

LFC Requester:

Eric Chenier

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**  
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**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

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

**Date Prepared:** 2/4/26 **Bill Number:** HM31 **Original**  **Amendment**  **Substitute**

**Short Title:** HOME HEALTH SERVICE DISTANCE LIMITATIONS

**Sponsor:** Rep. Joseph Hernandez

**Name and Code Number:** HCA 630

**Person Writing:** Nancy Laster

**Phone:** 505 618 0264 **Email:** nancy.laster@hca.nm.gov

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT****APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
0.00	0.00	NA	NA

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
0.00	0.00	0.00	NA	NA

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NA	NA

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

## **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: House Memorial 31 requests the Health Care Authority reevaluate its administrative rule, NMAC § 8.370.22.9(F), that currently limits home health agencies to serving patients within 100 miles of their licensed location unless no other agency is available or willing and able to serve that client.

This restriction creates barriers for agencies operating in large, sparsely populated areas with limited infrastructure and workforce shortages. The memorial highlights the reauthorization of the federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, which will likely increase demand for home health services among uranium miners and millers living in remote frontier regions and on Navajo Nation, where access to care is limited by geographic isolation and transportation challenges. The current distance-based limitation is seen as a regulatory barrier that may unintentionally restrict medically necessary care for underserved populations.

The memorial suggests aligning home health service rules with the more flexible framework used for personal care services, which allows providers to serve patients in any county within 100 miles of a main or branch office. This alignment would promote consistency across programs while maintaining oversight and quality standards. The resolution calls for prioritizing improved access for rural, frontier, and tribal communities, including those impacted by radiation exposure, and directs that copies be sent to the Health Care Authority secretary, the governor, and the legislative health and human services committee.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no fiscal implications from this proposed memorial.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

None.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

DHI will modify the 100-mile radius home health agencies rule currently in effect. (This will not change any monitoring or survey activities. The goal will be to increase access to healthcare in underserved communities which aligns to HCA's goals).

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

HCA would collaborate with the NM Home Health Organization during rule revision.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The HCA commits to revising the applicable state regulations regardless of the memorial's

passage.

**ALTERNATIVES**

Not applicable

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Status quo

**AMENDMENTS**

None