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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/23/13

SPONSOR Cisneros/Espinoza LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Anesthesiologist Definitions SB 6

ANALYST Weber

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

Medical Board (MD)

Human Services Department (HSD)

Health Sciences Center

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 6 (SB 6) seeks to amend the definitions of Anesthesiologist and Anesthesiologist Assistant in the Anesthesiologist Assistants Act at Section 61-6-10.2 by removing the employment restriction in that section: "...and who is an employee of the department of anesthesiology of a medical school in New Mexico". That current definition requires, in effect, that a supervising physician Anesthesiologist and an Anesthesiologist Assistant be employees of the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of New Mexico medical school.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Medical Board states they strongly support the proposed revisions in the bill and offers the following additional information.

Senate Bill 6 (SB 6) removes the requirement that Anesthesiologist Assistants may only work at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, and therefore, allows other hospitals in New Mexico to employ and supervise Anesthesiologist Assistants under the same comprehensive rules and regulations.

Passage of SB 6 would allow statewide access to these well-trained and highly skilled allied health professionals.

According to the American Medical Association, an anesthesiologist assistant is a specialty physician assistant under the direction of a licensed anesthesiologist. An anesthesiologist assistant is a master degree level program and requires an average of 28 months of specialized education (24 to 29 months). There are seven schools in the nation that offer an AA degree: two in Florida and Georgia, and one each in Missouri, Ohio, and Texas. The training of a CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist) is comparable to that of an AA, being an average of 28 months (range 24 to 36 months; 36 months is the usual length training for a DNP-Doctor of Nursing Practice), resulting in a Masters degree. Additionally, the safety of the public is well-protected by the on-site availability of the supervising, board-certified anesthesiologist, whereas CRNAs are not required to practice under the supervision of another clinician though, in effect, they work in a team that is directed by the operating surgeon.

The anesthesiologist assistant assists the anesthesiologist in developing and implementing the anesthesia care plan. The plan may include:

- Collecting preoperative data, such as taking an appropriate health history,
- Performing various preoperative tasks, such as the insertion of intravenous and arterial catheters and special catheters for central venous pressure monitoring,
- Performing airway management and drug administration for induction and maintenance of anesthesia,
- Assisting in the administering and monitoring of regional and peripheral nerve blockade,
- Administering supportive therapy, for example, with intravenous fluids and cardiovascular drugs,
- Adjusting anesthetic levels on a minute-to-minute basis,
- Performing intra-operative monitoring,
- Providing recovery room care, and
- Functioning in the intensive care unit.

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