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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: House Memorial 31

SHORT TITLE: Home Health Service Distance Limitations

SPONSOR: Hernandez, JF/Duncan

LAST ORIGINAL
UPDATE: _____ **DATE:** 2/10/2026 **ANALYST:** Chenier

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
		No Fiscal Impact				

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis

Health Care Authority

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Memorial 31

House Memorial 31 requests the Health Care Authority reevaluate its administrative rule 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.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, which is May 20, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications from this proposed memorial.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Health Care Authority (HCA) stated that Division of Health Improvement 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.

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