



NEW MEXICO ACADEMY of FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Legislative Update February 8, 2026

Steve Lucero, NMAFP Lobbyist

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

Dr. Shilpa Sreedharan
Dr. Louise McDade

Dr. Caline Cone
Dr. Madison Kajder

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Legislative Update

Medical Malpractice Reform

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

Action: A presentation by Brooke Baker, MD, JD provided context for subsequent debate and action on this bill set for Monday February 9th. The presentation and questions from the committee were general in nature relating to punitive damages in medical malpractice cases and background on corporate and equity investment in hospitals. Click [here](#) to watch the recorded webcast of the presentation and questions that occurred in House Judiciary Committee on Friday Feb. 6th.

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: 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 Health and Human Services Committee on February 4th.

Current Location: House Judiciary 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: 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 Tax, Business and Transportation Committee on February 7th.

Current Location: Senate Finance Committee

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: Do Pass in House Health and Human Services Committee on February 6th.

Current Location: House Appropriations and Finance 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: Do Pass in Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee on February 6th.

Current Location: Senate Finance 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.