

LFC Requestor: Self Assigned

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS

Section I: General

Chamber: House

Category: Bill

Number: 267

Type: Introduced

Date (of THIS analysis): 02/05/2025

Sponsor(s): Jennifer Jones and Elizabeth "Liz" Thompson

Short Title: Allow Experienced Physician Assistants to Supervise

Reviewing Agency: Agency 665 - Department of Health

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Section II: Fiscal Impact

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation Contained		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 25	FY 26		
\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	N/A	N/A

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 25	FY 26	FY 27		
\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	N/A	

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-recurring	Fund Affected
Total	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	N/A	N/A

### Section III: Relationship to other legislation

Duplicates: None

Conflicts with: SB 266 which would eliminate the need for a Physician or any Supervisor of Physicians Assistants

Companion to: None

Relates to: None

Duplicates/Relates to an Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None

### Section IV: Narrative

#### 1. BILL SUMMARY

a) Synopsis

SB 267 would amend the Physician Assistant Act, adding a definition for “supervising physician assistant”, who is licensed to practice medicine, has completed three or more years of clinical practice as a physician assistant, and has received approval to supervise newly licensed physician assistants pursuant to rules promulgated by the board.

Is this an amendment or substitution?  Yes  No

Is there an emergency clause?  Yes  No

b) Significant Issues

SB 267 would create a new licensure for supervising physician assistants, which would allow for physician assistants to be supervised by either a licensed physician or a supervising physician assistant. The supervising physician assistant would oversee the newly licensed physician assistant while consulting with the licensed physician.

SB 267 would allow physician assistants to act as independent physicians. The American Medical Association in a 2018 policy statement indicated resistance to physician assistants functioning independently (<https://www.ama-assn.org/sites/ama-assn.org/files/corp/media-browser/public/arc-public/state-law-physician-assistant-scope-practice.pdf>). The American Medical Association asserted the importance of ensuring input from both physician assistants and physicians, which is vital to ensuring the quality of health care provided.

States across the country offer various levels of requirements for physician assistants ranging from little to no supervision, to reduced supervision.

(<https://www.bartonassociates.com/blog/physician-assistant-pa-independent-practice/>)

#### 2. PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

- Does this bill impact the current delivery of NMDOH services or operations?  
 Yes  No  
 If yes, describe how.
- Is this proposal related to the NMDOH Strategic Plan?  Yes  No
  - Goal 1:** We expand equitable access to services for all New Mexicans
  - Goal 2:** We ensure safety in New Mexico healthcare environments
  - Goal 3:** We improve health status for all New Mexicans
  - Goal 4:** We support each other by promoting an environment of mutual respect, trust, open communication, and needed resources for staff to serve New Mexicans and to grow and reach their professional goals

### 3. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the Executive Budget Request?  
 Yes  No  N/A
- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the LFC Budget Request?  
 Yes  No  N/A
- Does this bill have a fiscal impact on NMDOH?  Yes  No

### 4. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Will this bill have an administrative impact on NMDOH?  Yes  No.

### 5. DUPLICATION, CONFLICT, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

SB 267 is related to 266 which would remove the supervision requirement and allow physician assistance to act independently.

### 6. TECHNICAL ISSUES

Are there technical issues with the bill?  Yes  No

### 7. LEGAL/REGULATORY ISSUES (OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES)

- Will administrative rules need to be updated or new rules written?  Yes  No
- Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary (or unnecessary)?  Yes  No
- Does this bill conflict with federal grant requirements or associated regulations?  
 Yes  No
- Are there any legal problems or conflicts with existing laws, regulations, policies, or programs?  Yes  No

Regulations in NMAC 16.10.15 would need to change.

**8. DISPARITIES ISSUES**

None

**9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)**

None

**10. ALTERNATIVES**

None

**11. WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?**

If SB 267 does not pass, physician's assistants will continue to be overseen by a supervising physician.

**12. AMENDMENTS**

None