

the text of the bills will be posted on the website usually the day after they are filed with the respective Clerks of each House. There will be no Committee referrals listed however. Committee referrals are announced when the bills are formally introduced on the Floor of each House after the 2019 Session begins on January 15, 2019. In the meantime, we can use this search engine to find information on the bills we have supported in the 2017 and 2018 Legislative Sessions. Anyone planning to develop bill summaries should take the time to explore what is available once you get to the [NM Legislative website](#) for any bill. Among those things you will find:

- Bill title
- Bill #
- Bill sponsor(s)
- The date it was introduced
- The year the bill is introduced and whether in a Regular or Special Session
- Any votes that may have been taken
- Analysis: Clicking here will take you to the Fiscal Impact Report. While the FIR is intended to describe its fiscal impact, it also almost always includes a concise summary of the bill and its potential impact. It is an excellent source of info.
- Committee Bill Analyses. Developed by Committee Analysts before the bill is heard in Committee, this document is not posted on the Legislative website but is considered public information. It is helpful to determine what the Committee members are reading about the bill from their Committee Analysts, as we would want to be sure to address any concerns raised or highlight any benefit noted in the Committee Bill Analysis. You need to specifically request a copy of this document from the Committee Analysts or Committee Secretary, either in person or by phone call, BEFORE the Committee hearing begins.
- Floor Amendments
- Actions. This is also useful as you can find out what happened in each committee, whether it was passed and if so, then whether it next goes to another committee or to the floor for a vote.
- Governor vetoes
- **Retake Our Democracy 2018 Legislative Priorities.** Here you will find 29 bills summarized in something like the format we will want to use in 2019. The primary difference is that the purpose of these summaries was for educating our constituency and so, often the summaries are longer and more detailed than what we will want for our legislative bill summaries. Still this is actually a great source as almost all of our MUST PASS bills are listed at this link and copying and pasting from there will be a very efficient way to get started. [Retake Our Democracy Priority Bills 2018](#)

- **The Bill Sponsor.** If you can't find good information on why the bill would be good for New Mexicans, then the bill sponsor might be able to help you. The problem is that legislators are very busy and if they don't know you, they are unlikely to make time to respond to your outreach in any meaningful way.
- **Google.** Another source of information on bill benefits is simply use Google. Run a search like: "benefits of raising the minimum wage" or "risks from long-term solitary confinement." Examples of how a similar bill has worked in other states is always useful.

Bill Summary Template

The bill template will be comprised of six or seven elements, the one optional element being "organizations supporting the bill." It would be great to get that, but it may not be easy to locate organizations.

- Bill #, Bill Title. Easily obtained from NMlegis.gov
- Bill Sponsor(s). Easily obtained from NMlegis.gov
- Organizations supporting the bill. The best way to find out organizations supporting the bill will be from intuition. Abortion related bill: Planned Parenthood. Election reform: Common Cause. Once you identify the organization you think might support the bill, you can reach out to them and get their ok to include them in the flyer and to get information on other organizations supporting the bill. The organization will also be a good source for why the bill is good for New Mexicans.
- Bill Description Easily obtained from NMlegis.gov in the FIR or from Retake at the link above.
- History: Easily obtained from NMlegis.gov in the FIR or from Retake at the link above. New bills will not have much history.
- Why Bill # is Good for New Mexicans: FIR, Retake site, Sponsor or organizations supporting the bill.
- Link to full bill. NMlegis.gov. Keep in mind bills will be amended and so we will want to be sure link goes to the most current version, not easy and obviously not done prior to the bill being introduced.

See the next page for an example of a Bill Summary.

HB 338/ SB 342. The Community Solar Gardens Act (2017 Regular Session)

Sponsors: Sen. Linda Lopez (SB 342) and Rep. Patricia Caballero (HB 338)

Description: Introduced by Sen. Linda M. Lopez (SB 342) and Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero (HB 338), the bill promotes the development of solar gardens statewide. A solar garden is a solar electric generation facility that can generate no more than 10 megawatts of power and that has subscribers who are allocated a share of the electricity generated. A city, business, home owner’s association, school district or other organization could develop a solar garden to supply energy to the business or organization building the garden.

Organizations Supporting SB 342 and HB 338

- Sierra Club
- Conservation Voters of New Mexico
- 350.org
- New Energy Economy
- Retake Our Democracy

History: SB 342 received a Do Pass recommendation from the Senate Conservation Committee, then was referred to the Senate Corporations and Transportation Committee, which took no action before the end of the session. The bill therefore died on adjournment, also known as “API or “Action Postponed Indefinitely”, in reality, postponed until the next Legislative Session if chosen to be re-introduced by a legislator.

HB 338 received Do Pass recommendations from the House State Government, Indian and Veterans’ Affairs Committee and (with amendments) the House Judiciary Committee. It died on the House Floor (Floor vote of 31 yes,34 no, with 1 excused and 4 absent).

Why SB 342 /HB 338 are Good for New Mexico and New Mexicans:

- Enables organizations public and private to invest in renewables and reduce their carbon foot print.
- Creates jobs among local solar producers;
- Reduces New Mexico’s reliance on fossil fuels;

Links [full text of bill](#); [summary page SB 342](#); [summary page HB 338](#) (2017 Regular Legislative Session)