

2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION & APRN COMPACT UPDATE

Get
involved!

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WHAT IS ON THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA? – MONEY!!

- For the first time in many years, the State of New Mexico is rolling in money.
- The Budget arms of state government are projecting almost \$2 BILLION new dollars coming into the state for fiscal year July 1, 2019/June 30, 2020.
- Good News Right? Maybe – most of that money is from the dramatic increases in gas & oil production on the east and southeast side of New Mexico.
- Can we count on that money in the future? The price of a barrel of oil right now is \$66-\$70. The price of oil in January of 2016 dropped to \$25 a barrel.
- State budgets were slashed because of the decline. Can it happen again?

MORE ABOUT MONEY

- A district court ruled recently that NM has chronically underfunded public education.
- The last time a study was done (2008), the State was underfunding public education by \$300 million. What will it be now?
- The State budget for 19/20 will include a significant increase in Public Education – how much we don't know yet.
- The Legislative Finance Committee says it is planning on “backfilling” all the budget cuts to Departments over the last 2 years. We will see.
- The budget and growing our economic will be “the” issues of this session.

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT

- New Governor and all new Cabinet Secretaries.
- Up to 15 new members of the House of Representatives.
- House committees will have new members.
- Pent up demand for passage of legislation that Gov. Martinez vetoed.
- Could be up to 5000 bills introduced. Last 60 day session only 1400 pieces of legislation introduced.

NURSING LEGISLATION

- How to address hospital privileges and hospital committee membership.
- Prescription preauthorization changes to reduce the time spent by providers.
- End of life options.
- What to do with the Medical Malpractice Act.
- Amendments to the NPA – making CRNAs “independent” practitioners & adding certain requirements to RNs in NM on a Compact license.
- Safe Harbor in hospitals.
- Safe staffing in hospitals.
- A school nurse in every school district.

APRN COMPACT

- Should we try to join (introduce legislation) the Compact or not?
- In light of the current legislative session's predicted chaos, this is probably not the year to introduce it in New Mexico.
- Introduced as model legislation in May of 2015, the compact *only* goes into effect after 10 state legislatures have passed it and governors signed the bills.
- Only Idaho, Wyoming and North Dakota have passed to date.
- The rules operating the compact are written only after 10 states have joined the compact.
- Each compact state will have one member on the Interstate Commission of APRN Compact Administrators.

CONCERNS

- Who is an APRN? Not defined. Many states have like ours have specific statutory definitions of NP, CRNA, CNS and CNM. In fact CNMs are not regulated by the board of nursing.
- Prescriptive authority and independent practice are not available in many states. Joining the Compact will not get them a better practice.
- How do we know an APRN is in the State practicing?
- How do they participate in the PMP and if they are thought to be overprescribing how will the BON monitor?
- New Mexico has certain CE requirements – how will the BON know if the Compact licensed APRNs meets them?
- Now you must provide copies to the BON your credentials. How will the board get out of state information?

CONCERNS

- The new Commission will have the total power to set Commission budgets. We have one vote.
- Any judicial proceedings must be held in Washington D.C. or where ever the office is located.
- The Compact requires an extensive data collection system.
- How much will all of this cost the BON or more importantly impact your licensing fees?
- Without knowing what the rules and by-laws will be, we create a huge unknown for practice implications.
- Rules are made in D.C. or where ever the office resides. Access to rules hearings will be difficult.
- What about cultural competence of out of state APRNs?

WE RECOMMEND

- Wait and see how it works in other states and what the operating rules will be.
- Analyze the needs of patients and facilities in our state?
- Where would out of state APRNs likely practice?
- Could we create a reciprocity to quickly license out of state APRNs with a reduced fee for a short term presence in the state as an alternative to the Compact?
- What other changes could be made in New Mexico to solve the issues purported to exist in the Compact?
- Encourage more educational opportunities to become APRNs so we can grow our own in New Mexico.

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION?

- Join the Association so you can track legislation important to you and your practice.
- Visit the legislative website www.legis.gov to find your House Member or Senator and all their numbers and emails. Look up legislation and analysis. Find the hearing schedules.
- Call your legislator's office or email them about legislation you favor or oppose.
- Call or email me lsiegle1@msn.com or 505.690.5850 if you have questions.
- We would love to see you at the hearings on our bills.