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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Sanchez, M **ORIGINAL DATE** 2/08/16
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Physician & Physician Assistant Collaboration **SB** 267

ANALYST Liu

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 48, HB 102, SB 78

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Medical Board (MB)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 267 amends Section 61-6-6 NMSA 1978 in the Medical Practice Act to include the definition of “collaboration,” or the process by which a physician and physician assistant jointly contribute to the health care and medical treatment of patients. The bill authorizes physician assistants collaborating with physicians to perform actions within their scope of practice (which now includes dispensing drugs) without requiring the physical presence of the physician at the time and place services are rendered. Additionally, this bill defines collaboration between a physician and physician assistant as continuous and removes instances relating or referring to “supervising licensed physicians.”

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant fiscal impacts.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The 2015 New Mexico Health Care Workforce Committee annual report estimates New Mexico had 1,909 primary care physicians (PCP) in 2014, 306 more than the national benchmark for

similar populations. However, Bernalillo County accounts for approximately 42.3 percent of the total and has 273 more PCPs than the national average. The report found that 32 out of 33 counties qualified as full or partial federally designated health professional shortage areas for primary care, dental, and mental health. Without redistribution of the workforce, the report estimated a shortage of 145 PCPs and 136 physician assistants for the state, especially in rural areas. The report also found that older physicians are concentrated in rural areas, indicating underserved areas may face even more shortages as physicians retire or leave practice. The estimated number of PCPs in the state decreased from 2013 to 2014, with the highest decline in Bernalillo County.

http://www.nmnec.org/uploads/FileLinks/933875ef41ef4474b4e844f09423bbef/NM_Hlthcr_Workforce_Comm_2015_Report.pdf

According to MB, the current shortage of PCPs has created more opportunities for physician assistants to fulfill the role of a PCP in collaboration with physicians. Similarly, over the past two decades, physician assistants have held responsibility at clinics where the physician is only available (by mandate) for consultation.

RELATIONSHIP

This bill relates to HB 48 and SB 78 regarding the regulation of licensed health professions. HB 48 and SB 78 amend the Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery Act to consolidate and further define licensure requirements and approved practices for osteopathic physicians and osteopathic physician assistants. This bill relates to HB 102, which creates a committee to review any proposed change to existing scope of practice rules, regulation of unregulated health professions, and establishment of licensing boards related to health professions.

AMENDMENTS

MB recommended several amendments, primarily to:

- Strike “contribute to” from page 1, line 25, and replace with “manage, with timely consultation as needed,”
- Strike “the collaborator” from page 2, line 3, and replace with “each”
- Strike “to require” from page 2, lines 6 and 7, and replace with “as requiring”
- Add on page 2, line 8, after “place” the terms “health care”
- Amend page 6, lines 7 and 8, to read exactly as “C. A person shall not perform, attempt to perform or be introduced as a physician...”
- Amend page 5, line 25, and page 6, lines 1 through 5, to read exactly as “E. A physician assistant shall perform only the acts and duties that are within the physician assistant’s scope of practice and that of the collaborating licensed physicians.”
- Amend page 12, lines 18 and 19, to read exactly as “...manner and if the person is not introduced to the public as being authorized to practice...”

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

According to MB, the trend in the contemporary health care field will continue, which is the increasing use of specially trained “mid-level” practitioners in the care of patients (to the extent of their training) with support from physicians having more advanced knowledge and experience.