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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/2008

SPONSOR Taylor LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Anesthesiologist Assistant Licensure SB 485

ANALYST Moser

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

NM Medical Board (NMMB)

Health Policy Commission (HPC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 485 revises the employment requirements for licensure of Anesthesiologist Assistants and increases the number of Anesthesiologist Assistants that an Anesthesiologist may supervise.

SB 485 also includes correction and clarification revisions.

§61-6-10.2, Subsection A, definition of an anesthesiologist. SB485 deletes language restricting employment to the department of anesthesiology of a medical school in New Mexico.

§61-6-10.2, Subsection B, definition of an anesthesiologist assistant. SB485 deletes language restricting employment to “a university in New Mexico with a medical school.” Subsection B also revises the definition to read “develop and implement” anesthesia care plans and deletes the language “assist an anesthesiologist in developing and implementing” anesthesia care plans.

§61-6-10.2, Subsection C, Paragraph (7) revises the number of anesthesiologist assistants a supervising anesthesiologist may supervise at one time from a maximum of three (3) to “the maximum number of supervised providers permitted by the centers for medicare and medicaid services or its successor organization.”

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB 485 removes the current requirement that Anesthesiologist Assistants may only work at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. This change would allow other hospitals in New Mexico to employ and supervise Anesthesiologist Assistants under the same rules and regulations. The removal of this employment requirement could potentially increase the number of anesthesiologists and anesthesiologist assistants throughout the state.

Additionally SB 485 increases the number of Anesthesiologist Assistants that may be supervised by a Board Certified Anesthesiologist into line with the current national standard established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. The Medical Board feels that this change will allow more anesthesia services to be offered, thus allowing for improved access to care and the potential for decreased costs.

Passage of SB485 would allow other hospitals in New Mexico to employ and supervise Anesthesiologist Assistants under the same rules and regulations, allowing statewide access to these well-trained and highly skilled allied health professionals.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The Health Policy Commission (HPC) indicates that Section 16.10.19.10, Supervision Requirements, includes the following language: “an anesthesiologist may not supervise more than three (3) anesthesiologist assistants, except in emergency cases. An anesthesiologist shall not supervise, except in emergency cases, more than four anesthesia providers if at least one is an anesthesiologist assistant. The HPC argues that the language in this section would need to be revised to be consistent with the revisions set forth in SB485.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Supervision Requirements

The HPC states that “Pursuant to Section 16.10.19.10, except in cases of emergency, the supervising anesthesiologist must be present in the operating room during induction of a general or regional anesthetic and during emergence from a general anesthetic, and the presence of the supervising anesthesiologist must be documented in the patient record. The supervising anesthesiologist must be present within the operating suite and immediately available to the operating room when an anesthesiologist assistant is performing anesthesia procedures. The supervising anesthesiologist shall ensure that all activities, functions, services and treatment measures are properly documented in writing and that all anesthesia records are reviewed, countersigned and dated.

New Mexico Anesthesiologists

According to the Physician Supply and Distribution in New Mexico 2006 report, there were an estimated 126 active patient care anesthesiologists practicing in New Mexico in 2006. Of the 126 anesthesiologists, 105 were male and 21 were female. Thirty-eight percent of the New Mexico anesthesiologists were aged 45-54.

Source: Physician Supply and Distribution in New Mexico 2006,
http://www.hpc.state.nm.us/documents/Physician%20Supply%20and%20Distribution%20in%20New%20Mexico_%202006.pdf

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