

LFC Requester:

RubyAnn Esquibel

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: February 6, 2026 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB 247 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Sen. Woods **Agency Name and Code Number:** University of New Mexico-952
Short Title: NM MEDICAL REVIEW COMMISSION REPORT **Person Writing:** Kelly O'Donnell
Phone: 505-659-5702 **Email:** kodonnell@unm.edu

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

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		

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						

(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:

Senate Bill 247 amends the Medical Malpractice Act to allow a limited evidentiary use of medical review panel reports in civil litigation. Under current law, the findings of a New Mexico Medical Review Commission panel are generally inadmissible in court. The bill creates a narrow exception permitting the panel's written report to be admitted solely for the purpose of defending against a plaintiff's claim for punitive damages when the panel determines that there is insufficient evidence of medical malpractice or no reasonable medical probability of patient injury. The panel's findings would remain nonbinding and could not be used to establish or negate liability or compensatory damages.

The bill retains existing confidentiality protections for panel deliberations and preserves the advisory nature of the panel process. In addition, SB 247 makes technical and clarifying amendments to statutory definitions within the Medical Malpractice Act, including terminology related to podiatric physicians and the classification of hospitals, outpatient facilities, and independent providers.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The UNM Health System—including UNM Hospital, the medical faculty of the UNM School of Medicine, and other public employees—is not covered under the New Mexico Medical Malpractice Act, NMSA 1978, Section 41-5-1 et seq. Instead, the UNM Health System and its public employees are subject to medical professional liability coverage exclusively under the New Mexico Tort Claims Act, NMSA 1978, Section 41-4-1 et seq., including the immunities and limitations on liability provided therein.

As the state's primary academic health system, the UNM Health System trains medical residents and fellows, medical students, pharmacy students, and nursing students. The system supports policies that promote a stable health care environment and expand access to care for New Mexicans, including measures that help reduce workforce shortages across health professions.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

AMENDMENTS