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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ferrary LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_  
ORIGINAL DATE 2/1/25  
BILL  
SHORT TITLE Death Certificate by Physician Assistant NUMBER House Bill 117  
ANALYST Klundt

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT\* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
NMMB	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact		Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.

\*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

### Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From  
New Mexico Medical Board (NMMB)

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of Choose an item.

House Bill 117 (HB 117) amends the Vital Statistics Act to add physician assistants to the medical professionals who may routinely sign a death certificate. In the absence of a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, the amended section would permit the medical certification of death to be signed by the physician assistant's associate physician assistant, among other appropriate auxiliary medical personnel currently authorized under existing law to sign.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns if enacted, or June 20, 2025.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No significant fiscal impact was identified at this time.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

No significant issues were identified by the New Mexico Medical Board.

In a similar bill introduced previously, the Department of Health reported that, by allowing a physician assistant to complete the medical certification on a death certificate, the bill could

allow the process of completing a death certificate to be happen more quickly. Because the medical certification and signing of a death certificate would not have to wait on a physician or a nurse practitioner, these staff could address other areas and needs of New Mexicans, and the timeliness of completing a death certificate may improve for some cases. Improving timeliness of the death certificate process would benefit families who are dealing with funeral arrangements, dealing with troubling circumstances, and addressing any insurance or benefit situations

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