

ABLE New Mexico Resource Shortcuts

If you're searching for more information about the program or have specific questions about your account, the following links can help. You can find more information at <https://ablennmexico.com/>

Click the links below to download the marketing brochure, fact sheet, and presentation:

- [Marketing Brochure](#)
- [Fact Sheet](#)
- [PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- [Marketing Brochure \(Español\)](#)
- [Fact Sheet \(Español\)](#)
- [PowerPoint Presentation \(Español\)](#)

Click the links below for power of attorney and program-to-program rollover forms:

- [Power of Attorney Form](#)
- [Incoming ABLE Rollover Form](#)
- [Power of Attorney Form \(Español\)](#)
- [529 College Savings Rollover Form](#)

Click the links below to request a STABLE Card or log into the STABLE Card portal:

- [Request a STABLE Card](#)
- [Open an Account](#)
- [STABLE Card Portal Login](#)



Parents Reaching Out

**16TH ANNUAL
FAMILY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**
VIRTUALLY APRIL 2021

Financial Independence: Understanding ABLE New Mexico

Presented by Heather Benavidez

On Thursday, April 22, 2021, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am, you can learn about ABLE New Mexico. ABLE NM is a savings and investment program for individuals living with disabilities that can help individuals with disabilities achieve financial independence.

Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinmeeting/register/tZUrcu2upz8vE9Q_g5VRkYFvfiaw6113mrlu

If you need sign language interpretation or any other assistance accessing the sessions, please call us as soon as you register or at least

a week prior to the session at (505) 247-0192 or 1-800-524-5176.

For more information, please visit <https://parentsreachingout.org/familyleadershipconference/>



Get Empowered During National Financial Literacy Month

April is National Financial Literacy Month. Nonprofits, government agencies, and businesses nationwide celebrate the month by urging all Americans to increase their knowledge of personal finances. The ABLE National Resource Center (ABLE NRC) recognizes Financial Literacy Month as an opportunity to emphasize tools and resources that can help people with disabilities achieve financial stability and wellness.

The National Disability Institute's (NDI) Financial Resilience Center provides resources to help those with disabilities and chronic health conditions navigate financially through the COVID-19 crisis, including assistance to help you manage your finances. Its partnership with [LifeCents](#) provides access to free

online financial wellness training, while [AFCPE](#) offers free professional financial counseling.

Personalized Financial Wellness Training

LifeCents offers self-paced, online financial wellness training (free of cost!) that empowers you to acquire knowledge, build habits, and gain confidence to make smarter everyday financial decisions. LifeCents can help you navigate your current financial situation, break bad financial habits and establish better ones, and empower you to achieve your financial goals. [Get started with your personal financial wellness plan.](#)

Virtual Financial Counseling and Coaching

Professional certified financial counselors and coaches are

available through AFCPE to help you manage the financial challenges you might be facing as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. These financial professionals are available nationwide to offer you trustworthy virtual financial counseling or coaching sessions—free of cost to you! [Sign up with a financial professional to take charge of your finances now.](#)

Take the America Saves Pledge

Individuals who make a savings plan are twice as likely to save successfully. Take the America Saves Pledge today as a first step in your savings journey toward creating a better financial future for yourself and your family. [Make a plan, set a goal, and pledge to yourself to start saving today.](#) ✚

ABLE Online Demonstration YouTube Video

<https://youtu.be/kcDx0en7khc>

You can email Ronn at info@ABLEreport.com



ABLE New Mexico Presentation Available

Do you know a person or an organization who would be interested in an ABLE New Mexico presentation? For more information, contact:

Heather Benavidez
at (505) 639-3525 or
heather.benavidez@state.nm.us

Disability Issues in the 2021 Legislature: Final Report

By Jim Jackson, Coalition Chair, *The Disability Coalition: Advocating for People with Disabilities of All Types*

See page 6 for a list of abbreviations used in this report.

Governor completes action on bills passed by Legislature. The deadline for the governor to act on these bills was this Friday, April 9, 2021, at noon. Of the 158 bills passed in this year's regular legislative session, Governor Lujan Grisham signed 140 of them into law. The other 18 (about 11%) were vetoed; 12 of those came with a message explaining the reason for the veto, while 6 others were "pocket" vetoed with no explanation.

As noted below, two of the disability-related bills passed in this session were vetoed, while the remaining 11 that we followed through the session were signed into law.

The percentage of bills vetoed this year was higher than in the first two years of this governor's term, but still below the average during the administration of the last Democratic governor (Bill Richardson) and far lower than the veto rate during Republican Susana Martinez's eight years in office.

Disability-Related Bills That Passed the 2021 Legislative Session: Vetoed by the Governor

SB 285 Emergency transport for MH evaluation. Sen.

Jerry Ortiz y Pino and Sen. Daniel Ivey-Soto. Would have allowed an emergency medical technician (EMT) to transport an individual for an emergency mental health evaluation at the request of the individual or of a police officer in situations where the officer has authority under existing state law to detain and transport the individual. An amendment was added to ensure that the individual involved would not have to pay for this alternative transport. Vetoed by the governor based on a conflict with existing state law dealing with the authority of EMTs in emergency situations.

SB 375 Officer training and certification. Sen. George Muñoz and Sen. Stuart Ingle. Would have added requirements for police officers and firefighters to receive training in racial sensitivity and dealing with persons with behavioral health issues, including crisis intervention, de-escalation techniques, and peer-to-peer interventions. Vetoed by the governor based on her opposition to other parts of the bill, such as changes to the composition of the board of the law enforcement training academy.

Disability-Related Bills That Passed the 2021 Legislative Session: Signed Into Law by

the Governor

HB 2 General Appropriations Act. Rep. Patty Lundstrom. This is the overall state budget bill, which provides funding to all state agencies. The governor vetoed a few of the restrictions on the use of funds provided in the bill, and vetoed provisions calling for specific uses of federal stimulus funding—the governor believes that she, rather than the Legislature, has the authority to decide how to spend those funds. One of her vetoes allows DDSD to retain all unspent funding at the end of the year for the DD waiver to carry over and use in the next year (the Legislature had allowed no more than \$10 million to be retained). None of the vetoes affected funding levels for disability services.

HB 4 Civil Rights Act. Rep. Georgene Louis. As amended, allows an individual to sue a state or local public agency, including a school district, if it deprives the individual of rights specified in the Bill of Rights section of the state constitution.

HB 20 Paid sick leave. Rep. Christine Chandler. Requires most employers in New Mexico, by July 2022, to provide sick leave to their employees and allow the leave to be used for

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

purposes including caring for a family member with a physical or mental illness or health condition.

HB 47 End-of-life options. Rep. Debbie Armstrong. Authorizes an individual with a terminal illness who is expected to die within six months to obtain a prescription from a qualified health care provider that the individual could self-administer to bring about the person's death. For persons who have a current diagnosis or recent history of mental illness or intellectual disability, or appear to have such a disability, an evaluation would be required by a health care professional with appropriate expertise to determine if the person has capacity to provide voluntary, informed consent.

HB 125 Behavioral health practice and oversight. Rep. Day Hochman-Vigil. Modifies some of the licensure requirements for psychologists and therapists, such as extending the period of temporary New Mexico licensure for those licensed in another state and practicing here during a health care emergency.

HB 178 Counseling and therapy practice extension. Rep. D. Wonda Johnson. Extends the board that oversees these practitioners for another six years (to 2027) and

makes a few technical changes to the current authorizing statute.

HB 222 Special education ombud. Rep. Liz Thomson. Creates the Office of the Special Education Ombud within the DD Planning Council. The Ombud program is authorized to investigate and resolve problems experienced by parents and students in obtaining appropriate special education services, and assist in protecting the educational rights of students and parents. There is \$250,000 in SB 377 ("HB 2 Junior") for this new program.

HB 234 Guardianship reforms. Rep. Marian Matthews. The final version of this bill makes various changes to the Office of Guardianship at the DDPC; modifies various provisions of the Probate Code to emphasize least restrictive alternatives; and requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to review annual reports filed by guardians and the State Auditor to review annual reports by conservators.

HB 266 Special education licensure. Rep. Natalie Figueroa. This bill calls for what is essentially a brief apprenticeship program with a master teacher for persons who are seeking licensure as special education teachers but do not hold an education degree and pursue teaching

through an "alternative" licensing pathway.

HM 27 Parity pay task force. Rep. Rebecca Dow. Calls on the LFC to set up a task force to review the adequacy of rates paid to personal care and child care agencies as well as other providers that get most of their revenue from state contracts, and the impact on those contractors of increases in the state's minimum wage.

SB 190 Revise DDPC provisions in NM law. Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill. Updates provisions of state law applying to the DDPC to align with current federal law provisions. These changes involve the membership of the Council and its duties.

SB 317 Health care coverage and cost-sharing exemption for BH services. Sen. Martin Hickey. This bill prohibits, for a five-year period beginning January 2022, any co-pays or other consumer cost-sharing for mental health and substance abuse services under health insurance policies regulated by the state of New Mexico. It also imposes a surtax on health insurance premiums and uses some of the income from that tax to support a health care affordability fund that will be used to expand access to health care coverage for low-income New Mexicans.

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

SB 377 General Appropriations Act II. Sen. George Muñoz.

This bill, typically referred to as “HB 2 Junior,” provides one-time supplemental funding for a very wide range of state agencies and programs. The bill includes funding for several disability services, including \$250,000 for the special education ombud program created pursuant to HB 222.

A Reminder: Bills and Memorials That Did Not Pass

For more information on the bills below, see earlier legislative reports, which are available at <http://www.dnrm.org/index.php?page=legislative-reports>.

- **HB 37** Paid sick leave. Rep. Angelica Rubio. A similar bill, HB 20, passed and has been signed into law.
- **HB 38** Paid family and medical leave, jointly funded by employers and employees. Rep. Christine Chandler. A bill taking a different approach to paid sick leave, HB 20 by the same sponsor, passed and has been signed into law.
- **HB 93** Limiting suspension/expulsion. Rep. Ray Lara.
- **HB 94** Supported decision-making task force. Rep. Joanne Ferrary. \$15,000 for this purpose in HB 2.
- **HB 110** Minimum wage changes. Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero.

- **HB 111** Housing discrimination issues. Rep. Andrea Romero.
- **HB 116** Add more professionals to 3-tier licensure. Rep. Liz Thomson.
- **HB 122** Health care affordability fund. Rep. Debbie Armstrong. These provisions were incorporated into the final version of **SB 317**, which passed and has been signed into law.
- **HB 143** Crime victim interviews. Rep. Meredith Dixon.
- **HB 151** BH consortium for planning. Rep. Karen Bash.
- **HB 154** Prescription drug affordability board. Rep. Angelica Rubio.
- **HB 174** Increase tax exemptions. Rep. Phelps Anderson.
- **HB 192** Human Rights Act Amendments. Rep. Brittney Barreras.
- **HB 202** Child welfare improvements. Rep. Meredith Dixon.
- **HB 203** Health Security Act planning board. Rep. Debbie Armstrong.
- **HB 210** A/SLP Interstate compact. Rep. Brittney Barreras.
- **HB 213** Special ed fund for parent use. Rep. Candie Sweetser.
- **HB 214** Repeal of subminimum wages. Rep. Joanne Ferrary.
- **HB 215** BH screening, intervention and referral. Rep. Day Hochman-Vigil.
- **HB 223** Voluntary MVD disability registry. Rep. Liz Thomson.
- **HB 237** School for the Deaf and public schools. Rep. Antonio Maestas.
- **HB 253** Confidentiality exception for research. Rep. Day Hochman-Vigil.
- **HB 272** Easy enrollment for health coverage. Rep. Liz Thomson.
- **SB 9** Special Olympics. Sen. Peter Wirth.
- **SB 33** Early detection of cerebral palsy. Sen. Greg Schmedes.
- **SB 47** AT and home modifications. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino.
- **SB 60** Physical therapy interstate compact. Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill.
- **SB 65** Brain injury study. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino.
- **SB 69** Crimes against children with disabilities. Sen. Linda Lopez.
- **SB 109** Brain injury services. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino.
- **SB 119** Interstate compact on psychology. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino.
- **SB 128** Suicide prevention, response and treatment. Sen. Bill O’Neill.
- **SB 189** Financial exploitation protections and penalties. Sen. Katy Duhigg.

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

- **SB 191** BH consortium for planning. Sen. Linda Lopez. Similar to HB 151, above.
- **SB 198** Paid sick leave. Sen. Linda Lopez. A similar bill, HB 20, passed and has been signed into law.
- **SB 221** Criminal penalties for financial exploitation. Sen. Michael Padilla.
- **SB 233** Student Bill of Rights. Sen. Linda Lopez.
- **SB 289** Special Education Act. Sen. Linda Lopez.
- **SB 299** Accessibility logo on specialty license plates. Sen. Mark Moores.
- **SB 308** End-of-life options. Sen. Liz Stefanics. Same as HB 47 (passed and signed into law).
- **SB 319** Seclusion/restraints in schools. Sen. Linda Lopez.
- **SB 322** Zoning accommodations. Sen. Gregg Schmedes.
- **SB 342** Pay increase pass-through. Sen. Liz Stefanics.
- **SB 346** Special education ombud. Sen. Linda Lopez. A similar bill, HB 222, passed and was signed into law.
- **SB 354** Create VR Commission to replace DVR. Sen. Linda Lopez.
- **SB 394** MVD fee waiver. Sen. Linda Lopez.
- **SM 6** Long-term care task force. Sen. Carrie Hamblen.

Abbreviations Used in This Report

A/SLP: Audiology & Speech/
Language Pathology

AT: Assistive Technology

BH: Behavioral Health

DD: Developmental Disabilities

DDSD: Developmental Disabilities
Supports Division (in Department of
Health)

DVR: Division of Vocational
Rehabilitation (in Public Education
Department)

HB: House Bill

LFC: Legislative Finance Committee

MVD: Motor Vehicle Division (in Tax
and Revenue Department)

SB: Senate Bill

VR: Vocational Rehabilitation 



We've Moved!
Please Join Us For A:

**VIRTUAL
OPEN HOUSE**

4.30.21

REGISTER TODAY!
arcnm.org/openhouse
discussions, gatherings, spotlights, connection.

ABLE New Mexico YouTube Video

“Saving for the Future of
Your Child with a Disability”

<https://youtu.be/5KzieaoyKSQ>

ABQ People First’s Wacky Wednesday

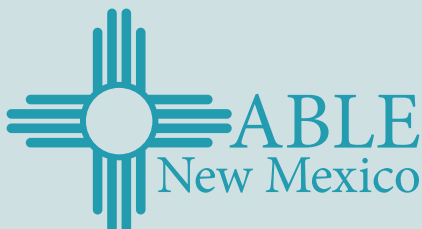
We’re excited to see you this Wacky Wednesday at 10:30 am via Zoom. Are there any activities or talents you would like to share with us? Music, dancing, arts and crafts, photography, science, games, cooking...

Join us at <https://zoom.us/j/777552491> or Zoom meeting number 777552491. Or call in: (669) 900-6833, meeting 777552491.

Please invite your friends who may want to join us. ☕

ABLE New Mexico Now Has 743

Active Accounts. Go, New Mexico!



BEST BUDDIES® FRIENDSHIP WALK

Save the Date

2021 Best Buddies Friendship Walk

Saturday, April 24, 2:30-3:00 pm

Hosted on New Mexico’s CW

Learn More & Register at

<https://www.bestbuddiesfriendshipwalk.org/newmexico/>

Want to be featured in the televised Friendship Walk? Here’s how:

Step #1: Register for the Walk. To be featured in the televised special, you have to be registered for the event first! It’s totally free to sign up and takes 2 minutes. Register at <https://www.bestbuddiesfriendshipwalk.org/newmexico/register/>

Step #2: Record a 10-30 second video. We want to see you walking, whether it’s with members of your team, friends and family, or even by yourself. You can be walking, dancing, and/or letting us know why you’re walking for friendship and inclusion—just have fun with it! If you’re using a phone, make sure your video is recorded horizontally. Submit your video to me by Friday, March 19, at NathanReiman@bestbuddies.org.

Step #3: Fundraise as you’re able. The Friendship Walk is totally free to join, but it is

also our largest fundraiser of the year. Every dollar raised helps sustain and grow our Best Buddies programs across New Mexico. We even created a brand new incentive plan to honor our walkers who go above and beyond! Visit <https://www.bestbuddiesfriendshipwalk.org/newmexico/walker-tips-tools/>

Step #4: Tune in! We’re so excited for this one-of-a-kind event, and we hope you’ll join us on April 24. Celebrate inclusion and see yourself and other Best Buddies supporters from across the state on TV!

While the Walk this year will look a little different, our goal will always remain the same: inclusion for all across New Mexico. Thank you for helping us get a step closer to reaching this goal.

For more information, please contact Nathan Reiman, Director, State Operations & Programs, at NathanReiman@bestbuddies.org. ☕



UPDATE ON ESTATE & SPECIAL NEEDS PLANNING 2021

INTERACTIVE WEBINAR

ABLE Accounts | SECURE Act | Special Needs Trusts
Guardianships & Conservatorships | Medicaid
Intersections of Family Law | Pooled Trusts
Estate Planning | Tax Considerations

— FREE ONLINE EVENT —

Thursday, April 29, 2021
1:00pm-5:00pm

EVENT DETAILS &
REGISTRATION:



SCAN ME

Open your phone's camera app
and hover over this code to access
the webinar registration website

-OR-

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.pbwslaw.com/events

A COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT OF



Wills • Trusts • Probate • Guardianships • Special Needs • Family Law
www.pbwslaw.com | 505.872.0505



A Safe Place to Save Your Stimulus Funds

Millions of Americans will soon receive stimulus payments as part of an additional federal stimulus package recently passed by the United States Congress.

For people living with disabilities, stimulus funds will not count as a resource for federal means-tested benefit programs, like Medicaid and Social Security Income (SSI), for the first 12 months after the payment is received. By depositing your stimulus payment in a STABLE Account, you can protect the funds and spend them later.

Stimulus funds deposited in a STABLE Account:



For more information or if you have questions, please contact us by phone at: **1-800-439-1653**

or by email at:
team@stableaccount.com.



Do not count as a resource for public benefits eligibility



Can be saved short-term or long-term



Can be spent when needed



Can grow with tax-free investment options

STABLE Accounts are not guaranteed or insured by any state, any state agency or subdivision thereof, or their authorized agents or affiliates. You could lose money by investing in a STABLE Account. Consider investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. Before you open an account, you should carefully read and understand the STABLE Account Plan Disclosure Statement and Participation Agreement.