


The Legislative Year of Nurse Practitioners!

How Is It For YOU?



Pre-Session Governor Requests Advertising \$

- The Governor announced in a press conference that we should do all we can to bring NPs to New Mexico because our practice law is so expansive.
- She proposed funding for marketing to other states' NPs to come to New Mexico.
- She also supported growing our own NPs by expanding education slots.
- Funding was also requested for loan repayment.

Legislators Also Have Ideas ... all 112 of them

42 Senators and 70 House members (up for election this year).

New Mexico's 30-day Legislative Session saw 1085 bills, memorials and constitutional amendments introduced.

Only topics approved by the governor or of a financial nature may be introduced in a short session.

In the end the Governor signed 81 bill including the \$6.3 billion state budget.

How Do Bills Become Law?

- Introduced by a sponsor in House or Senate
- Must pass 2-3 committees in each Chamber
- Must pass the whole of each Chamber
- Must be signed (or vetoed) by Governor
- Always a chance for a veto override (but not much)
- Sounds easy right?

See how it went for us this session

Gross Receipts Taxes Take Them Away - NOT

- HB41 – Deduction for GRT for Medical Services from Federal Energy Employees Program – **Tabled**
- HB118 – Deduction for GRT for Practitioners providing services to an individual in a managed care program if operating within their scope of practice – **Tabled**
- HB207 – Deduction for GRT for commercial contract services or Medicare part C and deduction for co-pays and deductibles – **Tabled**

NP were included in all of these failed bills!

Nurse Practitioners in the Medical Malpractice Act NOT THIS YEAR

- HB 143 – added certified nurse practitioners to the definition of health care provider in the Medical Malpractice Act - **Sponsor withdrew the bill because of trial lawyer opposition.**

Health Care Liability Act NOT THIS YEAR

- HB 151 – Creates the Health Care Liability Act which limits aggregate noneconomic damages and punitive damages for all health care providers – nurse practitioners included – **Passed the Health, Government and Indian Affairs – Tabled in the next committee House Judiciary.**

Funding Expansion for Schools of Nursing

- UNM received \$1.65 million expansion of NP/CNM programs.
- NMSU received \$250,000 for doctoral program.
- Together all schools of nursing at public colleges and universities received \$4.8 million additional.

All signed by the Governor

Study Impediments to NP Scope of Practice

- HM46/ HJM9 – Asks the Secretary of Health to convene a task force to identify statutory provisions that create obstacles to the ability of NPs, CNMs to function at their full scope of practice. The task force shall make recommendations for changes.

HM46 Passed the House and will begin soon.

Expedited Licensure for Nurse Practitioners

- **HB142/SB119** – Mandates that a license must be issued within five days (to all nurses) after a completed and approved application is received by the Board of Nursing (both in-state and out-of-state).

Signed by the Governor

Joint Memorials to Study Health Care Workforce

- **SJM6** – Asks Secretary of Health to convene a working group to look at existing and future health care tax incentives for expanding the health care work force.
- **SM71** – Asks Secretary of Health to conduct a department wide analysis of staff compensation policies to attract and retain quality staff.

Memorials passed but may not be convened

A Good Legislative Year But What is Happening?

- Psychiatric NPs not being properly reimbursed by MCOs.
- NPs not receiving MCO contracts.
- NPs not reimbursed the enhanced payment for primary care.
- NPs can't order home health care or other services.
- What else?

Remember

Your advocacy makes the difference.

- How did NM achieve an expansive scope of practice?
- How do we continue to assure equity with other providers?
- How do we work to remove antiquated legal impediments?

YOU! Your membership and your participation.
