negotiations with the sponsor and amendments during the legislative process. This bill passed both the Senate (28-12) and House (42-26) with bipartisan support. The bill is now on the Governor's desk. Whether or not the Governor signs the bill into law is still a gamble. She does not like the Game Commission Reform piece which, in NMCOG's opinion, is arguably the best part of the bill.

SB507 (Firearm Licenses & Transfers) – reduces some of the burdens associated with receiving and maintaining a concealed carry license in New Mexico. If this bill makes it to the finish line, it will be interesting to see if the Governor signs it.

SB264 (Administrative fee changes) – this bill was basically the stand-alone license fee increase for the NM Dept. of Game and Fish. There were some other state agency fees in this bill, but the bill was tabled in its first committee due to its association with Game and Fish. As we've stated previously, this legislature has no appetite for passing a license fee increase, which they have not done since 2006, without agency modernization. Hence SB5

#### OPPOSED BY NMCOG

SB279 (Gas-operated Semiauto Firearms Exclusion Act) – this bill is misdirected, ridiculously overbroad, and likely unconstitutional. The definition of "gas-operated" would include basically every semi-automatic firearm under the sun. Many NM legislators on both sides of the aisle are self-proclaimed gun owners and most of them seem to understand how outrageous this bill is. It continues to die slowly.

HB11 (Paid Family & Medical Leave Act) – this bill has been amended and reamended so many times I'm not sure anyone really understands what the bill does anymore. Originally this bill would have mandated employers and employees to pay into a fund to pay employee benefits for leave that is not considered "sick". Originally it exempted businesses with less than 5 employees and employees who are considered independent contractors. However, those aspects

have changed and now the bill has no employee minimum, and independent contractors could be subject in some instances. No one seems to have a clear understanding of the bill or where the funding will come from. And for that reason, the momentum behind this bill has slowed substantially.

#### FULL LIST OF LEGISLATION FOLLOWED BY NMCOG THIS SESSION

PASSED OR LIKELY TO PASS

**SB 5** – [GAME COMMISSION REFORM](#)

**HJM 5** – [PROTECTIONS FOR UPPER PECOS WATERSHED](#)

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

**SB 264** – [ADMINISTRATIVE FEE CHANGES](#)

MOVING BUT LIKELY TO RUN OUT OF TIME

**HB 208** – [HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE VOTER REGISTRATION](#)

**HB 12** – [EXTREME RISK FIREARM PROTECTION ORDER CHANGES](#)

**SB 318** – [FIREARMS IN UNFAIR PRACTICES ACT](#)

**SB 507** – [FIREARM LICENSES & TRANSFERS](#)

**HB 580** – [ELK LICENSE PLATE](#)

BAD BILLS STALLED IN COMMITTEE

**HB 11** – [PAID FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE ACT](#)

**HB 31** – [FOURTH DEGREE FELONY FOR SHOOTING THREAT](#)

**HB 38** – [POSSESSION OF WEAPON CONVERSION DEVICE](#)

**HB 39** – [JUVENILE RECORD IN FIREARM BACKGROUND CHECKS](#)

**HB 246** – [INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE](#)

**HB 394** – [CLEAN ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD](#)

**HJR 3** – [ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS, CA](#)

**HJR 11** – [CHANGE ANTI-DONATION CLAUSE, CA](#)

**SB 4** – [CLEAR HORIZONS & GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS](#)

**SB 279** – [GAS-OPERATED SEMIAUTO FIREARMS EXCLUSION ACT](#)

YET TO RECEIVE A HEARING OR PULLED BY THE SPONSOR

**HB 29** – [LANDOWNER LIABILITY IN SPECIAL DISTRICTS](#)

**HB 294** – [TAXATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND](#)

**HB 319** – [QUAIL AS "GAME BIRD" & RAISING WITHOUT PERMIT](#)

**SB 381** – [CRIMINAL CODE DEFINITION OF "LIVESTOCK"](#)

**SB 244** – [UNLAWFUL TRANSFER OF FIREARM TO A MINOR](#)

**SB 114 – GAME COMMISSION LAND ACQUISITIONS**