

**2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS**

Section I: General

Chamber: House **Category:** Bill
Number: 275 **Type:** Introduced

Date (of THIS analysis): 02/02/2026
Sponsor(s): Gabriel Ramos and D. Wonda Johnson and Luis M. Terrazas and Doreen Y. Gallegos and Jenifer Jones
Short Title: Gila Regional Cancer Center Bonds

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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	NA	NA

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: None

Section IV: Narrative

1. BILL SUMMARY

a) Synopsis

House Bill 275 proposes to authorize the New Mexico Finance Authority to issue and sell revenue bonds for the Gila Regional Cancer Center at the Gila Regional Medical Center for the purpose of designing, constructing, equipping, and furnishing additions and improvements to the regional cancer center in Grant County. After the bonds have been issued, the authority may issue and sell revenue bonds for the purpose of designing, constructing, equipping, and furnishing additions and improvements to a regional cancer treatment center at the Nor-Lea general hospital in Lea County.

Is this an amendment or substitution? Yes No

Is there an emergency clause? Yes No

b) Significant Issues

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in New Mexico ([NM-IBIS - Query Result - New Mexico Deaths - Leading Causes of Death, Age-Adjusted Rates Ranked by Number of Deaths](#)). In 2024, 3,630 people died from cancer in New Mexico ([NM-IBIS - Query Result - New Mexico Deaths - Leading Causes of Death, Age-Adjusted Rates Ranked by Number of Deaths](#)). Many cancers can be cured if detected early and treated promptly, and the detection and treatment of pre-cancerous conditions can prevent some cancers from developing. Access to cancer care, especially in rural areas, is crucial for patients to receive equitable treatment. Rural and non-metro counties in New Mexico experience higher cancer mortality rates than metro areas ([NM-IBIS - Query Result - New Mexico Deaths -](#)

[Deaths per 100,000 Population, Age-adjusted](#)), making it essential to provide accessible cancer screening and treatment services in those areas.

Grant and Lea counties are non-metro counties located four to five hours from Albuquerque, which houses the only NCI-designated cancer center in New Mexico. Having localized cancer centers in these counties reduces many of the structural barriers associated with cancer care. On average, 178 people in Grant County and 249 people in Lea County are diagnosed annually with cancer ([NM-IBIS - Query Result - Cancer Incidence by NM County - Cancer Incidence per 100,000 Population, Age-adjusted](#)).

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

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

HB 275 will serve residents of Grant and Lea counties and surrounding areas, providing them with locally accessible cancer services. Rural communities face structural barriers including healthcare shortages, under-resourced hospitals, transportation challenges, and poor internet

reliability (www.ruralhealth.us). The revenue from this bill would increase access to services and help reduce disparities in these areas.

9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)

Residents of Grant and Lea counties and surrounding areas are impacted by these cancer centers and their ability to maintain the infrastructure and equipment needed to adequately function. This bill would have the potential to increase access to cancer care, potentially improving health status in these counties.

10. ALTERNATIVES

None

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

If House Bill 275 is not enacted, the New Mexico Finance Authority will not issue and sell revenue bonds for the Gila Regional Cancer Center at the Gila Regional Medical Center for the purpose of designing, constructing, equipping, and furnishing additions and improvements to the regional cancer center in Grant County and the cancer treatment center at the Nor-Lea general hospital in Lea County.

12. AMENDMENTS

None