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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/21/11

SPONSOR Espinoza LAST UPDATED _____ HB 99

SHORT TITLE Anesthesiologist & Assistant Licensure SB _____

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Attorney General's Office (AGO)
New Mexico Medical Board (NMMB)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

HB 99 amends the definitions of "anesthesiologist" and "anesthesiologist assistant" as used in the Anesthesiologist Assistants Act, Section 61-6-10.2, by dropping the requirement from both definitions that the defined person be an employee of the University of New Mexico Medical School.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

NFI

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB 99 removes the requirement that Anesthesiologist Assistants may only work at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM HSC), and therefore, allows other hospitals in New Mexico to employ and supervise Anesthesiologist Assistants under the same comprehensive rules and regulations.

According to the American Medical Association, an Anesthesiologist Assistant is a specialty physician assistant under the direction of a licensed Anesthesiologist. Passage of HB 99 would

allow statewide access to these well-trained and highly skilled allied health professionals.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The AG reports no significant legal issues raised by the amendment in HB 99.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Medical Board supports the proposed revisions in HB 99.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Under the current regulations, Anesthesiologist Assistants may only be employed and practice at UNM HSC where personnel shortages are less of a problem.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Access to expanded anesthesia services in areas outside of the Albuquerque area will continue to be restricted.

AHO/mew