

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 Dow/Brown/ Gallegos/ Montoya ORIGINAL DATE 2/26/19 LAST UPDATED _____ HB 608

SHORT TITLE Allow Refusal To Admit Patients For Abortion SB _____

ANALYST Chilton

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI	NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 51, HB 600, HB 525

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 608 would allow facilities and persons to refuse patients services resulting in abortion. A facility would not be required to admit women for an abortion. Any person -- someone working in a health care facility, working under direction of a physician, or employed within a health facility in which an abortion could be performed – who objected on personal, religious or moral grounds to abortion would not be required to participate, and that refusal could not result in retaliation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No appropriation is made. No fiscal impact is anticipated.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

As noted by HSD, “Pregnancy termination is a covered benefit for Medicaid beneficiaries in medically necessary situations, therefore allowing a facility or provider to refuse participation in services could limit the number of providers available to perform this service.”

CONFLICT with House Bill 51, which would decriminalize abortion.

RELATIONSHIP with House Bill 600, which regulates abortion in a number of ways, and HB 525, which allows providers, health care facilities and insurers to opt out of participating in medical care that is against their conscience, admitting patients for procedures against the institution's conscience, or insuring patients for conditions against an insurer's conscience.

LAC/gb