

LFC Requestor: Harry Rommel

2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS

Section I: General

Chamber: House

Category: Bill

Number: 127A

Type: Amendment

Date (of THIS analysis): 2/5/2026

Sponsor(s): Reena Szczepanski, Tara L. Lujan

Short Title: MEDICAL BOARD EXPEDITED LICENSURE

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	\$0	N/A	N/A

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

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

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						

Section III: Relationship to other legislation

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to: None.

Relates to: None

Duplicates/Relates to an Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None.

Section IV: Narrative

1. BILL SUMMARY

a) Synopsis

House Bill 127 (HB127) would expedite certain licenses from out-of-state applicants and establish a registry for the out-of-state telehealth providers.

The amendment differs from the original bill in that:

- it specifies in Section 1, paragraph D that the NM Medical Board may issue a provisional license for up to two years to a graduate of a medical school outside the U.S. and Canada that is recognized by the World Health Organization or the World Directory of Medical Schools, and fulfils several other requirements including achievement of a passing score on step one and step two of the U.S. clinical examination.
- it specifies in Section 3 paragraph A that the NM Medical Board shall (rather than may) grant an expedited license to a qualified applicant licensed in another state or territory or D.C.
- it eliminates the ability of the NM Medical Board to determine states or territories from which it will not accept applicants in Section 3 paragraph C
- it reduces the telehealth provider registration fee from \$900 to \$100
- **in Section 1, paragraph L it requires that the Department of Health determines what constitutes an underserved community in New Mexico.**

The amendment, HB 127/A, was proposed in and received a do-pass by the House Health and Human Services Committee on 02/04/2026.

Is this an amendment or substitution? Yes No

Is there an emergency clause? Yes No

b) **Significant Issues**

The New Mexico Telehealth act was established by the New Mexico Legislature in 2023 to address lack of access to healthcare in medically underserved and geographically isolated areas of the state. Telehealth allows for the provision of health care to New Mexico citizens when it is impractical for those citizens to receive healthcare consultations face-to-face. The passage of HB 127 could allow residents to seek hard-to-find medical services from providers out-of-state once those providers register and obtain a New Mexico telehealth license.

The bill as amended would require the Department of Health to define underserved communities in New Mexico, through indices and other standards set by the department. The development of such definitions and metrics would need to align with the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) definitions of underserved populations. This responsibility could be easily accomplished utilizing already existing resources.

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

Provider shortages impact all of New Mexico but are especially acute in rural areas in which about a quarter of the state's population live.

9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)

HB127 as amended could increase the number of health care providers, especially in underserved areas, and improve access to health care. This would potentially improve access to preventive health care, acute and chronic disease management as well as behavior, mental health and treatment for substance use disorder, thereby improving overall health status of the population. Telemedicine has been shown to be a good solution to help increase access to care ([\(\(Revolutionizing Healthcare: How Telemedicine Is Improving Patient Outcomes and Expanding Access to Care - PMC\)\)](#)).

10. ALTERNATIVES

None.

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

Status quo.

12. AMENDMENTS

None.