

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the Legislature. LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR <u>SJC</u>	LAST UPDATED _____
	ORIGINAL DATE <u>02/21/2023</u>
SHORT TITLE <u>Anesthesiologist Assistants Changes</u>	BILL NUMBER <u>CS/Senate Bill 35/SJCS</u>
	ANALYST <u>Chilton</u>

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact			

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent version of this legislation.

Relates to Senate Bill 80

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Medical Board (NMMB)

Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

No Response Received

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SJC Substitute for Senate Bill 35

The Senate Judiciary Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 35 makes several changes to Section 61-6D-2 NMSA 1978 that govern the use of anesthesiologist assistants during surgery in New Mexico hospitals. The effects of the changes are as follows:

- 1) Specification of university hospitals as being the sole employers of anesthesiologist assistants (licensed as such by the NMMB) would be removed.
- 2) Removal of the need for supervision when the anesthesiology assistant is providing regional anesthesia (it would still be required for general anesthesia).
- 3) Simplification of the requirements for supervision by a licensed anesthesiologist of an anesthesiology assistant to require in-person participation in the most important aspects of anesthesia planning.
- 4) Allowing a supervising anesthesiologist to supervise four, rather than three, anesthesiology assistants at a time.

- 5) Requiring that a licensed anesthesiologist be present in the operating suite at the induction of general anesthesia, where he/she is supervising an anesthesiology assistant.
- 6) Removing language in Section 61-6D-10 NMSA 1978 that conflicts with the definition of anesthesiologist already present in Section 61-6D-2 NMSA 1978.

This bill does not contain an effective date, and as a result, would go into effect June 16, 2023, (90 days after the Legislature adjourns) if signed.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation in Senate Bill 35. Neither RLD nor NMMB indicate any fiscal impact on those agencies.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

With regard to Senate Bill 80, the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center commented that “there is a shortage of anesthesiologists and certified registered nurse anesthetists in rural New Mexico communities.” Allowing anesthesiology assistants to practice in larger numbers and with less intensive anesthesiologist supervision may help to alleviate this shortage.

RELATIONSHIP

Related to Senate Bill 80, also dealing with anesthesiology, and allowing for independent roles for certified nurse anesthetists.

LAC/al/ne/rl