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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino ORIGINAL DATE 2/27/19
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE UNM Health Care Work Force Group SB 538

ANALYST Chilton

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
	\$260.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM - HSC)

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 538, UNM Health Care Work Force Work Group, appropriates \$260,000 from the general fund to the University of New Mexico Board of Regents for the purpose of supporting the UNM Health Sciences Center Work Force Work Group.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$260,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 and subsequent years shall not revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico has long had a shortage of many types of health professionals. In 2012, the Legislature empowered the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center to study the issue and make recommendations to state government as to how to improve that situation.

According to UNM - HSC:

The NM Healthcare workforce committee was formed under legislation in 2012. This legislation and the activity of this committee is critical to analyzing the NM healthcare workforce and addressing shortages in health care providers statewide. The intent was to fund this initiative at the amount currently requested. However, the previous gubernatorial administration did not support this funding.

With this funding, more comprehensive analysis of more health care professions will be performed. This will allow the state and health care agencies to better address the shortages in health care providers throughout the state.

Each year the Health Care Work Force Work Group makes a report to the Legislature. The most recent report, from October 2018, is to be found at.

https://www.nmhanet.org/files/NMHCWF_2018Report.pdf.

The following is a list of the 2018 report’s 14 recommendations, with actions corresponding to them when relevant current bills could be found:

Rec. No.	Recommendation	Known Outcome in Legislature as of February 2018
1	Identify funding for efforts to support the New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC)	SB 137
2	Direct RLD to correct their information technology system changes so that all survey responses can be provided to the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center and the committee.	
3	Continue funding for expanded primary and secondary care residencies in New Mexico	SB 138, Residencies Support Appropriation
4	Increase funding for state loan-for-service and loan repayment programs and consider restructuring them to target the professions most needed in rural and underserved areas, rather than prioritizing those with higher debt.	SB 21, Health Professional Loan Repayment Funding
5	Request the Department of Health add pharmacists, social workers, and counselors to the healthcare professions eligible for New Mexico’s Rural Healthcare Practitioner Tax Credit program	House Bill 41, Rural Health Practitioner Tax Credit Changes
6	Create a committee tasked with examining future healthcare workforce needs related to the state’s changing demographics	This bill, SB 538.
7	Provide funding for the New Mexico Health Care Workforce Committee	This bill, SB 538.
8	Establish a tax credit for healthcare professional preceptors who work with public institutions	SB 296, Health Care Preceptor Income Tax Credit
9	Require that licensed behavioral health professionals receive three hours of continuing education credits each licensure cycle in the treatment of substance use disorders	

10	Finalize and promulgate changes to the New Mexico Medicaid Behavioral Health Regulations to reimburse Medicaid services when delivered by behavioral health interns in community settings	
11	Finalize and promulgate changes to the New Mexico Medicaid Behavioral Health Regulations to identify physician assistants as a behavioral health provider type, which will allow Medicaid reimbursement of services when delivered by physician assistants in behavioral health setting.	
12	Expedite direct services via telehealth by participating in the PSYPACT interstate licensing compact	SB 141 Psychological Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT)
13	Fund an infrastructure through the New Mexico Hospital Association for a centralized Telebehavioral Health Program to provide direct care to rural communities	
14	Direct the pertinent professional licensing boards to make the necessary changes to align their surveys with legislative requirements and other boards' surveys	

It appears as if the Work Group's analyses are widely used as bases for legislation aimed at increasing New Mexico's health care work force.

LAC/al/gb