

**2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS**

Section I: General

Chamber: Senate

Category: Bill

Number: 50

Type: Introduced

Date (of THIS analysis): 1/19/2024

Sponsor(s): Jeff Steinborn and Nancy Rodriguez

Short Title: Use of County Health Assistance Funds

Reviewing Agency: Agency 665 - Department of Health

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Section II: Fiscal Impact

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation Contained		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 24	FY 25		
\$0	\$0	NA	NA

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 24	FY 25	FY 26		
\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-recurring	Fund Affected
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

Section III: Relationship to other legislation

Duplicates: None

Conflicts with: None

Companion to: None

Relates to: None

Duplicates/Relates to an Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None

Section IV: Narrative

1. BILL SUMMARY

a) Synopsis

Senate Bill 50 (SB 50) would amend Indigent Hospital and County Health Care Act to allow additional authorized uses of County Health Care Assistance Funds.

Is this an amendment or substitution? Yes No

Is there an emergency clause? Yes No

b) Significant Issues

In 2018, 5.4% of adults did not have any health care coverage. Adults living in the southeast region of New Mexico (91.9%) were less likely to have coverage than adults living in other regions. Adults living in New Mexico's metro region had the highest coverage (95.7%) of any region. The U.S. Census Bureau's *Health Insurance Coverage in The United States: 2020* reports that 8.6% of the total population, more than 28 million individuals, is without health insurance.

However, with the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2014, and with the state Medicaid expansion, the health care coverage gap between New Mexico and the rest of the county has narrowed significantly. Among adults aged 18-64 years, 18.8% in New Mexico lacked health care coverage compared to 15.3% in the United States. Health insurance coverage rates may be related to whether a state expanded Medicaid eligibility to lower-income families under ACA. Thirty-six states, including New Mexico, and the District of Columbia expanded Medicaid eligibility on or before January 1, 2021 ("expansion states"), and 14 states did not ("non expansion states"). In 2021, the uninsured rate was 6.6% in expansion states and 12.7% in non expansion states.

(https://ibis.doh.nm.gov/indicator/view/HlthInsurBRFSS.Year.NM_US.html;
<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2022/09/uninsured-rate-declined-in-28-states.html>

)

The additional provisions in SB 50 may further support improved healthcare outcomes for New Mexicans by removing additional financial barriers to receiving care.

2. PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

- Does this bill impact the current delivery of NMDOH services or operations?
 Yes No
- Is this proposal related to the NMDOH Strategic Plan? Yes No
- Goal 1:** We expand equitable access to services for all New Mexicans
- Goal 2:** We ensure safety in New Mexico healthcare environments
- Goal 3:** We improve health status for all New Mexicans
- Goal 4:** We support each other by promoting an environment of mutual respect, trust, open communication, and needed resources for staff to serve New Mexicans and to grow and reach their professional goals

3. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the Executive Budget Request?
 Yes No N/A
- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the LFC Budget Request?
 Yes No N/A
- Does this bill have a fiscal impact on NMDOH? Yes No

4. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Will this bill have an administrative impact on NMDOH? Yes No

5. DUPLICATION, CONFLICT, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

None

6. TECHNICAL ISSUES

Are there technical issues with the bill? Yes No

7. LEGAL/REGULATORY ISSUES (OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES)

- Will administrative rules need to be updated or new rules written? Yes No
- Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary (or unnecessary)? Yes No
- Does this bill conflict with federal grant requirements or associated regulations?
 Yes No
- Are there any legal problems or conflicts with existing laws, regulations, policies, or programs? Yes No

8. DISPARITIES ISSUES

New Mexico's health system poses certain challenges for improving the health status of the population as New Mexico's population is not evenly distributed across the state geographically. Of New Mexico's 33 counties, seven contain predominantly urban areas defined as part of Metropolitan Statistical Areas. The remaining 26 Non-Metropolitan counties are considered rural or frontier in nature ([New Mexico Rural Health Plan](#), June 2019, page 3).

9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)

The provisions of SB50 may allow for additional New Mexicans to access preventive health care services including routine annual exams, detecting health concerns earlier, and providing less costly care compared to emergency room visits.

10. ALTERNATIVES

None

11. WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

If SB 50 were not passed, an amendment to the Indigent Hospital and County Health Care Act to allow additional authorized uses of County Health Care Assistance Funds would not be authorized.

12. AMENDMENTS

None