

LFC Requestor: MONTANO, Noah

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS

Section I: General

Chamber: Senate
Number: 501

Category: Bill
Type: Introduced

Date (of THIS analysis): March 3, 2025

Sponsor(s): David M. Gallegos

Short Title: MAKE-A-WISH LICENSE PLATE

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	\$0	N/A	N/A

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 25	FY 26	FY 27		
\$?	\$?	\$?	Recurring	Not identified

It is unclear what revenue would be generated annually from the sale of a special Make a Wish New Mexico registration plate.

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	\$?	\$?	\$?	\$?	Recurring	Not identified

It is unclear if any additional FTE would be required to carry out the requirements associated with this legislation.

Section III: Relationship to other legislation

Duplicates: None

Conflicts with: None

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

Senate Bill 501 (SB501) would create a special Make a Wish New Mexico registration plate where eighteen dollars (\$18.00) of the initial fee and the entire renewal fee collected for each registration plate shall be appropriated to the Department of Health for screening, treatment, education, outreach or awareness-raising programs related to children with life-threatening illnesses.

Is this an amendment or substitution? Yes No

Is there an emergency clause? Yes No

b) Significant Issues

Research has demonstrated that a child's serious illness can have long-term physical and mental health impacts to both the child and his or her family ([Pediatric Critical Care Medicine](#)).

For pediatric health care professionals caring for children with life-threatening conditions (LTCs) and adults caring for their family members, these findings suggest moving beyond the isolated health considerations of the child with an LTC and considering the interdependence of mental and physical health outcomes of each member in a family unit. Children with LTCs depend on their parents to manage both their physical and emotional health needs, but parents providing this care can experience marked traumatic stress from fearing their child may die and watching him or her struggle with illness while managing accompanying logistical and financial stress. Traumatic and chronic stress can lead to deterioration in parents' mental and physical health through biological mechanisms and the individuals' reduced focus on managing their own wellness and chronic health conditions ([Pediatric Critical Care Medicine](#)). These effects on parents' mental and physical health, in turn, may affect their ability to optimally manage their child's physical and mental health, leading to poorer health outcomes for the child ([The Relationship Between Challenging Behaviour, Cognitions and Stress in Mothers of Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities | Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapy | Cambridge Core](#)).

The Department, through various programs, makes routine referrals to the Make a Wish Foundation. Specifically, referrals most commonly occur through the Children's Medical Services (CMS) Program in the Family Health Bureau at NMDOH. CMS provides care coordination from licensed social workers for children with special healthcare needs, which includes children with life-threatening and life-limiting

conditions. Additionally, funding to the Department to support screening, treatment, education, outreach or awareness-raising programs related to children with life-threatening illnesses may support better health outcomes for these children and their families. Research has demonstrated that a child's serious illness can have long-term physical and mental health sequelae for both the child and his or her family ([Pediatric Critical Care Medicine](#)).

2. PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

- Does this bill impact the current delivery of NMDOH services or operations?
 Yes No
- 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
It is unclear at this time what the fiscal impact would be to the Department

4. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

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

It is unclear at this time what the administrative impact would be to the Department.

5. DUPLICATION, CONFLICT, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

None

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

8. DISPARITIES ISSUES

None

9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)

Research has demonstrated that a child's serious illness can have long-term physical and mental health sequelae for both the child and his or her family ([Pediatric Critical Care Medicine](#)). Make-A Wish can improve a child's quality of life by fulfilling a dream and giving the child with life-threatening illness something to look forward to.

While revenue from this legislation would not directly support the Make a Wish New Mexico Foundation, results of the [Wish Impact Study](#) add to a growing body of research demonstrating how wish-fulfillment promotes mental and emotional well-being for children and their families who are facing trauma stemming from a critical illness.

10. ALTERNATIVES

None.

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

If SB501 is not enacted, a special Make a Wish New Mexico registration plate would not be created, where eighteen dollars (\$18.00) of the initial fee and the entire renewal fee collected for each registration plate shall be appropriated to the Department of Health for screening, treatment, education, outreach or awareness-raising programs related to children with life-threatening illnesses.

12. AMENDMENTS

None.