



NEW MEXICO ACADEMY of FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Legislative Update February 1, 2026

Steve Lucero, NMAFP Lobbyist

Special thanks to the Doctor of the Day Volunteers for last week:

Dr. Daniel Sadoway

Dr. Caline Cone

Dr. Holly Abernathy

Dr. Clea Lopez

Dr. Kristy Riniker

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Legislative Update

Medical Malpractice Reform

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

Action: Do Pass as amended in House Health and Human Services Committee Jan 30th. Generally, the amendments allow for a cap on punitive damages for physicians and small hospitals, as defined in the amendments. Large corporate hospitals and hospital systems would not be protected by a cap on punitive damages. Hospitals will have to pay more for their coverage in the Patient Compensation Fund to keep up with medical cost expenditures for patients.

Click here to see the amendments: [97.1](#) [15.3](#) [57.1](#)

Current Location: House Judiciary 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.

Click here to see the amendments.

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: Scheduled for Hearing in HCPA Committee on Feb 3rd.

Current Location: House Consumer and Public Affairs 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. Tobiasson)

Action: Unanimous Do Pass in House Health and Human Services Committee on Jan 30th.

Current Location: House Floor

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: Do Pass in House Government, Elections and Indian Affairs Committee Jan 26th.

Current Location: House Appropriations and Finance 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: Do Pass in House Health and Human Services Committee Jan 26th. The sponsor reports that the appropriation is included in the House budget as it moves to the Senate for consideration.

Current Location: Appropriation is in HB 2 and is referred to the Senate.

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: Scheduled for hearing in HHHS Committee on Feb 2nd.

Current Location: House Health and Human Services 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: Do Pass in House Health and Human Services Committee Jan 28th.

Current Location: House Taxation and Revenue 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: Committee Assignment

Current Location: House Rules and Order of Business Committee

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.