

LFC Requester:

Kelly Klunt

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.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}

Date Prepared: 2/21/25

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: HB479

Original Correction

Amendment Substitute

Agency Name

and Code

HCA 630

Number:

Sponsor: Rep. Gail Armstrong
Use of Title of Doctor

Person Writing

Alex Castillo Smith

Short

Title:

Phone: 505-629-8652 **Email:** Alex.castillosmith@hca.

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(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:

Amends the Uniform Licensing Act to prohibit non-physician health care providers with a doctoral degree (e.g., clinical psychologists) from using the title of “Doctor” in any advertising or communication in a clinical setting without qualifying the specific profession in which they received their doctoral degree (e.g., Doctor of Psychology); violations would be grounds for disciplinary actions from state licensing boards including denial, suspension or revocation of the provider’s license.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No HCA impact.

However, there could be a fiscal effect for state licensing boards related to:

- Potential enforcement costs for state licensing boards responsible for investigating and addressing violations.
- Litigation risks if legal challenges arise from affected providers who argue that the bill limits professional representation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB479 has no discernible impact on HCA.

The intent of HB479 is to reduce confusion among patients regarding the credentials of health care professionals, ensuring they understand whether they are receiving care from a physician or another licensed provider with a doctorate in a non-medical discipline.

This restriction may impact recruitment or retention of doctoral-level non-physician professionals in New Mexico if they view this requirement as restrictive compared to other states.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HB479 has no direct impact on HCA. However, if the bill contributes to greater clarity in provider roles, it could enhance patient education and engagement, aligning with broader goals of improving transparency and trust in health care services.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB479 has no discernible impact on HCA.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

There are no direct technical issues for HCA, but clarification may be needed on:

- Whether electronic health record (EHR) entries fall under the bill’s definition of “advertising or communication.”

- How the bill applies to academic settings where non-physician faculty commonly use “Doctor.”
- How licensing boards will standardize enforcement across different professions.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Educating the public and health care community about the changes proposed in the bill will help prevent confusion or unintended consequences.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo

AMENDMENTS