




State of New Mexico

Legislative Council Service

**Health and Human Services Legislation Enacted During the
2026 Legislative Session**

Zander Dawson, Staff Attorney, LCS

Ian Keller, Staff Attorney, LCS



Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 50 (sponsored by Sen. Linda M. Trujillo, Sen. Katy M. Duhigg, Sen. Nicole Tobiassen, Rep. Pamelya Herndon, Rep. Marian Matthews, Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero and Rep. Sarah Silva)

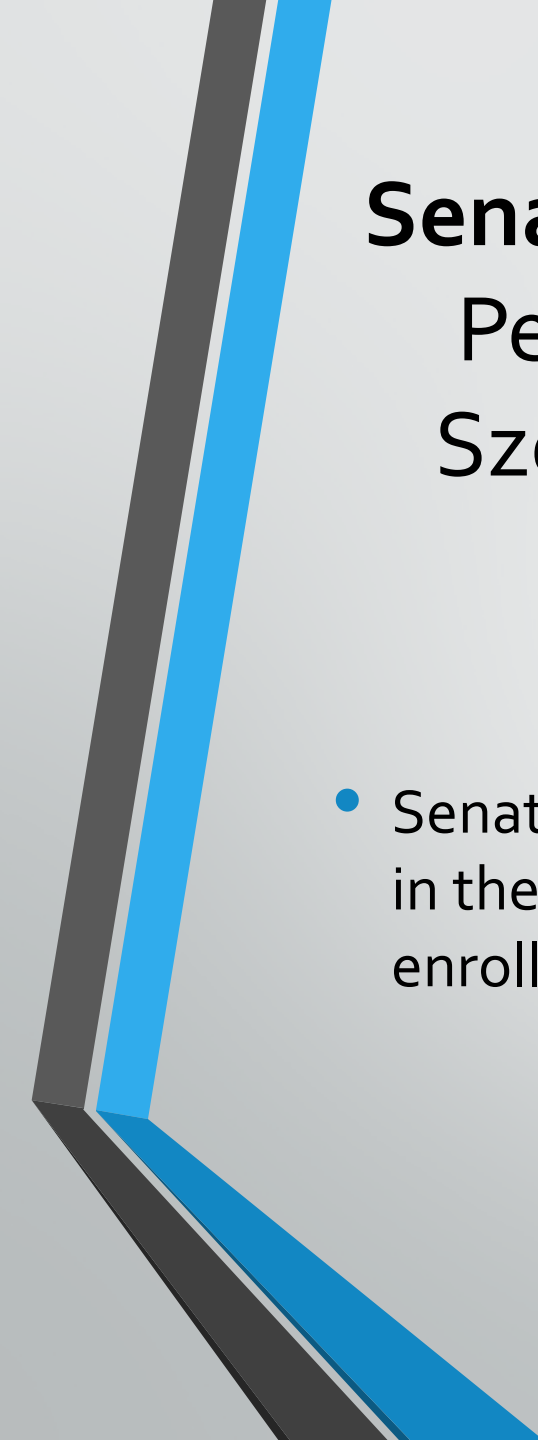
- Senate Bill 1 (Interstate Medical Licensure Compact) and House Bill 50 (Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact).
- Joining these compacts will significantly reduce barriers for doctors and social workers who want to move to New Mexico.

House Bill 4 (sponsored by Rep. Reena Szczepanski, Rep. Elizabeth “Liz” Thomson, Sen. Roberto “Bobby” J. Gonzales, Rep. Joseph Franklin Hernandez and Rep. Anita Gonzales)

- House Bill 4 increases the amount of money distributed to the Health Care Affordability Fund, which was created to subsidize affordable health insurance for New Mexico residents.
- As of September 1, 2025, the Health Care Affordability Fund had received 55% of the net receipts attributable to the health insurance premium surtax.
- House Bill 4 increases the percentage of the net receipts attributable to the health insurance premium surtax that is distributed to the Health Care Affordability Fund to 80% in 2027 and 95% starting in 2028. Beginning in 2028, the remaining 5% of the net receipts will be distributed to the Behavioral Health Program Fund.

Senate Bill 20 (sponsored by Sen. Elizabeth “Liz” Stefanics, Sen. Martin Hickey, Sen. Linda M. López, Rep. Reena Szczepanski and Rep. Elizabeth “Liz” Thomson)

- Senate Bill 20 amends the Prior Authorization Act to limit insurance companies from requiring prior authorizations for prescription drugs that are prescribed to treat serious mental illnesses, including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.
- Senate Bill 20 provides that once an insurance company approves prior authorization for a drug prescribed to treat a chronic health condition, the insurance company cannot require subsequent prior authorization for that drug more than once every three years.



Senate Bill 21 (sponsored by Sen. Rex Wilson, Sen. Pete Campos, Sen. Martin Hickey, Rep. Reena Szczepanski and Sen. Elizabeth “Liz” Stefanics)

- Senate Bill 21 takes effect January 1, 2027 and requires issuers participating in the market for Medicare supplement policies to offer annual open enrollment periods to eligible policyholders.

Senate Bill 30 (sponsored by Sen. Peter Wirth, Rep. Janelle Anyanonu, Sen. Cindy Nava and Sen. Angel M. Charley)

- Senate Bill 30 repealed Section 24-14-18 NMSA 1978.
- Before the repeal, Section 24-14-18 NMSA 1978 required reporting of induced abortions to the State Registrar within five days by the institution in which the abortion was performed or the attending physician who oversaw the abortion. The statute required the name and address of the physician to remain confidential.

House Bill 38 (sponsored by Rep. Kathleen Cates, Rep. Elizabeth “Liz” Thomson and Sen. Elizabeth “Liz” Stefanics)


- House Bill 38 equires health insurance companies to provide coverage for “complex rehabilitation technology devices”, which are specialized wheelchairs and mobility devices that are custom-made to support a person's unique medical, physical, functional and environmental needs and capacities.
- Insurance companies are required to provide for up to two complex rehabilitation technology devices for each person covered by the insurance company who qualifies for a device. The bill also mandates coverage for maintenance and replacement of these devices.

House Bill 66 (sponsored by Rep. Christine Chandler, Sen. Natalie Figueroa and Rep. Eleanor Chávez)

- House Bill 66 made several changes to the Health Professional Loan Repayment Act.
- The bill requires health professionals receiving rewards to maintain practice in New Mexico or commence practice in New Mexico within ninety days of the award being granted.
- The bill imposes criteria for the Higher Education Department to select award recipients and disburse award amounts.
- HB 66 also cleans up language in the Health Professional Loan Repayment Fund statute that mandates disbursement of encumbered but unexpended funds, specifies reporting requirements and repeals provisions of the Health Professional Loan Repayment Act.

House Bill 99 (sponsored by Rep. Christine Chandler, Rep. Gail Armstrong, Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil, Rep. Sarah Silva and Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos)

- House Bill 99 allows hospitals and outpatient facilities to be covered by the Patient's Compensation Fund indefinitely.
- House Bill 99 requires that payments made from the Patient's Compensation Fund for medical care are made as expenses are incurred, rather than in a large lump sum payment.
- The bill places caps on punitive damage awards in medical malpractice cases. The cap on punitive damage awards varies based on the defendant and will be adjusted for inflation annually, but in most cases the cap on punitive damages will be equal to the applicable cap on monetary damages already provided in the Medical Malpractice Act.



Senate Bill 101 (sponsored by Sen. Elizabeth “Liz” Stefanics, Rep. Reena Szczepanski, Rep. Elizabeth “Liz” Thomson, Sen. Linda M. López and Sen. Nicole Tobiassen)

- Senate Bill 101 repealed Laws 2024, Chapter 41, Section 13 to remove the delayed repeal of the Health Care Delivery and Access Act, which is codified in Chapter 24, Article 8 NMSA 1978.

House Bill 156 (sponsored by Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil and Rep. Elizabeth “Liz” Thomson)

- In the 2025 first special session, the legislature passed a bill to amend the rulemaking requirements for immunizations recommended and purchased by the Department of Health (DOH) and immunizations the DOH requires of children attending early childhood programs and schools.
- That bill established that immunization rules promulgated by the DOH only need to be based on the recommendations of public health experts at the DOH or the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- The changes provided in that bill were originally temporary and were set to repeal on July 1, 2026. However, House Bill 156 eliminates the delayed repeal, so the changes will remain in effect indefinitely.



House Bill 256 (sponsored by Rep. Pamelya Herndon, Rep. Yanira Gurrola, Rep. D. Wonda Johnson and Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero)

- House Bill 256 amended Section 22-33-6 NMSA 1978 to require schools to make automated external defibrillators available during athletic activities.

House Bill 306 (sponsored by Rep. Reena Szczepanski and Sen. Elizabeth “Liz” Stefanics)

- House Bill 306 prohibits a hospital from charging a patient a facility fee when the hospital is providing preventive health care services, vaccination services or telehealth services. The bill defines "facility fees" as fees for outpatient hospital services that are intended to compensate a hospital for operational expenses rather than for professional medical services.
- House Bill 306 requires increased transparency when a hospital bills a patient.
- House Bill 306 requires all hospitals and health systems that charge facility fees to report information to the all-payer claims database.