

LFC Requestor: ESQUIBEL, RubyAnn

**2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS**

Section I: General

Chamber: House

Category: Bill

Number: 263

Type: Introduced

Date (of THIS analysis): 2/13/25

Sponsor(s): Thomson, Anaya, Silva, Szczepanski, Gonzales

Short Title: Hospital Price Transparency Act

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 25	FY 26		
\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 25	FY 26	FY 27		
\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-recurring	Fund Affected
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

This bill would create a mandate for all NMDOH hospitals to have a robust website that can be modified continually to maintain updated information. It is possible additional IT staff would be needed or additional funds to operate the hospital websites. There are also a number of fines imposed that may impact NMDOH if the state system could not accommodate the new requests.

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

House Bill 263 proposes to mandate that all hospitals provide the price for services on a public facing website. The price must include bed rates and all specialty services that a hospital provides. The information must include the rates for Medicaid, commercial insurance plans, and private pay. A hospital that was unable to provide this information on a website would be subject to fines imposed by the Healthcare Authority during audits, beginning at \$2,500 and escalating to \$15,000 for each day, for each incident.

Is this an amendment or substitution? Yes No

Is there an emergency clause? Yes No

b) Significant Issues

- This bill would provide transparency for hospital charges and would allow people to compare different hospital prices if they live in a community with more than one hospital.
- This bill would include NMDOH facilities, New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute (NMBHI), New Mexico Rehabilitation Center (NMRC), and Turquoise Lodge Hospital and require them to update their existing websites and maintain updated information on price transparency.
- NMBHI provides several services through general fund dollars. Many of these services do not have a charge associated with them. For example, the treatment provided at the Forensic Division of NMBHI does not have a payor source to bill. NMBHI does not bill people, insurance, or Medicaid for services provided at the Forensic Division and is only able to partially bill Medicaid or other insurance for services rendered in the Adult Psych Division.

2. PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

- Does this bill impact the current delivery of NMDOH services or operations?

Yes No

If yes, describe how.

- 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

This bill would require an update to the websites of hospitals, ongoing maintenance costs, and personnel efforts to ensure that the website is updated by financial professionals with the current rates and costs associated with each hospital. For each service provided, and with each company contracted, this may result in thousands of entries that would need to be uploaded, monitored, and updated by NMDOH staff.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

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

This bill would mandate additional work from both IT services and financial staff.

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

None

8. DISPARITIES ISSUES

- This bill would provide transparency for the cost of hospitals to assist New Mexicans in choosing where they receive services. This would not be applicable to the many rural areas that only have one hospital to choose from.

9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)

None

10. ALTERNATIVES

None

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

If HB 263 is not enacted the price that hospitals charge will remain hidden from the public and New Mexicans will not know how much services cost until after they receive a bill.

12. AMENDMENTS

None