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SENATE BILL

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH; CREATING THE OPIOID ADDICTION
PREVENTION PILOT PROJECT TO IMPROVE POST-SURGICAL PAIN
MANAGEMENT AND REDUCE UNNECESSARY OPIOID PRESCRIBING; REQUIRING
NURSE NAVIGATION AND CLINICAL SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS AND
PROVIDERS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] OPIOID ADDICTION PREVENTION
PILOT PROJECT--CONTRACTING--REPORTING.--

A. As used in this section, "nurse navigation"
means a clinically led service that is compliant with the
federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of
1996 and that provides personalized pain management coaching,
follow-up support and education on proper medication use and
potential risks in multiple languages.

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1 B. The department of health shall create a five-
2 year "opioid addiction prevention pilot project" to study ways
3 to use nurse navigation to prevent opioid misuse, addiction,
4 overdoses and poisonings related to surgery and other health
5 care procedures.

6 C. The department of health shall contract with a
7 third party to design and implement the project. To ensure
8 clinical efficacy and immediate scalability, the selected
9 contractor shall demonstrate a proven track record in:

10 (1) providing nurse navigation for patients
11 before and after surgical procedures, with a focus on optimized
12 pain management with less opioid use;

13 (2) delivering direct clinical implementation
14 support and reporting to health care professionals and
15 facilities to improve pain management and reduce prescription
16 opioids;

17 (3) supporting efforts to prevent opioid
18 overprescribing and ensure appropriate prescribing and
19 dispensing of opioids;

20 (4) deploying a sustainable, innovative
21 evidence-based model, with one or more peer-reviewed
22 publications, focused on the surgical episode of care with
23 programs funded by opioid settlements in a minimum of five
24 other states; and

25 (5) delivering various items and methodologies

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1 directly to patients designed to help patients experience less
2 pain and fewer complications and reduced reliance on opioids
3 post-surgery.

4 D. Beginning in fiscal year 2027 and through fiscal
5 year 2031, the department of health shall provide an annual
6 report to the legislative finance committee and the legislative
7 health and human services committee on the project's success,
8 including the number of surgical cases covered, the total
9 volume of opioid pills avoided through improved pain management
10 protocols and performance measures related to the prevention of
11 opioid misuse and addiction.

12 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Nine million dollars
13 (\$9,000,000) is appropriated from the opioid crisis recovery
14 fund to the department of health for expenditure in fiscal
15 years 2026 through 2031 to carry out the purposes of Section 1
16 of this act. Any unexpended balance remaining at the end of
17 fiscal year 2031 shall revert to the opioid crisis recovery
18 fund.

19 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
20 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.