

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR H. Garcia/Alcon/
Ferrary/Martinez/ ORIGINAL DATE 2/14/18
Johnson LAST UPDATED _____ HB 257
 SHORT TITLE County Health Funds for Medical Transport SB _____
 ANALYST Esquibel

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY18	FY19	FY20	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Recurring	County Health Care Assistance Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

House Bill 257 relates to House Bill 251, County Behavioral Health Transportation Fund.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Not Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis Bill

House Bill 257 (HB 257) would add a provision to the Indigent Hospital and County Health Care Act allowing medical transportation to be funded.

The bill defines medical transport as the transport of a person for the purposes of obtaining health care services under circumstances when ambulance transportation is not indicated; provided that "medical transportation" includes transportation by a peace officer or another person whom a county employs or with whom a county contracts to provide medical transportation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill does not include an appropriation.

Under the provisions of the bill, an interminate amount of funds in counties' health care assistance fund could be expended for medical transport.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center indicates transportation for many indigent patients presents a barrier to accessing care. Currently, under the state's Medicaid program, managed care organizations (MCOs) are required to provide some transportation services. Also, some counties currently use local funds to provide medical transportation services.

RAE/al