

LFC Requester:	Harry Rommel
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

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: 2/6/2026 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB229 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Nicole Tobiassen **Agency Name and Code** New Mexico Medical Board-446
Person Writing Analysis: Monique Parks, Interim Exec. Director
Short Title: Allow Auricular Acupuncture **Email:** moniquem.parks@nm
Requiring: _____ **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:

SB229 amends the Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Practice Act to authorize a licensed physician to practice auricular acupuncture if that action is consistent with the scope of practice authorized by the physician’s medical license. Auricular acupuncture (ear acupuncture) is a therapeutic technique that stimulates specific points on the outer ear to address pain, addiction, and various health conditions.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None for The New Mexico Medical Board

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The NMMB endorses SB 229. This change allows physicians to provide auricular acupuncture as part of comprehensive medical care consistent with their clinical training and expertise. Physicians are trained in neuroanatomy, pain pathways, autonomic regulation, and the diagnosis and management of complex medical conditions, which are directly relevant to the safe and effective use of auricular acupuncture. Incorporating this modality into physician practice enhances treatment options for conditions such as acute and chronic pain, substance use disorders, anxiety, and postoperative symptoms, particularly when used as an adjunct to evidence-based medical therapy. Permitting physicians to perform auricular acupuncture improves continuity of care, reduces delays in treatment, and expands access to nonpharmacologic interventions while maintaining high standards of patient safety and clinical oversight.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None for The New Mexico Medical Board

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None for The New Mexico Medical Board

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