

New Mexico Register

The official publication for all official notices of rulemaking
and filing of proposed, adopted and emergency rules.

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Volume XXX, Issue 20

October 29, 2019

Table of Contents

Notices of Rulemaking and Proposed Rules

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Notice of Public Hearing.....	649
-------------------------------	-----

ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Notice of Public Hearing for Adoption of New Rule 20.10.2 NMAC, Hemp Post-Harvest Processing.....	649
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

Aviso de Audiencia Publica para la Adopcion de la Nueva Regla 20.10.2 NMAC, Procesamiento Posterior a la Cosecha de Hemp.....	651
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Notice of Rule Hearing.....	652
-----------------------------	-----

HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.....	653
------------------------------------	-----

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.....	653
------------------------------------	-----

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

Notice of Public Hearing.....	655
-------------------------------	-----

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Notice of Rule Making and Public Rule Hearing.....	656
----------------------------------------------------	-----

STATE PERSONNEL OFFICE

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.....	657
------------------------------------	-----

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF

Notice of Rulemaking (9.1.1 NMAC).....	660
----------------------------------------	-----

Notice of Rulemaking (11.2.3 NMAC).....	660
-----------------------------------------	-----

Adopted Rules

A = Amended, E = Emergency, N = New, R = Repealed, Rn = Renumbered

HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF

7.2.2 NMAC	R	Vital Records and Statistics.....	663
7.2.2 NMAC	N	Vital Records and Statistics.....	663
7.34.4 NMAC	A/E	Licensing Requirements for Producers, Couriers, Manufacturers and Laboratories.....	674

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

INCOME SUPPORT DIVISION

8.102.120 NMAC	A	Case Administration.....	675
8.106.120 NMAC	A	Case Administration.....	682
8.139.110 NMAC	A	Application Processing.....	682
8.139.410 NMAC	A	Non-Financial Eligibility Criteria.....	684

PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

6.65.3 NMAC	R	Educator Preparation Program Accountability.....	684
6.65.3 NMAC	N	Educator Preparation Program Accountability.....	685

REGULATION AND LICENSING DEPARTMENT**FUNERAL SERVICES, BOARD OF**

16.64.1 NMAC	A	General Provisions.....	689
16.64.2 NMAC	A	Fees.....	692
16.64.3 NMAC	A	Requirements for Licensure.....	693
16.64.4 NMAC	A	Requirements for Establishments.....	695
16.64.6 NMAC	A	Continuing Education.....	698
16.64.8 NMAC	A	Funeral Service Intern Practices.....	698
16.64.9 NMAC	A	Direct Disposition Practices.....	699
16.64.10 NMAC	A	Cremation Practices.....	700

MASSAGE BOARD

16.7.1 NMAC	R	General Provisions.....	701
16.7.2 NMAC	R	Professional Conduct.....	701
16.7.3 NMAC	R	Fees.....	701
16.7.4 NMAC	R	Requirements for Licensure.....	702
16.7.5 NMAC	R	Requirements for Schools.....	702
16.7.6 NMAC	R	Requirements for Instructors.....	702
16.7.7 NMAC	R	Students.....	702
16.7.10 NMAC	R	Examinations.....	702
16.7.11 NMAC	R	Continuing Education.....	702
16.7.12 NMAC	R	License/Registration Renewal.....	702
16.7.14 NMAC	R	Complaints.....	702
16.7.16 NMAC	R	Parental Responsibility Act Compliance.....	702
16.7.1 NMAC	N	General Provisions.....	702
16.7.2 NMAC	N	Professional Conduct.....	706
16.7.3 NMAC	N	Fees.....	707
16.7.4 NMAC	N	Requirements for Licensure.....	708
16.7.5 NMAC	N	Requirements for Schools.....	713
16.7.7 NMAC	N	Students.....	716
16.7.10 NMAC	N	Examinations.....	716
16.7.11 NMAC	N	Continuing Education.....	717
16.7.12 NMAC	N	License/Registration Renewal.....	719
16.7.14 NMAC	N	Complaints.....	721
16.7.16 NMAC	N	Parental Responsibility Act Compliance.....	724

SECRETARY OF STATE, OFFICE OF

1.10.13 NMAC	A	Campaign Finance.....	724
--------------	---	-----------------------	-----

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF

11.2.32 NMAC	N	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Local Area Designation Procedure.....	736
11.3.100 NMAC	A	General Provisions.....	737
11.3.300 NMAC	A	Claim Administration.....	742
11.3.400 NMAC	A	Tax Administration.....	748
11.3.500 NMAC	A	Adjudicatory Hearings, Filings of Appeals and Notice.....	759

proposed pursuant to Subsection H of Section 10-16G-7, State Ethics Commission Act, NMSA (1978). The purpose of this proposed rule is to ensure that all decisions and actions taken by the state ethics commission are free of undue or unlawful influences of any kind, real or apparent. The rule requires commissioners to evaluate their personal interests and attitudes, to fairly and honestly consider such issues whether or not raised by parties, and withdraw from acting on any matter where a real or apparent conflict of interest could undermine the confidence of the public in the fairness of the commission.

1.8.3.1 NMAC (“Administrative Hearings”): This rule is being proposed pursuant to Subsection A of Section 10-16G-5 NMSA 1978, State Ethics Commission Act, NMSA (1978). The purpose of this proposed rule is to establish general rules of practice and procedure for administrative hearings conducted by the commission or its hearing officers, unless a more specific statute or regulation applies to the substantive hearing type at issue. In summary, the proposed rule establishes: how to file a complaint with the commission; how complaints are referred to the commission by other agencies or by the commission to other agencies; how the commission can initiate complaints; time limits for filing or initiation of complaints; the director’s duty to notify parties of the filing of complaints or commission actions, except in limited circumstances; deferral of commission action on certain types of complaints during pre-election periods; the review, processing and investigation of complaints by the director and the general counsel; procedures for setting hearings on supported complaints and dismissal of insufficient complaints; issuance of and obtaining compliance with subpoenas; how to request an administrative hearing before a hearing officer in a matter within the jurisdiction of commission; who may represent a party in a matter

before commission; permitted motions and other pleadings and how they may be filed in a matter before the commission; the requirements for notices of hearing; the location of hearings; the burden of proof, permissible intervention in proceedings; presentation of the case, and evidentiary rules of the hearings before commission; the qualifications, selection, powers and responsibilities of the hearing officer; procedures for facilitating and approving settlement agreements; the openness or confidentiality of all matters before the commission, including proceedings and exhibits; the rules for issuance of administrative subpoenas; the requirements for language interpreters; and procedures for appeals to the commission of hearing officer decisions. Information on the public hearing and on submitting written comments is described above in paragraph three and four respectively of this notice.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

NOTICE OF RULE MAKING AND PUBLIC RULE HEARING

Notice of Rulemaking: The State Ethics Commission [the commission] will hold a public hearing on the proposed adoption of certain rules, as detailed below in the description of Proposed Rules, governing the conduct and procedures for administrative hearings before the commission. These new rules are proposed pursuant to Section 10-16G-5 and 10-16G-7 NMSA 1978. No technical scientific information was consulted in drafting these proposed rules.

Copies of all the proposed rules may be found at the Department of Finance and Administration’s website, www.nmdfa.state.nm.us, or, as of October 29, 2019, at the commission’s main office in Albuquerque: the New Mexico Ethics Commission, University of New Mexico Science and Technology Park, 800 Bradbury

Drive SE, Suite 217, Albuquerque, NM, 87106.

Notice of Public Rule Hearing:

The public rule hearing will occur on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 9:00 am in UNM’s Science and Technology Park’s Executive Board Room, 851 University Boulevard SE, Suite 200, Albuquerque, NM 87106. The public hearing will be conducted in a fair and equitable manner by the commission and shall be recorded. Any interested member of the public may attend the hearing and will be provided a reasonable opportunity to offer public comment, including presentation of data, views, or arguments, on the proposed rules during the hearing. Individuals with disabilities who need any form of auxiliary aid to attend or participate in the public hearing are asked to contact Jeremy.Farris@state.nm.us. The commission will make every effort to accommodate all reasonable requests, but cannot guarantee accommodation of a request that is not received at least five calendar days before the scheduled hearing.

Notice of Acceptance of Written

Public Comment: Written public comment, including presentation of data, views, or arguments about the proposed rules, from any interested member of the public will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 2, 2019 by submitting them via email to ethics.commission@state.nm.us with the subject line “SEC Rulemaking R19-01,” or via first class mail or by hand delivery to the commission’s Albuquerque office: New Mexico Ethics Commission, University of New Mexico Science and Technology Park, 800 Bradbury Drive SE, Suite 217, Albuquerque, NM, 87106.

Description of Proposed Rules: in compliance with Section 14-4-5.2 NMSA 1978, this notice includes the following summary of the proposed rule, a short explanation of the purpose of the rule, and specific legal authority authorizing the proposed rule. The method and manner of

public comment and notice of public hearing on the proposed rules are listed above.

1.8.1.1 NMAC (“General Provisions”): This rule is being proposed pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subsection A of Section 10-16G-5, State Ethics Commission Act, NMSA (1978). The purpose of the proposed rule is to ensure that the state ethics commission is administered so that it works effectively, efficiently and fairly to achieve its constitutional and statutory mission. That mission is to ensure compliance with all applicable public ethics laws by all public officials, employees, candidates, contractors, lobbyists and others subject to the commission’s jurisdiction throughout their employment or dealings with New Mexico state government; and to ensure that the public ethics laws are clear, comprehensive and effective.

1.8.2.1 NMAC (“Recusal of commissioners”): This rule is being proposed pursuant to Subsection H of Section 10-16G-7, State Ethics Commission Act, NMSA (1978). The purpose of this proposed rule is to ensure that all decisions and actions taken by the state ethics commission are free of undue or unlawful influences of any kind, real or apparent. The rule requires commissioners to evaluate their personal interests and attitudes, to fairly and honestly consider such issues whether or not raised by parties, and withdraw from acting on any matter where a real or apparent conflict of interest could undermine the confidence of the public in the fairness of the commission.

1.8.3.1 NMAC (“Administrative Hearings”): This rule is being proposed pursuant to Subsection A of Section 10-16G-5 NMSA 1978, State Ethics Commission Act, NMSA (1978). The purpose of this proposed rule is to establish general rules of practice and procedure for administrative hearings conducted by the commission or its hearing officers, unless a more specific statute or

regulation applies to the substantive hearing type at issue. In summary, the proposed rule establishes: how to file a complaint with the commission; how complaints are referred to the commission by other agencies or by the commission to other agencies; how the commission can initiate complaints; time limits for filing or initiation of complaints; the director’s duty to notify parties of the filing of complaints or commission actions, except in limited circumstances; deferral of commission action on certain types of complaints during pre-election periods; the review, processing and investigation of complaints by the director and the general counsel; procedures for setting hearings on supported complaints and dismissal of insufficient complaints; issuance of and obtaining compliance with subpoenas; how to request an administrative hearing before a hearing officer in a matter within the jurisdiction of commission; who may represent a party in a matter before commission; permitted motions and other pleadings and how they may be filed in a matter before the commission; the requirements for notices of hearing; the location of hearings; the burden of proof, permissible intervention in proceedings; presentation of the case, and evidentiary rules of the hearings before commission; the qualifications, selection, powers and responsibilities of the hearing officer; procedures for facilitating and approving settlement agreements; the openness or confidentiality of all matters before the commission, including proceedings and exhibits; the rules for issuance of administrative subpoenas; the requirements for language interpreters; and procedures for appeals to the commission of hearing officer decisions. Information on the public hearing and on submitting written comments is described above in paragraph three and four respectively of this notice.

STATE PERSONNEL OFFICE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Public Notice: The New Mexico State Personnel Office provides notice that it will conduct a public hearing in Santa Fe at the State Personnel Office Auditorium, Willie Ortiz Building, 2600 Cerrillos Rd, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Friday, December 6, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public input on the proposed repeal and replace of 1.7.1 NMAC – General Provisions and amendments to 1.7.7 NMAC – Absence and Leave.

Authority: Personnel Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 10-9-10 and 10-9-12.

Purpose: The purposes of the repeal and replacement of 1.7.1 NMAC and the amendments to 1.7.7 NMAC are to add, clarify, and amend definitions used throughout the State Personnel Board rules and update procedures to reflect current practices and changes in law. 1.7.1 NMAC is being repealed and replaced to conform to current NMAC2 style and format.

Summary of Proposed Amendments to the Repeal and Replacement of 1.7.1 NMAC:

1.7.1.7 – Definitions

The proposed changes would add, delete, or amend the following definitions to reflect current meanings:

- Amend definition of “anniversary date” to correct a conflict with Subsection B of NMAC 1.7.9.8 and 1.7.3.10 NMAC and clarify that classification studies do not impact the anniversary date.
- Add definition of “appointment” because it used throughout the Rules.
- Add definition of “audit” because it is used throughout the Rules.
- Amend definition of “break in employment” to clarify that a break relates to “period of time”.