



The 2026 Legislative Session began on Tuesday with Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham delivering her final State of the State address. After sharing her administration's achievements over the last 7 years she focused on her priorities for the current session, such as tax credits to continue economic growth and development into the future, infrastructure and housing to attract investment, crime and public safety measures, education, and healthcare. Among her healthcare priorities are strategies to expedite the licensure of medical providers to practice in New Mexico and Medical Malpractice Reform. Collectively, her priorities reflect budgetary considerations related to a 30-day session as well as opportunities to address policies related to healthcare and public safety. Her optimistic tone and request for bipartisan cooperation will be tested in the next 30 days.

Insights from the NMAFP Legislative Survey 2026

The NMAFP extends heartfelt gratitude to all participants of the 2026 Legislative Survey. The insights gathered identified key priorities that will guide our advocacy efforts during the 2026 legislative session.

Identified Priorities

The survey responses established four priority areas:

- **Medical Malpractice Reform:** Legislation that would make medical malpractice premiums more affordable and sustainable while safeguarding physicians' right to a meaningful, due-process role in claims and upholding patients' right to timely, reasonable compensation.
- **Recruitment and Retention of Physicians:** Legislation that would provide funding and policies for recruitment and retention of physicians, such as Interstate Compacts.
- **Tax credits for rural practitioners:** Increase the amount of tax credits for rural practitioners.
- **Loan Repayment:** Expand loan repayment for physicians as a recruitment tool for coming to New Mexico to practice.

Legislative Updates

In response to the priorities from the survey, the NMAFP will be monitoring and reporting on relevant legislation throughout the session. Other health-related legislation may be included in the updates as the session progresses. To date we are highlighting the following legislation:

Medical Malpractice Reform

HB 99: Medical Malpractice Changes (Rep. Christine Chandler)

Action: Committee Assignment

Current Location: House Health and Human Services Committee

This bill would limit punitive damages in medical malpractice cases and require payments from the Patient Compensation Fund to be made as expenses are incurred.

HB 107: Medical Malpractice Claims Changes (Rep. Jennifer Jones)

Action: Committee Assignment

Current Location: House Rules and Order of Business Committee

This bill would limit of damages, including punitive damages, in medical malpractice cases and require payments from the Patient Compensation Fund to be made as expenses are incurred; as well as limit attorney's fees.

HB 143: Healthcare Changes (Rep. Jennifer Jones)

Action: Committee Assignment

Current Location: House Rules and Order of Business Committee

This bill would create tax credits for healthcare providers, amend portions of the Medical Malpractice Act, as well as many other changes to healthcare policy.

HB 15: Medical Injury Collaborative Restoration Act (Rep. Marianna Anaya)

Action: Committee Assignment

Current Location: House Rules and Order of Business Committee

This bill would enact the Medical Injury Collaborative Resolution Act to provide for conferences between patients and healthcare providers after the occurrence of adverse healthcare outcomes.

Recruitment and Retention of Physicians

SB 1: Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Act (Sen. Duhigg and Sen. Tobiassen)

Action: With an endorsement from Chair Joseph Cervantes, this bill received a unanimous Do Pass in Senate Judiciary Committee on Jan 21st, Passed Senate Floor Vote 40-0 Jan 23rd

Current Location: House Introduction

This bill would enact the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact; Providing for the appointment of New Mexico Compact Commissioners; requiring the public posting of Interstate Commission bylaws, rules, documents, and minutes; enacting new sections of the Medical Practice Act; providing for a contingent repeal of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

HB 24: Professional Recruitment and Retention Act (Rep. Kathleen Cates)

Action: Committee Assignment

Current Location: House Government, Elections and Indian Affairs Committee

This bill would provide loans for down payment or closing costs associated with the purchase of a home in New Mexico in exchange for the qualified professional practicing in the state for ten years at no less than three-fourths of full-time employment.

HB 68: Healthcare Recruitment Funding Program (Rep. Marianna Anaya)

Action: Committee Assignment

Current Location: House Health and Human Services Committee

This bill would appropriate \$2 million to the workforce solutions department for expenditure in fiscal year 2027 for a health care recruitment program.

HB 127: Medical Board Expedited Licensure (Rep. Reena Szczepanski)

Action: Committee Assignment

Current Location: House Rules and Order of Business Committee

This bill would require the New Mexico Medical Board to grant expedited medical licenses to qualified applicants and to establish a registry for out-of-state telehealth providers.

Tax Credits for Rural Practitioners

SB 12: Physician Tax Credit (Sen. Duhigg and Sen. Nava)

Action: Hearing and Hold in Senate Tax, Business and Transportation Committee on Jan 22nd

Current Location: Senate Tax, Business and Transportation Committee on Hold for Tax Bill

This bill creates a \$4,000 income tax credit for qualified physicians

SB 13: Healthcare Gross Receipts Deduction (Sen. Steinborn)

Action: Hearing and Hold in Senate Tax, Business and Transportation Committee on Jan 22nd

Current Location: Senate Tax, Business and Transportation Committee on Hold for Tax Bill

This bill would extend the sunset date June 30, 2028 to June 30, 2031 for a gross receipts tax deduction for healthcare practitioners and expand the deduction to include co-insurance.

HB 142: Rural Healthcare Tax Credit Changes (Rep. Sarah Silva)

Action: Committee Assignment

Current Location: House Health and Human Services Committee

This bill would extend the tax credit to providers practicing in urban underserved areas and increase the amount that can be claimed by rural providers.

HB 143: Healthcare Changes (Rep. Jennifer Jones)

Action: Committee Assignment

Current Location: House Rules and Order of Business Committee

This bill would create tax credits for healthcare providers, amend portions of the Medical Malpractice Act, as well as many other changes to healthcare policy.

Loan Repayment

HB 66: Healthcare Professional Loan Fund Changes (Rep. Christine Chandler)

Action: House Pre-File

Current Location:

This bill would amend the Healthcare Professional Loan Fund by updating definitions of a “Healthcare Professional”, restructuring management of the fund to a Health Professions Advisory Committee, and outlining amounts, standards, and limits for the disbursement of funds.

HB 85: Medical Provider Loan for Service Programs (Rep. Joseph Sanchez)

Action: Committee Assignment

Current Location: House Rules and Order of Business Committee

This bill would create the “Medical Provider Recruitment Trust Fund” to act a “steward” of medical provider loan for service funds and make distributions to the various programs.

SB 14: Health Professional Advisory Committee (Sen. Martin Hickey)

Action: Committee Assignment

Current Location: Senate Committees Committee

This bill would appropriate \$25 million from the general fund to health professional loan repayment fund for the purpose of the health professional loan repayment program.