

LFC Requestor: Carlie Malone

2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS

Section I: General

Chamber: House

Category: Bill

Number: 68

Type: Introduced

Date (of THIS analysis): 1/20/2026

Sponsor(s): Marianna Anaya

Short Title: Health Care Recruitment Program Funding

Reviewing Agency: Agency 665 - Department of Health

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Section II: Fiscal Impact

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation Contained		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 26	FY 27		
\$0	\$2,000.0	Nonrecurring	General fund

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 26	FY 27	FY 28		
\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-recurring	Fund Affected
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

Section III: Relationship to other legislation

Duplicates: None

Conflicts with: None

Companion to: None

Relates to: None

Duplicates/Relates to an Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: No

Section IV: Narrative

1. BILL SUMMARY

a) Synopsis

House Bill 68 (HB68) proposes to appropriate two million dollars (\$2,000,000) from the general fund to the Department of Workforce Solutions for a health care recruitment program in fiscal year 2027 (FY 27).

Is this an amendment or substitution? Yes No

Is there an emergency clause? Yes No

b) Significant Issues

HB68 duplicates efforts of the health care personnel recruitment program. The New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) administers an established health care personnel recruitment program under the Rural Primary Health Care Act (RPHCA) 7.29.3.10 NMAC, which supports the recruitment, placement, and retention of health care personnel in health care underserved areas of the state. RPHCA has statutory language that includes defined requirements for eligibility, reporting, and candidate selection, providing a framework for program administration and accountability.

New Mexico has a shortage of health care professionals. The New Mexico Healthcare Workforce Committee 2025 Annual Report documents the shortage of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physician assistances, certified nurse practitioners, and dentists in New Mexico (https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1013&context=nmhc_workforce).

Additional funding to provide healthcare provider recruitment could improve the overall number of providers in New Mexico. An increase in recruitment of health care professionals would positively affect rural communities, which are currently underserved. Causes include aging populations, closure and/or downsizing of hospitals (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33011448/>), the aging of local health providers (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36205415/>) the loss of younger people in rural areas, and changes in local economies away from extractive and agricultural economies.

2. PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

- Does this bill impact the current delivery of NMDOH services or operations?

Yes No

- Is this proposal related to the NMDOH Strategic Plan? Yes No

3. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the Executive Budget Request?
 Yes No N/A
- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the LFC Budget Request?
 Yes No N/A
- Does this bill have a fiscal impact on NMDOH? Yes No

4. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Will this bill have an administrative impact on NMDOH? Yes No

5. DUPLICATION, CONFLICT, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

None

6. TECHNICAL ISSUES

Are there technical issues with the bill? Yes No

7. LEGAL/REGULATORY ISSUES (OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES)

- Will administrative rules need to be updated or new rules written? Yes No
- Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary (or unnecessary)? Yes No
- Does this bill conflict with federal grant requirements or associated regulations?
 Yes No
- Are there any legal problems or conflicts with existing laws, regulations, policies, or programs? Yes No

8. DISPARITIES ISSUES

None.

9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)

New Mexico has a significant shortage of health care professionals. The New Mexico Healthcare Workforce Committee 2025 Annual Report documents the shortage of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physician assistances, certified nurse practitioners, and dentists in New Mexico. https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1013&context=nmhc_workforce. A 2020 study found that New Mexico has the oldest physician workforce in the nation, with 37% of physicians over 60 years old and facing retirement by 2030. [Physician workforce in the United States of America: forecasting nationwide shortages - PMC](#). A Legislative Finance Committee report from 2025 documented longer-than-average wait times for appointments with providers ([ALFC 092325 Item 2 - Medicaid Accountability Report.pdf](#)).

10. ALTERNATIVES

None

11. WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

If HB 68 is not enacted, then two million dollars will not be appropriated to DWS for a health care recruitment program.

12. AMENDMENTS

None