

Legislative Update February 4, 2017
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House Bill 1 was signed by the Governor on Feb 2nd giving the legislature the funding to operate the 2017 Legislative Session. The process was not without its controversy. On January 31st the Governor vetoed Senate Bill 176 that would have provided for budget shortfalls in certain state agencies for the remainder of 2017 through June 30th. Although the Governor signed House Bill 1, she line-item vetoed a portion that would have funded \$800,000 to the Office of the Courts. It is clear from the legislation and the Governor's veto messages for HB 1 and SB 176 that the legislative branch and the executive branch are at odds regarding solutions to the state's budgetary crisis. You can view the legislation and veto messages on nmlegis.gov.

Doc of the Day volunteers continued to meet with legislators in the House and the Senate to share their opinions on the Medicaid budget. This week provided opportunities for volunteers to meet with Senator Gay Kernan, sponsor of **SB 240**, to discuss the bill and its attempt to provide loan repayment for primary care physicians that choose to practice in provider shortage areas. We also had an opportunity to speak with some senators about the scope of practice bill **SB 145**.

Medicaid Funding

The fate of Medicaid funding continues treading the treacherous waters of **House Bill 2: General Appropriation Act of 2017**. As mentioned in last week's report, appropriations committees in both houses are waiting for updated budget projections set for the middle of February. Legislators do their best to remain optimistic about the new projections and hope that they'll be able to accommodate many of the agency requests.

The New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty produced a fact sheet including talking points that can be used to communicate with legislators. See the attached document.

SB 9 Rural Healthcare Act Program Funding: Sen. Howie Morales

This bill would provide funding to the Rural Primary Healthcare Act to fund recruitment and training of healthcare professionals to under-served rural communities. The bill adds language to the Rural Primary Health Care Act that would make certain evidence-based healthcare workforce development and recruitment programs in underserved areas of New Mexico eligible for funding. Funding for new eligible programs would be based on new/additional appropriations to the Rural Primary Healthcare Act specifically for their purpose.

SB 152 Health Professional Loan Repayment: Sen. Gay Kernan

This bill would establish a Physician Excellence Fund supported by a fee of \$100 to accompany fees for application for renewal of physician licensure. The Physician Excellence Fund would support financial awards established through the Health Professional Loan Repayment Act to primary care physicians who practice in areas of New Mexico that are designated as underserved. This bill defines a primary care physician as a physician licensed pursuant to the Medical Practice Act or the Osteopathic Medicine Act with specialty training in family medicine, general internal medicine, or general pediatrics.

Both of these bills continue to wait for a hearing date in Senate Public Affairs. You can contact committee members by using the information below. The committee chair sets the agenda.

Senate Public Affairs Committee

Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino (D) <i>Chair</i>	Phone: 986-4482	Email: jortizyp@msn.com
Senator Bill O’Neil (D) <i>Vice Chair</i>	Phone: 986-4260	Email: oneillsd13@billoneillform.com
Senator Craig Brandt (R)	Phone: 986-4385	Email: craig.brandt@nmlegis.gov
Senator Candace Gould (R)	Phone: 986-4266	Email: candace.gould@nmlegis.gov
Senator Elizabeth Stefanics (D)	Phone: 986-4377	Email: liz.stefanics@nmlegis.gov
Senator Jeff Steinborn (D)	Phone: 986-4862	Email: jeff.steinborn@nmlegis.gov
Senator Mimi Stewart (D)	Phone: 986-4267	Email: mimi.stewart@nmlegis.gov
Senator Stuart Ingle (R) <i>Ranking Member</i>	Phone: 986-4702	Email: stuart.ingle@nmlegis.gov

SB 145 Health Professions Scope of Practice Committee: Sen. Jacob Candelaria

This bill would create an interim committee of legislators to hear scope of practice change requests and make recommendations to the legislature. The Scope of Practice Committee recommendations would be non-binding and scope of practice changes and establishment of licensing boards would remain under the authority of the entire legislature. There is a provision

in the bill that would prohibit a member of the Scope of Practice Committee who is licensed in a health profession for which a proposed statutory change in scope of practice is before the committee shall not participate in the committee's review, findings, or recommendations for report to the legislature.

This bill continues to wait for a hearing date in Senate Rules. You can contact committee members by using the information below. The committee chair sets the agenda.

Senate Rules Committee

Sen. Linda Lopez (D) <i>Chair</i>	Phone: 986-4737	Email: linda.lopez@nmlegis.gov
Sen. Jeff Stienborn (D) <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Phone: 986-4862	Email: jeff.stienborn@nmlegis.gov
Sen. Gregory Baca (R)	Phone: 986-4877	Email: greg.baca@nmlegis.gov
Sen. Jacob Candelaria (D)	Phone: 986-4380	Email: jacob.candelaria@nmlegis.gov
Sen. Stuart Ingle (R)	Phone: 986-4702	Email: stuart.ingle@nmlegis.gov
Sen. Daniel Ivey-Soto (D)	Phone: 986-4270	Email: daniel.ivey-soto@nmlegis.gov
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino (D)	Phone: 986-4482	Email: jortizyp@msn.com
Sen. Mary Kay Papen (D)	Phone: 986-4733	Email: marykay.papen@nmlegis.gov
Sen. Cliff Pirtle (R)	Phone: 986-4391	Email: cliff.pirtle@nmlegis.gov
Sen. Clemente Sanchez (D)	Phone: 986-4513	Email: clemente.sanchez@nmlegis.gov
Sen. Mark Moores (R) <i>Ranking Member</i>	Phone: 986-4856	Email: mark.moores@nmlegis.gov