

Legislative Update January 31, 2015
Steve Lucero, NMAFP Legislative Liaison

The second week of the 2015 legislative session sees House and Senate committees kicking into gear and interested parties making their claims to influence legislation and committee decisions. There's also a steady flow of legislation introductions including HB 259 and SB 325 listed below. Senate Bill 121 (Vaccine Purchasing Act) is attracting some attention and interested parties are jockeying for position.

SB 121 Vaccine Purchasing Act (Sen. O'Neill)

This bill establishes a Universal Vaccine Purchasing Program for New Mexico and would authorize the Department of Health to bill insurers for vaccines given to children under the insurer's health plan. The fund developed by the Vaccine Purchasing Program will not be used to pay for immunizations given to children eligible for the Vaccines for Children Program. See the current bill attached to this report.

The Department of Health proposed two amendments to the current bill. One relating to a commitment get the best prices for vaccines "the department shall make reasonable efforts to obtain a favorable market price for the purchase of vaccines for the benefit of health insurers of children who are not eligible for the vaccines for children program." And a second amendment that would allow payment from insurers to go directly to the department of health.

Senator O'Neill anticipates the bill will be heard in Senate Public Affairs next Thursday February 5th. There may be other amendments suggested from other interested parties such as Pharma or insurers prior to next Thursday's hearing. The committee will probably have an afternoon start.

Below is contact information for Senate Public Affairs Committee members should you choose to voice your opinions on the bill:

Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Chair	505 986-4482
Senator Bill O'Neill (Sponsor)	505 986-4260
Senator Jacob Candelaria	505986-4391
Senator Ron Griggs	505 986-4276
Senator Daniel Ivey-Soto	505 986-4270
Senator Gay Kernan	505 986-4274
Senator Mimi Stewart	505 986-4856
Senator Craig Brandt	505 986-4267

HB 259 Certain Physician Services Gross Receipts (Rep. Jim Trujillo)

This bill expands the type of receipts that may be deducted from gross receipts taxes. The bill would allow insurance deductibles collected by a practice to be deducted from gross receipts taxes.

The bill was introduced on January 29th and has been referred to House Health Committee, House Ways and Means Committee, and the House Appropriations and Finance Committee. There is no hearing date set for this bill.

SB 325 Health Agreement No-Compete Provisions (Sen. Ingle)

This bill would make certain non-compete clauses in healthcare practitioner agreements unenforceable; such as provisions that restrict the right of a healthcare practitioner from providing clinical healthcare services or provisions that assess unreasonable liquidated damages. The bill would allow provisions that assess reasonable liquidated damages if the practitioner

leaves within the first two years of the agreement.

This bill was introduced on January 28th and has been referred to Senate Corporations Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee. There is no hearing date set for this bill.