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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ferrary/Thomson/Cates/Szczepanski LAST UPDATED _____
ORIGINAL DATE 2/24/23
SHORT TITLE Physician Assistants Certifying Deaths BILL NUMBER House Bill 476
ANALYST Klundt

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact			
Total						

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
*Amounts reflect most recent version of this legislation.

Relates to Senate Bill 168

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Department of Health (DOH)
Medical Board (NMMB)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Bill

House Bill 476 (HB 476) proposes to authorize New Mexico Medical Board certified and registered physician assistants to certify the death of a patient.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impact was reported.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB476 would allow physician assistants in charge of the patient's care to complete the medical certification for a death certificate. This would allow the death certificate to be completed and signed not only by a physician or nurse practitioner, but also by a physician assistant. Because the Vital Statistics Act [Section 24-14-20 (C)] already allows a nurse practitioner to complete the medical certification, there is no expected impact on Department of Health Bureau of Vital

Records and Health Statistics processes if physician assistants could also complete the medical certification.

DOH also stated, by allowing a physician assistant to complete the medical certification on a death certificate, HB476 could allow the process of completing a death certificate to be happen more quickly. Because the medical certification and signing of a death certificate would not have to wait on a physician or a nurse practitioner, these staff could address other areas and needs of New Mexicans, and the timeliness of completing a death certificate may improve for some cases. Improving timeliness of the death certificate process would benefit families who are dealing with funeral arrangements, dealing with troubling circumstances, and addressing any insurance or benefit situations.

RELATIONSHIP

Hb476 relates to SB168, which would allow hospice nurses to pronounce death.

KK/al/hg/mg