

LFC Requester:

Harry Rommel

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO****[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](https://www.legis.nm.gov/AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov*****(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:** 1/27/2026*Check all that apply:***Bill Number:** HB150Original Correction Amendment Substitute **Sponsor:** Jenifer Jones**Agency Name****and Code**New Mexico Medical Board-**Number:**446**Person Writing**Monique Parks, Interim Exec.**Analysis:**Director**Short**Supervision of Physician**Title:**Assistants**Requiring****Email** moniquem.parks@nm**Phone:** 505-490-3903 :mb.nm.gov**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT****APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected

Total						
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(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:

HB150 expands the scope of practice for licensed Physician Assistants (PAs) by allowing them to practice fully independently once they have completed 4,000 hours of supervised clinical experience. Physician Assistants with fewer than 4,000 hours of clinical experience must practice under the supervision of, or in collaboration with, a licensed physician or another qualified health care practitioner. Additionally, a Physician Assistant with fewer than 4000 hours of clinical practice experience in a particular practice specialty shall not practice medicine in that specialty unless they have established a supervisory or collaborative relationship with an appropriate physician or practitioner.

HB150 also updates the definition of “collaboration.” Instead of requiring a physician and PA to jointly manage patient care, collaboration is redefined as consultation with or referral to an appropriate physician or other health care practitioner when warranted. This determination is based on the PA’s education, competencies, and experience, as well as the patient’s condition and the applicable standard of care. Collaboration will not require the physical presence of a physician or other health care practitioner at the time when patient care is rendered.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None for The New Mexico Medical Board

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Please note our minimal recommendations below, keeping in mind that patient care in rural New Mexico can be overwhelmingly complex and education and experience requirements for all clinicians should be considered with any licensure oversight changes.

The NMMB exists to protect the public from the improper, unprofessional, incompetent, and unlawful practice of medicine. The NMMB is responsible for the regulation and licensing of Physician Assistants (PAs). The current statute regarding PAs, 16.10.15 NMAC, became effective in January 30, 2018, allowing PAs practicing in primary care fields (combined internal medicine and pediatrics, family medicine, general internal medicine, geriatrics (gerontology), general obstetrics and gynecology, and general pediatrics) to practice in collaboration with a MD or DO licensed physician after 3 years of practice experience after graduation. This collaborative approach provided PAs the opportunity to practice more independently but retained the supervision requirements believed necessary.

HB 150 is a commendable action by its sponsor to improve access to healthcare in NM. It provides stability to areas with minimal physician presence, such as rural health care clinics, by decreasing the supervisory requirement for Physician Assistants.

Nonetheless, the NMMB must apply our statutory charge of protection of the residents of New Mexico to all legislation and must weigh the training and experience of Physician Assistants with the complex and difficult practice of medicine, especially in the remote, underserved rural communities of New Mexico. The NMMB notes a Physician Assistant's training is a master's level (27 months of didactics and clinical training after a college degree) while a Physician (MD or DO doctorate) receives 48 months of didactics and clinical training after a college degree plus an additional 3-9 years of specialty residency training. A recent study published in November 2024 states that "PAs are medical providers who are trained in the medical model (a science-based physiology and pathophysiology methodology for diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of medical problems) to work under the supervision of a physician. Given this, the education and training that a PA receives is shorter and less comprehensive than that of a physician who is specifically training to practice independently." Mathew M M, O'Connor S, Titus T M (November 04, 2024) Comparative Analysis of Medical School and Physician Assistant Education and the Use of Provisional Licenses. *Cureus* 16(11): e72969. doi:10.7759/cureus.72969

The NMMB is concerned the proposed changes to the definition of "collaboration" will permit Physician Assistants to practice medicine independently across all fields without a true "experience threshold" or specialty medicine competence evaluation. The NMMB believes these limited oversight requirements will increase the risk of patient harm.

Thus, the NMMB endorses the following AT A MINIMUM:

PAs who have successfully completed 6000 hours of primary clinical experience within a 3-year period after graduation and supervised licensure requirements by the NMMB may apply for a non-supervised or "independent" license. The NMMB will promulgate rules for the 2 types of primary care supervised and primary care independent licensure.

PAs who have successively completed 6000 hours of specialty clinical experience within a 3-year period after graduation and supervised licensure requirements by the NMMB and successfully passed the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants Certificate of Added Qualifications for that specific specialty may apply for a non-supervised or "independent" license. The NMMB will promulgate rules for the 2 types of specialty care supervised and specialty care "independent" licensure.

Any Physician Assistant licensed under a supervised license may remain in a supervised role for any period of time as determined by the licensee and their supervisor(s) and rules promulgated by the NMMB. No Physician Assistant shall be forced to practice independently by any employer or regulatory agency.

Physician Assistant supervisors and/or appropriate health care practitioners approved by the NMMB by rules promulgation may include:

A. MD or DO physician, who has no actions against their license in New Mexico, unless the Board gives special approval for the Physician to perform supervision of a Physician Assistant, may supervise any PA in practice.

B. PA with a current non-supervised or "independent" license in primary care practice who has no actions against their license in New Mexico, unless the Board gives special approval for the Physician Assistant to perform supervision of a Physician Assistant, may supervise a PA in primary care practice.

C. PA with a current non-supervised or “independent” license in specialty care practice, who has no actions against their license in New Mexico, unless the Board gives special approval for the Physician to perform supervision of a Physician Assistant in the same specialty, may supervise a PA in that same specialty care practice.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None for The New Mexico Medical Board

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Administrative burden related to rule promulgation and data tracking for multiple categories of PA licensure, including independent primary care, independent specialty practice, supervised primary care, and supervised specialty practice.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None for The New Mexico Medical Board

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None for The New Mexico Medical Board

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None for The New Mexico Medical Board

ALTERNATIVES

None for The New Mexico Medical Board

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

None for The New Mexico Medical Board

AMENDMENTS

None for The New Mexico Medical