

<b>LFC Requester:</b>
-----------------------

<b>Division Requested</b>
---------------------------

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS  
2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO:**

**AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov**

*{Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF}*

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}*

Check all that apply:

**Original**  **Amendment**   
**Correction**  **Substitute**

**Date** 1/24/24

**Bill No:** SB127

**Sponsor:** Sen. Soules  
**Short Title:** Psychologists Administer and Prescribe Injections

**Agency Name and Code** HSD-630  
**Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Person Writing** Alicia Salazar  
**Phone:** 505-795-3920 **Email** Alicia.salazar2@hsd.nm.gov

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		
\$0	\$0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25	FY26		
\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:  
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

**SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis:

Senate Bill 127(SB 127) allows psychologists with “conditional prescription certificates” to prescribe and administer injections for psychotropic drugs, including substance use disorders.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None for BHSD.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

As of February, 32.3% of U.S. adults reported symptoms of anxiety or depression, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, and 24% of Americans were taking psychiatric medications in 2022, compared with 15.8% in 2019, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This increase means there are fewer practitioners available for individuals needing behavioral health treatment and supports—a problem that existed before the pandemic but has grown significantly worse. <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2023/06/prescriptive-authority-psychologists>

Advantages A Long-Acting Injectable (LAI);

- Improvement in taking the medication
- Regular appointments with a doctor
- Steady levels of medication in the blood
- Less side effects from the medication

[https://www.nami.org/About-Mental-Illness/Treatment/Mental-Health-Medications/Long-Acting-Injectables-\(LAIs\)](https://www.nami.org/About-Mental-Illness/Treatment/Mental-Health-Medications/Long-Acting-Injectables-(LAIs))      [https://www.nami.org/About-Mental-Illness/Treatment/Mental-Health-Medications/Long-Acting-Injectables-\(LAIs\)](https://www.nami.org/About-Mental-Illness/Treatment/Mental-Health-Medications/Long-Acting-Injectables-(LAIs))

Injections or Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) are a new treatment option for patients in recovery who may value the benefits of a once-monthly injection compared to other forms of MOUD medications, such as reducing the burden of taking medication daily as prescribed (medical adherence).

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-once-monthly-buprenorphine-injection-medication-assisted-treatment-option-opioid>

An expansion of the provider types able to administer these medications would likely increase access to important behavioral health care services. This would benefit patients in rural areas of

the state who cannot always get to a clinic to be able to attain their medications on a daily or weekly basis, as transportation can be a barrier.

<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/toolkits/substance-abuse/1/barriers>

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

No IT impact.

#### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None

#### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

On page 13 of the SB127, letter E, states psychologist should be allowed to prescribe but not administer psychotropic intramuscular injections and subcutaneous injections to include antipsychotic medications. The bill should include language that specifies that these psychologists should not administer these medications until they have had the appropriate training. Clarity is needed on the training requirements.

#### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

None

#### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Status Quo

#### **AMENDMENTS**

None