

LFC Requester:	Harry Rommel
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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: 2/13/2025 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB172 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Linda M. Trujillo and Cindy Nava and D. Wanda Johnson and Janelle Anyanonu **Agency Name and Code Number:** New Mexico Medical Board-446
Person Writing Analysis: Monique Parks, Interim Exec. Director
Short Title: Immigrant Health Care Workforce Development Act **Phone:** 505-490-3903 **Email:** moniquem.parks@nmmb.nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

(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						
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(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:

SB172- In an effort to increase access to quality health care in underserved communities, calls for an acceleration program, physician readiness pathway, and primary care residency grant program for qualified immigrant health care workers. Creates a Fund and Advisory Group. Details of physician licensure procedures. Appropriates \$1.5 million (GF) to the Workforce Solutions Department for use in FY2026 to administer the act, including hiring three full-time-equivalent department staff and providing program grants.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

These additional licensing pathways will incur increased time and resources for medical board personnel. Additional funding and resources must be allocated through state appropriations to implement, operationalize, and evaluate any additional pathway for medical licensure.

Insufficient financial resources to support such additional licensing pathways risks inadequate resources and expertise that may lead to rushed or incomplete licensure eligibility decisions, risking the admission of underqualified practitioners or delays in integrating ITPs into the healthcare workforce.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB 172 addresses an alternate licensure pathway for 2 types of physicians: internationally-trained physicians and foreign medical graduates.

Internationally-trained physicians (ITPs) are usually referred to as physicians educated and trained abroad who must also be licensed and have practiced medicine in another jurisdiction. This cohort of physicians represents a relatively small category of international medical graduates (IMGs), the broader term used to describe physicians who received their medical degree outside the United States. Individuals who are ITPs, in most descriptions, must have previously completed graduate medical education (also known as postgraduate medical education or postgraduate training/ residency training) that is “substantially similar” to that which is recognized in the United States.

IMGs, or international medical graduates, have graduated from a non-US medical school, but have not yet completed a residency program or its equivalent and are not prepared to safely practice medicine in New Mexico without the oversight of standard educational programs such as the traditional residency program offered by the UNM School of Medicine.

ECFMG Certification and graduation from a duly recognized medical school (noted in this bill as from a school approved by the World Health Organization or the World Directory of Medical Schools) should be required for the immigrant primary care physician readiness pathway eligibility. Additionally, the NMMB agrees completion of postgraduate training (graduate medical education which is substantially equivalent to ACGME approved programs) outside the United States should be required.

The NMMB acknowledges there may be difficulty ensuring the postgraduate training is equivalent to the rigorous US standards. Legislation and/or medical board regulations in other states enacting similar legislation only allow applicants with postgraduate training from specific countries.

The NMMB must preserve the authority to assess each candidate for full and unrestricted licensure; additional requirements to confirm successfully completed training may be implemented to ensure licensees are able to provide safe and effective patient care. Rules will be promulgated by the NMMB evaluating licensees following completion of these programs and pathways.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None for The New Mexico Medical Board

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The NM Medical Board in collaboration with the NM Workforce Solutions Department and other agencies should be authorized to define what is an appropriate clinical facility for the supervision and assessment of foreign trained physicians (FTPs) for their provisional licensure period, especially with regard to rural practice sites in NM with limited capacity for supervisors.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None for The New Mexico Medical Board

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None for The New Mexico Medical Board

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None for The New Mexico Medical Board

ALTERNATIVES

None for The New Mexico Medical Board

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

None for The New Mexico Medical Board

AMENDMENTS

None for The New Mexico Medical Board