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## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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**For Immediate Release:**

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### PRESS RELEASE

*Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham Gives Message to Amendments to Governmental Conduct Act*

*Albuquerque, NM, January 19, 2024* – Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has authorized the Legislature to consider House Bill 8, a bill that improves the Government Conduct Act (“GCA”), New Mexico’s main governmental ethics, conflict-of-interest, and anti-corruption statute. The Governor’s support for HB 8, sponsored by Representatives Kathleen Cates, Tara Jaramillo, and Yanira Gurrola, signifies a major step toward advancing ethical government in New Mexico.

House Bill 8, which is analogous to a bill that unanimously passed by the House of Representatives last session, would amend the GCA in four main ways:

- (1) Responds to the Supreme Court’s *State v. Gutierrez* ruling by clearly prohibiting the abuse of government office, conflicts of interest, and quid pro quo corruption.
- (2) Increases the civil penalties for government ethics violations beyond the current \$250 fine.
- (3) Regulates prohibited political activity by government officials and employees in the same way the federal Hatch Act regulates federal employees.

(4) Holds accountable private employers who knowingly cause their employees to violate New Mexico's revolving door laws.

These amendments are essential updates that will maintain public trust in government and ensure the highest standards of integrity in government. The New Mexico State Ethics Commission is committed to supporting these necessary reforms and calls for bipartisan support in the legislature for the swift passage of House Bill 8. Read a detailed memo of the proposed amendments, written by Jeremy Farris, Executive Director of the State Ethics Commission [here](#).

### **About the State Ethics Commission**

The State Ethics Commission is an independent, constitutional state agency with the authority to enforce civil violations of New Mexico's governmental ethics and disclosure statutes, including the Campaign Reporting Act. The Commission is comprised of three Democratic Commissioners, three Republican Commissioners, and one independent Commissioner who is registered as "decline to state." For more information about the State Ethics Commission, visit [www.sec.nm.gov](http://www.sec.nm.gov).