

LFC Requester:

RubyAnn Esquibel

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**  
[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto: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:** 2/6/26 **Bill Number:** HM52 **Original**  **Amendment**  **Substitute**   
**Short Title:** HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM AFFORDABILITY STUDY GROUP  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Nicole Chavez

**Name and Code Number:** HCA 630

**Person Writing:** Colin Baillio and Jessica Rosenthal

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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
\$0.0	\$0.0	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

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

	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY28</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>	\$0.0	\$212.5- 312.5	\$0.0	\$212.5- \$312.5	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: HM52 directs the Office of Superintendent of Insurance (OSI), in consultation with the Health Care Authority (HCA), to create a health insurance premium affordability study group to evaluate rising health insurance premiums and cost drivers in New Mexico’s fully insured individual and insured group health insurance markets. The study group would include individuals and small employers to study challenges regarding health benefits. The group would also include representation from individuals who represent the interests of the business and employer community; individuals who represent the health insurance and health plan industry; the Superintendent of Insurance; the Chief Executive Officer of BeWell, New Mexico’s Health Insurance Marketplace; and others who may inform the work. The group would be responsible for producing a comprehensive report and recommendations to the legislature by October 1, 2026.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

HM52 will require significant coordination between OSI, HCA, and BeWell, which will require costs for HCA staffing and potentially contract resources. Based on prior project experience, the cost of contracting high-quality analytical services for the in-depth study described in the Memorial is likely to be between \$200 thousand and \$300 thousand. HCA estimates the Health Care Affordability Bureau would need to dedicate three staff (Director, Senior Program Manager, and Assistant Program Manager) to the project for at least five hours per week on average between July 1, 2026, and October 1, 2026. These staff costs would be \$12.5 thousand during this period. To produce a quality report, HCA estimates the project will cost between \$212.5 thousand and \$312.5 thousand.

No fiscal implications for ITD.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The Memorial requires a report and recommendations to be issued by October 1, 2026. This deadline is likely insufficient to coordinate all elements of this project and submit comprehensive results and recommendations, especially without appropriations to support research on a complex topic.

No significant issues for ITD.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

This Memorial will require staff to devote significant time to a project without adequate resources during a period in which the Health Care Affordability Bureau is anticipating significant program changes.

No administrative implications for ITD.

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

None.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

None.

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

Status quo.

## **AMENDMENTS**

None.