

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION

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(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: 1/17/26 **Check all that apply:**
Bill Number: HB68 **Original** **Correction**
Amendment **Substitute**

Sponsor: <u>Marianna Anaya</u> Short Title: <u>Health Care Recruitment Program Funding</u>	Agency Name and Code Number: <u>Dept. of Workforce Solutions- 631</u> Person Writing <u>Sarita Nair</u> Phone: <u>505-263-3187</u> Email <u>Evan.Sanchez@dws.nm.gov</u>
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY27	FY28		
\$2,000.00	0	Non-recurring	General Fund

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY27	FY28	FY29		
0	0	0		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY27	FY28	FY29	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	0	0	0	0		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: HB68 would make a one-year general fund appropriation to WSD for a health care recruitment program

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Note: major assumptions underlying fiscal impact should be documented.

Note: if additional operating budget impact is estimated, assumptions and calculations should be reported in this section.

If passed, WSD would receive an appropriation from the General Fund for a health care recruitment program.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB68 fits within one of the high priority sectors of the WIOA State Plan, healthcare including behavioral health, and DWS participates in the New Mexico Health Care Workforce Committee. The need to prioritize this sector are well documented and include the following:

- Estimates forecast a national primary care physician shortage of more than 37,500 by 2034 and the need for more than 3 million new registered nurses between 2016 and 2030.
- In New Mexico, there are an average of 5.04 primary care physicians per 10,000 population, meaning for each primary care physician, there are about 2,000 people to serve.
- According to the national 2021 Public Health Workforce Interest and Needs Survey, 16% of employees leaving the workforce departed due to COVID.
- 12% of the State's current nursing workforce is comprised of traveler nurses whose per-hour costs have more than doubled when compared to pre-COVID wages.
- Employment in the health care practitioners and technical occupational group in New Mexico are projected to add about 5,590 jobs (10.9% increase) from 2018 to 2028.
- About 1,240 total job openings for registered nurses will exist every year in New Mexico. More than 80% of those openings will be to replace workers who retired or left the occupation.

Alignment with the WIOA State Plan means that all WIOA titles, including the local workforce development boards, Adult Education, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Senior employment programs have committed to furthering these goals and promoting the priority sectors. Unfortunately, although the US Department of Labor mandates sector planning, DWS receives no federal funding to engage in or execute sector plans. The appropriation will fund and enable rapid progress in this area.

Finally, there would be strong synergy between a specific health care recruitment program and other department programs, including pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and Be Pro Be Proud.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

DWS will be able to improve its performance with respect to recruitment for the health care

professions. In addition, as explained above, this will provide much needed funding to gather and analyze data that will serve the healthcare sector as a whole.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DWS expects to engage new staff to implement a health care recruitment program, in addition to creating resources and initiatives that utilize existing staff in the employment services division. The proposed funding level is adequate for these efforts.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None known.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

DWS will not have funding to pursue a health care workforce strategy.

AMENDMENTS

None.