

NEW MEXICO 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Prepared March 2026 | 30-Day Session: January 20 – February 19, 2026

Sine Die was February 19, 2026 for the final regular session under Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. Of the more than 700 bills filed, 74 were passed and sent to the Governor. While no legislation specifically targeted Parkinson's Disease, several bills passed that materially affect people living with Parkinson's and other chronic neurological conditions. Specifically, around access to specialists, insurance affordability, hospital stability, and physician recruitment. (See footnotes at the bottom of page 2)

Governor Grisham has until March 11, 2026 to sign any legislation. (*Chaptered means already signed. It is the law*). At that point any unsigned legislation will be pocket vetoed. This session provided funds for the 2027 Fiscal Year. The 2027 Fiscal Year begins July 1, 2027.

Below are a few main themes.

- New Mexico is actively addressing its severe physician shortage. 32 of 33 counties are currently designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). (LA county is the only county not designated as a HPSA).
- Interstate medical licensing compacts will make it easier for out-of-state specialists to practice in New Mexico, expanding access to movement disorder expertise.
- Insurance affordability protections were strengthened to counter federal Medicaid cuts and expiring premium tax credits, helping ensure continuity of coverage for those managing chronic conditions.
- Hospital stability was bolstered through permanent extension of a Medicaid hospital funding program, helping to preserve rural and urban hospital services.
- A new UNM School of Medicine was funded. This is a long-term investment in increasing the physician pipeline for New Mexico.
- Funding was appropriated for the Comprehensive Movement Disorder Clinic at UNM.

HB 2 — House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bills 2 & 3. (with Governor for line-item vetoes and signature)

What it does: Provides the State with a budget for FY 2027 (July 1, 2026- June 30, 2027). The budget sent to the government is \$33.4 B.

Items of Note

- \$1.186 M Comprehensive Movement Disorders Clinic \$436K (item 4, pg. 145) and a one-time appropriation of \$750K (item 287, pg. 221).
- \$150 M for planning design and construction of the school of medicine (item 286, pg. 221); the remaining \$400M will come from the newly created Higher Education Major Projects Fund.

HB 4 — Health Care Affordability Fund Distributions (CHAPTERED March 6, 2026)

What it does: Increases revenue to New Mexico's Health Care Affordability Fund, the primary mechanism the state uses to subsidize insurance premiums on the BeWell marketplace. The bill was designed to counter the impact of federal cuts in 2025 that eliminated enhanced premium tax credits and cut Medicaid funding.

HB 66 — Enhanced Student Loan Repayment for Health Care Workers (CHAPTERED March 6, 2026)

What it does: Increases the maximum loan repayment available to physicians through New Mexico's Health Professional Loan Repayment Program from \$75,000 to \$300,000 making it one of the most generous programs in the nation.

HB 99 — Medical Malpractice Reform (CHAPTERED March 6, 2026)

What it does: Modernizes New Mexico's medical malpractice liability framework by establishing tiered, inflation-adjusted caps on punitive damages: approximately \$1 million for independent providers and clinics, \$6 million for locally owned hospitals, and \$15 million for large hospital systems. Raises the evidentiary standard for punitive damage claims to "clear and convincing" evidence and requires judicial review before such claims proceed to trial. Takes effect May 20, 2026.

SB 1 — Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (CHAPTERED Feb 5, 2026)

What it does: Authorizes New Mexico to join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC), an expedited licensing pathway that allows physicians already licensed in other member states to practice in New Mexico with significantly reduced paperwork and processing time.

SB 101 — Medicaid Hospital Funding Program Made Permanent (CHAPTERED March 6, 2026)

What it does: Permanently extends New Mexico's Health Care Delivery and Access Act by removing a June 30, 2030 sunset clause. This program supports hospitals that serve Medicaid patients through a provider-funded tax mechanism, with hospitals investing the funds back into health care services. This protects hospitals that might otherwise face closures due to federal Medicaid cuts.

Thank you to those who supported the bills (Legislator; District Aide)

HB 2: State Budget. If you live in Santa Fe County thank your legislators.

HB 4: Health Care Affordability Fund Distributions

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SB 101: Health Care Delivery & Access Act Repeal

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* all bills can be found at www.nmlegis.gov or HERE: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sIL75pH9-4tiy0bK927fHGbYS95vP13G?usp=drive_link