



NEW MEXICO ACADEMY of FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Legislative Update February 15, 2026

Steve Lucero, NMAFP Lobbyist

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

Dr. Clea Lopez
Dr. Paul Afek

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Legislative Update

Medical Malpractice Reform

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

Action: Passed a House Vote (66-3) on February 14th.

Current Location: House Floor Calendar

This bill amends the Medical Malpractice Act by placing caps on punitive damages, at various amounts for doctors, local hospitals, and corporate-owned hospitals; changing the point at which a claim for punitive damages can be filed; raises the level of evidence to prove punitive damages to "clear and convincing" that the acts of the health care provider were malicious, willful, wonton, reckless, fraudulent, or in bad faith; amends the definition of a medical malpractice "occurrence"; prohibits lump sum payments for the estimated costs of a plaintiff's future medical care and instead requires that payments are made by the PCF for expenses incurred. Please click [here](#) to see the bill's Fiscal Impact Report.

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 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 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: Do Pass in House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee on Feb 3rd.

Current Location: House Judiciary 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: Passed a House Floor vote 64-0 on February 3rd.

Current Location: Signed into law by the Governor on February 5th.

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. It is unclear at this point if and at what amount was included into HB 2 General Appropriations Act for this bill. HB 2 is currently being considered in the Senate and is subject to amendments.

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 HB 2 as it moves to the Senate for consideration and amendments.

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: Do Pass in House Judiciary Committee on Feb 9th and Passed a unanimous House Floor Vote on February 11th.

Current Location: Senate Health and Public Affairs 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/SB 151: Physician Tax Credit (Sen. Duhigg and Sen. Nava)

Action: SB 12 is rolled into SB 151 Corporate Income Tax Changes as part of the larger Senate Tax bill. The amount of tax credit in SB 12 grew from \$4,000 to \$10,000 as negotiations continued and is set at \$10,000 as part of SB 151. SB 151 received a DO PASS in Senate Finance Committee on February 13th.

Current Location: Senate Floor Calendar

This bill creates a \$4,000 (\$10,000 as part of SB 151) 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: Passed a House Vote on February 14th.

Current Location: Referred to Senate

This bill appropriates \$25 to and amends 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: Passed a Senate Floor Vote on February 11th.

Current Location: House Health and Human Services 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.

Other Healthcare Legislation

HB 90: Healthcare Preceptor Income Tax Credit (Rep. Anita Gonzales)

Action: Do Pass in House Health and Human Services Committee on Jan 26th.

Current Location: House Taxation and Revenue Committee

This bill would create a \$1,000 personal income tax credit to healthcare preceptors (mentors) employed by or who volunteer for an accredited New Mexico higher education institution for performing a preceptorship of at least four weeks in New Mexico.

HB 213: Expand Optometry Act (Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil)

Action: Passed a House Floor Vote on February 14th.

Current Location: Referral to Senate

This bill would provide licensed optometrists with the power to legally conduct surgeries involving laser application to the lens capsule in the treatment of capsular clouding or other defects, and laser application to structures within the ocular anterior segment for the prevention or treatment of glaucoma. It also requires the Optometry Board to develop and administer credentialing requirements for optometrists who perform surgeries requiring a laser.

HB 156: Repeal Special Session Vaccination Laws (Rep Dayan Hochman-Vigil)

Action: Passed a House Vote on February 9th.

Current Location: Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee

This bill would not require the NM Department of Health to follow the vaccine schedule set by the Centers for Disease Control. It would also require that the NM Department of Health work with the Health Care Authority and the Office of Superintendent of Insurance to decide which immunizations are covered by Medicaid and other insurance plans.

HB 210: Health Info Exchange Info Sharing (Rep. Elizabeth Thompson)

Action: Do Pass in House Health and Human Services Committee on Feb 2nd.

Current Location: House Appropriations and Finance Committee

This bill appropriates \$4.8 million from the general fund to the Health Care Authority (HCA) to encourage health care facilities to exchange health care information with the nonprofit organization designated by the state to operate the New Mexico health information exchange and to provide those health care facilities with subscriptions to the health information exchange

SB 4: Medical Resident & Fellow Salaries (Sen. Carrie Hamblen)

Action: Do Pass in Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee on January 28th.

Current Location: Senate Finance Committee

This bill appropriates \$2 million from the general fund to the Health Care Authority for the purpose of providing additional funding for Medicaid-directed payments to the Board of Regents of University of New Mexico to increase salaries for medical residents and fellows.

SB 5: Expand Certain Physician Residencies (Sen. Angel Charlie)

Action: Do Pass in Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee on January 26th.

Current Location: Senate Finance Committee

This bill appropriates \$3 million from the general fund to the University of New Mexico's (UNM) graduate medical education (GME) program to assist hospitals in developing and expanding physician residencies in family practice, internal medicine, obstetrics, gynecology and pediatrics in medically underserved rural areas of the state.

SB 6: New School of Medicine Facility (Sen. George Munoz)

Action: Do Pass in Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee on January 26th.

Current Location: Senate Finance Committee

This bill appropriates \$546.6 million from the general fund to the University of New Mexico (UNM) for expenditures in fiscal years 2027 through 2030 to construct, equip, and furnish a new School of Medicine.

SB 7: Increase Clinician Faculty Pay (Sen. Cindy Nava)

Action: Do Pass in Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee on January 28th.

Current Location: Senate Finance Committee

This bill appropriates \$20 million from the general fund to the University of New Mexico for the purpose of increasing clinician faculty pay at the Health Sciences Center.

SB 9: Medicaid Trust Fund (Sen. Elizabeth Stefanics)

Action: Do Pass in Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee on January 28th.

Current Location: Senate Finance Committee

This bill transfers \$1 billion from the general fund to the Medicaid trust fund in FY27.

SB 10: Health Training Corps (Sen. Heather Berghmans)

Action: Committee Assignment

Current Location: Senate Committees Committee

This bill would create the Health Training Corps Act, administered by the Department of Health (DOH), to pay physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurse-midwives, or social worker preceptors (mentors) for students or residents. The pay would be \$100 an hour up to \$10 thousand a year. The bill applies to underserved health care areas, and residents and students would receive training at sites that provide behavioral healthcare, primary healthcare and obstetrics and gynecological healthcare. The bill creates the health training corps fund and appropriates \$3 million from the general fund in FY27.

SB 81: Primary Care Capital Funding Act (Sen. Michael Padilla)

Action: Do Pass in Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee on Jan 30th.

Current Location: Senate Finance Committee

This bill appropriates \$25 million from the general fund to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) for expenditure in fiscal year 2027 and future fiscal years for the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) to carry out the purposes of the Primary Care Capital Funding Act.

SB 101: Healthcare Delivery & Access Act Repeal (Sen. Elizabeth Stefanics)

Action: Passed a Senate Floor Vote on February 6th.

Current Location: House Health and Human Services Committee

This bill repeals the sunset date of the Health Care Delivery and Access Act, originally set to repeal July 1, 2030.





