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Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

DISABILITY ISSUES IN THE 2019 LEGISLATURE POST-SESSION REPORT

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(See page 11 for a list of abbreviations used in this report.)

IT'S ALL OVER! This year's legislative session ended on Saturday. In the final week, the Legislature agreed on a diverse set of bills that include: a budget for the coming fiscal year, capital improvements worth \$933 million, educational reforms that add about \$450 million for public education and repeal the A-B-C-D-F rating for schools, a gradual increase in the minimum wage that will eventually reach \$12 per hour, allowing same-day voter registration, a tax package estimated to bring in an additional \$70 million annually in state revenues, gun control measures to expand background checks and take weapons away from people who are subject to restraining orders or convicted of domestic violence, a plan for transitioning the state to renewable energy sources, and a ban on coyote-killing contests.

A good year for disability issues. Health care proposals of vital interest to the disability community fared very well this year. Bills that passed this session and have been sent to the governor include:

- HB 48, requiring hearing aid dispensers to provide information about assisted listening systems
- HB 81, limiting co-pays for occupational, physical and speech/language therapy
- HB 322, eliminating age limits and benefit caps for coverage of autism services
- HB 436, incorporating a variety of insurance protections, including for people with pre-existing conditions, into state law
- SB 123, allowing sick leave to be used for caregiving for family members
- SB 204, providing for administration of medical marijuana in schools

The Legislature also passed HB 364, limiting the use of solitary confinement in jails and prisons for persons with serious mental disorders, as well as SB 395, providing further reforms to the state guardianship system that benefit adults with disabilities who are alleged to be in need of a guardian or for whom a guardian is appointed. A complete list of disability-related bills that passed this year begins on page 2, below.

State budget and related bills adopted in final week. The Senate Finance Committee added nearly \$20 million and amended a few of the controversial provisions included in the House

version of HB 2. After a conference committee ironed out the differences between the two chambers, the Legislature approved the state budget, which brings state spending in the coming year to over \$7 billion. In its last few days the legislature also approved two supplemental spending bills, each referred to as “HB 2 Junior”. These bills – HB 548 for the House, SB 536 for the Senate – gave each legislator the opportunity to allocate hundreds of thousands of dollars to their favorite state-funded projects.

Highlights of these spending bills of interest to the disability community are also shown below.

It happened this session:

- The Legislature passed 310 bills this year, the first year of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham’s administration. While this surpassed the results of every legislative session during the Susana Martinez administration, the output of this year’s legislative session was less than each long session of Bill Richardson’s tenure, and far below his first year in office, when an astounding total of 523 bills were passed. But to achieve this year’s output, the House may have set a record for the most bills debated for the maximum limit of three hours, and the most hours spent in floor sessions that routinely ran late into the night.
- The Senate had to forfeit this year’s annual House-Senate charity basketball game when Sen. Bill Sharer mounted a futile four-hour filibuster on the energy bill, keeping the Senate in session that evening. Sen. Craig Brandt invoked a “call of the Senate” while the game was underway, requiring the state police to escort the Senate’s team (which had left to play the game) back to the chamber. As a result, the amount raised for the UNM Cancer Center was only about half of what has been raised at past games.
- HB 436, which includes a variety of insurance protections such as barring coverage denials for people with pre-existing conditions, looked to be dead in the Senate Corporations Committee when Chairman Clemente Sanchez voted with the panel’s Republicans to table the measure. But after a quick publicity campaign and a bit of wood-shedding by Senate President Pro Tem Mary Kay Papen, Sen. Sanchez called the bill back up, changed his vote, and sent it on its way. The bill went on to pass the Senate 21-14. The votes in both chambers were along party lines, with Democrats voting to uphold these protections and all Republicans present voting against them. (See page 5 for more information on the protections included in HB 436.)

Some proposals fell by the wayside. A few bills that seemed to gain traction early in the legislative process ran out of steam and failed to pass. HB 90, to legalize aid in dying for persons with terminal illness, made it through two House committees but never came up for a vote in the House because it looked to fall short of the support needed to pass. HB 83, authorizing police to seize guns owned by a person who had been found by a court to pose a danger to themselves or others, made it through the House but failed to clear the Senate Judiciary Committee. HB 500, allowing CYFD to regulate wilderness or boot camps serving youth with behavioral issues or in the juvenile justice system, passed the House unanimously but failed on the Senate floor after a last minute lobbying campaign by the former operator of a controversial camp in southern New Mexico.

The list of bills that failed to pass this year begins on page 6.

Bills and Memorials That Passed the 2019 Legislative Session

The bills noted below have passed the legislature. Unless noted otherwise, they are now being reviewed by Governor Lujan Grisham, who has until April 5 to either sign them into law or veto them. Memorials do not have the “force of law” and those that passed go into effect because they do not require action by the governor.

State Budget

HB 2 *General Appropriation Act*. Rep. Patty Lundstrom. This is the overall state budget bill, which appropriates funding to all state agencies. The final version includes:

- About \$52 million in additional funding for the Medicaid program. This is quite close to what HSD now estimates it needs for the program in the coming year.
- The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division at DOH receives about \$20 million in additional funding, including \$7.5 million to move people off the DD waiver waiting list and into services, \$4 million to meet the increased costs of serving those already in the program, \$1.6 million for waiver provider rate increases, and \$1.5 million to assess the needs of individuals on the waiting list and to plan and develop a new “supports” waiver. The Family Infant Toddler program would receive over \$5 million in new money, and there is an additional \$250,000 for autism services.
- HSD receives a one-time appropriation of \$2.5 million for behavioral health services to reduce the cycle of persons with mental illness going through the criminal justice system
- An additional \$300,000 for civil legal services

HB 548 (“House Bill 2 Junior” for House members). Includes the following fund allocations:

Non-recurring:

- \$110,000 to rehab homes owned and occupied by low-income veterans
- \$50,000 for a behavioral health initiative in the international district of Albuquerque
- \$100,000 for teen mental illness and suicide prevention classes
- \$50,000 to fund a study of sexual assault on people with disabilities
- \$150,000 to foster one-to-one friendships between students with and without intellectual disabilities
- \$30,000 for mental health training for public education personnel at Gadsden school district
- \$175,000 for mental health navigator program in the Rio Rancho public schools

Recurring:

- \$17,500 to rehab homes owned and occupied by low-income veterans
- \$60,000 for equestrian-based therapy for clients with autism and PTSD in Chavez County
- \$50,000 to provide behavioral health and mental health services for juveniles in Sandoval County
- \$50,000 for autism services not covered by Medicaid, provided in a clinic in Lea County
- \$40,000 for teen mental illness and suicide prevention classes
- \$350,000 for supports and services for both children and adults related to autism spectrum disorders

SB 536 (“House Bill 2 Junior” for senators). Includes the following fund allocations:

Non-recurring

- \$57,000 for civil legal services
- \$50,000 for a review of the Children’s Code by the governor’s Children’s Cabinet
- \$132,000 to study and develop a Medicaid buy-in program to expand access to health coverage
- \$50,000 to GCD for assistive technology and home modifications
- \$150,000 for DD waiver services provided by La Vida Felicidad
- \$150,000 for early childhood services provided by La Vida Felicidad
- \$100,000 to study sexual assault on persons with disabilities
- \$357,000 for dyslexia screenings and to develop a professional plan for teachers on dyslexia
- \$150,000 for crisis intervention services through Project Echo
- \$107,000 for the autism clinic at NMSU

Recurring

- \$314,000 for civil legal services
- \$57,000 to HSD for the Brain Injury services fund
- \$100,000 to GCD to serve persons with disabilities
- \$100,000 to DoH for neuro-degenerative disease monitoring
- \$57,000 to UNM/CDD for autism diagnostic services for children and adults
- \$150,000 for the DD waiver program
- \$357,000 for dyslexia screenings and to develop a professional plan for teachers on dyslexia
- \$414,000 for the autism clinic at NMSU

Substantive Bills

HB 5 *Education changes*. Rep. Sheryl Williams Stapleton. Enacts various changes to education policy and funding processes, including higher teacher salaries, funding for extended school time, more professional development time, and requirements that school districts report on how they spend the funds they generate based on special education enrollment. The cost of implementing the bill is included in HB 2. Same as SB 1, below.

HB 43 *Behavioral health interventions for non-violent offenders*. Rep. Sheryl Williams Stapleton. Charges HSD with developing a method for meeting the needs of non-violent offenders with behavioral health diagnoses when they are in jail or prison and to connect them with supports and services when they are released, to reduce recidivism. HSD would be required to set up a grant program for counties seeking funds to implement the program. HB 2 includes \$2.5 million for this as a “special” (one-time) appropriation.

HB 48 *Training on assisted listening technology*. Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero. Requires audiologists and other hearing aid dispensers to provide information about assisted listening systems.

HB 72 *Occupational therapy practice act*. Rep. Liz Thomson. Updates the OT practice act to reflect current standards and practices. **Already signed into law.**

HB 81 *Limiting co-pays for therapy services*. Rep. Eliseo Alcon. Limits the co-pays that insurance companies charge for occupational therapy, physical therapy, or speech/language therapy to the amounts they charge for primary care visits.

HB 248 *Blocking accessible parking spaces.* Rep. Martin Zamora. Makes it unlawful to park a motor vehicle in such a way that it blocks access to an accessible parking space, and establishes a fine of \$250 to \$500 for violations (the same as illegally parking in an accessible space).

HB 267 *Info sharing and local councils.* Rep. Daymon Ely. Allows for information sharing without individual consent for research purposes or for continuity of care for persons with mental illness or developmental disabilities who are entering or being discharged from criminal justice facilities.

HB 285 *Short-term and limited-benefit insurance plans.* Rep. Micaela Cadena. Establishes state standards for these plans and authorizes the Superintendent of Insurance to regulate them.

HB 322 *Autism insurance coverage.* Rep. Liz Thomson. Prohibits health insurance companies and the Medicaid program from imposing age limits or expense caps on covered services for persons with autism. Such limits are prohibited by the federal Affordable Care Act but are still being imposed in both private insurance and the Medicaid program.

HB 342 *Criminal justice reforms.* Rep. Antonio Maestas. One part of this omnibus bill directs HSD to develop a method for meeting the needs of persons with behavioral health diagnoses when they are in jail or prison and to connect them with supports and services when they are released (very similar to HB 43, above).

HB 364 *Limiting solitary confinement.* Rep. Antonio Maestas. Prohibits jails and prisons from placing persons known to have serious mental disabilities, or who are exhibiting obvious signs of such disabilities, in solitary confinement (“restricted housing”), with some exceptions. This prohibition would not apply during the first five days of detention. The bill also forbids use of solitary confinement for juveniles and pregnant women.

HB 429 *Increasing income limits for property tax limitation.* Rep. Bill Rehm. Current law sets limits on increases of property taxes for low- to moderate-income homeowners who are elderly or have severe disabilities. This bill increases the income cap to qualify for the limitation from \$32,000 to \$35,000.

HB 436 *Incorporate ACA protections into state law.* Rep. Liz Thomson. Amends New Mexico law to include many of the provisions of the federal Affordable Care Act, such as prohibiting denial of coverage based on pre-existing conditions, barring higher premiums based on a person’s disability, requiring coverage of essential health benefits, eliminating co-pays for preventive services, etc.

HM 12 *CP Task Force.* Rep. Liz Thomson. Extends and expands an existing task force promoting implementation of new techniques for early detection of cerebral palsy.

SB 1 *Education changes.* Sen. Mimi Stewart. Same as HB 5, above.

SB 41 *Medicaid providers due process.* Sen. Mary Kay Papen. Provides procedural protections for Medicaid providers accused of fraud.

SB 42 *Expanding the use of “silver alerts”.* Sen. Richard Martinez. Expands these alerts to include endangered missing persons of any age who have dementia, and to all endangered missing persons over 50 years old. It also expands the dissemination of such alerts.

SB 48 *Diabetes management in schools.* Sen. Mimi Stewart. Requires training of public school staff in diabetes management, requires school personnel to provide diabetes management services in conjunction with an approved plan for individual students, and allows students to self-manage their diabetes in school settings. **Already signed into law.**

SB 85 *Domestic worker minimum wage.* Sen. Liz Stefanics. Repeals a provision of state law that excludes “domestic workers” from minimum wage protections. This would assure that personal care workers, among others, would be paid at least the state minimum wage, and that the Department of Workforce Solutions would enforce their rights to such wages.

SB 123 *Using sick leave for caregiving.* Sen. Michael Padilla. Allows employees of private businesses as well as state and public school employees who have accumulated sick leave provided by their employer to use such leave to care for an ailing family member.

SB 128 *Behavioral health clinic funding.* Sen. Mary Kay Papen. Would allow behavioral health clinics in rural or other underserved areas, if owned by a county or municipality, to access funding from the Behavioral Health Capital Fund for construction, repair or remodeling.

SB 179 *Lottery scholarship eligibility.* Sen. Liz Stefanics. Extends lottery scholarship eligibility to students with disabilities who had to attend an out-of-state high school in order to receive a free, appropriate education (as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), if they graduated from an accredited school. **Already signed into law.**

SB 189 *Parking placards for disability agencies.* Sen. Sander Rue. Allows agencies that own or lease vehicles used to transport individuals with disabilities to obtain parking placards for those vehicles, allowing them to be parked in accessible parking spaces. **Already signed into law.**

SB 204 *Medical marijuana in schools.* Sen. Candace Gould. Directs public schools to allow parents/guardians or designated school personnel to store and administer medical marijuana in the school if the child is certified to receive it under state law because of the child's medical condition, but allows schools to opt out of this requirement in certain circumstances. *These provisions are also included in SB 406, below.*

SB 229 *School support and accountability.* Sen. Mimi Stewart. Repeals the A-B-C-D-F school rating system and replaces it with a new set of criteria for rating schools. Reports on school performance would have to include data specific to students with disabilities.

SB 236 *2nd free license plate for disabled veterans.* Sen. Ron Griggs. Allows disabled veterans to obtain two free specialty license plates rather than one as allowed under current law.

Already signed into law.

SB 395 *Guardianship reforms.* Sen. James White. Clarifies the right of allegedly incapacitated persons to participate, present evidence, and cross-examine witnesses during court hearings. Strengthens the requirement for a court review of existing guardianships at least every ten years by allowing the appointment of an investigator to assess the person's capacity and to report to the court on the need for continuing guardianship. Requires professional guardians and conservators to be certified and in good standing with a national or state certifying organization. Deletes an existing provision giving guardians of adults all the same rights as a parent of a minor child.

SB 398 *Screening and services to children with dyslexia.* Sen. Mimi Stewart. Requires all school districts to screen first-grade children for possible dyslexia, and to develop and implement a literacy training program for all elementary school teachers. Funding for this initiative is provided in SB 536.

SB 406 *Medical marijuana changes.* Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. This bill makes a variety of changes to state law related to medical marijuana, including:

- Allowing for administration of medical marijuana in schools (*same as SB 204, above*)
- Adding numerous medical conditions that would qualify for medical marijuana
- Extending the length of time for which a medical certification card is valid to three years, while still requiring an annual physician's statement of continuing eligibility
- Extending legal immunity under state law for additional activities related to the production and transportation of medical marijuana
- Strengthening employment protections for employees who use medical marijuana, provided they are not in a safety-sensitive position and do not use it during work hours.

Bills and Memorials That Did Not Pass

Behavioral Health/Mental Health

HB 59 *Non-discrimination against art therapists.* Rep. Christine Trujillo. Require insurance companies to pay licensed art therapists for the services they provide if those services are covered by a policy and they pay other behavioral health providers for the same services.

HB 83 *Extreme risk protection orders.* Rep. Daymon Ely. Allow for court orders for police to seize guns from those determined to pose a high risk of violence to themselves or others. The bill does not refer to mental illness, but could apply to people with mental illness who are suicidal or who pose a threat of gun violence to family members or other individuals.

HB 153 *Suicide awareness training.* Rep. Patricio Ruiloba. Require virtually all licensed health care providers to receive a one-hour training annually on suicide awareness and prevention. *HB 548 includes \$100,000 non-recurring and \$40,000 recurring funds for this purpose.*

HB 348 *Emergency MH evaluations and restrictions on release of information.* Rep. James Strickler. Allow courts to order a law enforcement officer to enter a building without consent, in order to carry out an emergency detention and transportation for a mental health evaluation. Amend the MH/DD Code to limit the public disclosure of most police reports or video records of encounters with persons with mental illness.

HB 500 *CYFD authority over boot camps.* Rep. Micaela Cadena. Give CYFD licensing authority over facilities such as wilderness camps or boot camps serving youth with behavioral health issues or who are involved in the juvenile justice system.

HB 563 *BH services in Albuquerque's international district.* Rep. Sheryl Williams Stapleton. Appropriate \$200,000 to the Office of African American Affairs for behavioral health services in the "international district" in Albuquerque. *HB 548 includes \$50,000 for this purpose.*

SB 141 *Interstate psychology compact.* Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. Adopt an interstate agreement regulating the temporary practice of psychology across state lines through tele-psychology.

SB 152 *MH/DD Code grievance procedure.* Sen. Liz Stefanics. Require DOH to establish a grievance procedure to address disputes related to a client's consent to mental health treatment or a determination that the client lacks the capacity to consent.

SB 250 *Rural wrap-around services.* Sen. Mary Kay Papen. Appropriate \$7 million to HSD for a new program of supports and services to adolescents and adults with severe mental illness.

SB 334 *AOT Funding.* Sen. Mary Kay Papen. Provide \$1 million to DOH for cities or counties that have implemented an Assisted Outpatient Treatment program for involuntary treatment of individuals with mental illness. *HB 2 includes \$200,000 for this purpose.*

SB 495 *Add members to BH Collaborative.* Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. Expand the membership of the Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative to include representatives of the Behavioral Health Providers Association, the Municipal League, and New Mexico Counties, as well as two public members appointed by the Senate president pro tem and the House speaker.

SB 570 *Crisis intervention through Project Echo.* Sen. Jacob Candelaria. Appropriate \$350,000 to UNM to provide crisis intervention services through Project Echo. *HB 2 includes \$150,000, and SB 536 includes another \$150,000 for this purpose.*

SB 583 *Limiting psychotropic medications.* Sen. Bill Tallman. Significantly restrict the use of psychotropic medications on foster children, and require HSD to report to CYFD on the prevalence of psychotropic medication use for children and youth in out-of-home placements.

Brain Injury

SB 134 *Brain injury fund appropriation.* Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. Appropriate \$500,000 for the Brain Injury Services fund.

SB 171 *Brain injury fee increase.* Sen. Bill Tallman. Increase from \$5.00 to \$6.40 the portion of traffic violation fines that goes to support the Brain Injury Services Fund.

SB 327 *Non-waiver of fine supporting BI fund.* Sen. Cliff Pirtle. Require that if an individual is cited/convicted for a traffic violation, the portion of the fine that is earmarked to support the Brain Injury Service Fund (currently \$5) cannot be waived, deferred or suspended.

Deafness/Blindness

HB 96 *Blind parents' rights.* Rep. Tomas Salazar. Prohibit blindness from being used as a basis for denial of parental rights.

HB 243 *Instructional opportunities for children with hearing impairment.* Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil. Require all school districts and charter schools to provide individualized instruction for children who are deaf or have moderate to severe hearing loss, in order to promote easier access to programs based solely on oral communication skills.

Developmental Disabilities

HB 68 *Reduce the DD Waiver waiting list.* Rep. Liz Thomson. Direct the Department of Health to move 600 individuals on the waiting list into waiver services each year over the next five years, and appropriate \$25 million to DOH for this purpose. *There is \$7.5 million for the waiting list in HB 2.*

HB 69 *Early detection of cerebral palsy.* Rep. Liz Thomson. Appropriate \$200,000 to DOH to provide training to health care professionals on early detection of cerebral palsy. *HM 12, extending an existing task force working on this issue, passed the legislature.*

HB 354 *Autism diagnosis and services.* Rep. Liz Thomson. Appropriate \$5 million for autism diagnosis and support services. *HB 548 includes \$350,000, and SB 536 includes \$580,000 for this purpose.*

HB 422 *DDPC membership and duties.* Rep. Joanne Ferrary. Update the provisions of state law establishing the DD Planning Council to align with current provisions of federal law that govern the Council.

SB 355 *DD provider rate increases.* Sen. Nancy Rodriguez. Appropriate \$5 million for rate increases for agencies providing direct care services to individuals in the DD waiver program. *HB 2 currently includes \$1.6 million for this purpose.*

SM 25 *Medically fragile waiver task force.* Sen. Liz Stefanics. Request the Center on Development and Disability at UNM to convene a task force to develop recommendations for changes to the Medically Fragile waiver program.

Education Issues

HB 510 *School bus attendants.* Rep. Natalie Figueroa. Require a trained adult attendant on every school bus transporting one or more students with disabilities.

HB 532 *Friendships and inclusion.* Rep. Joanne Ferrary. Appropriate \$150,000 to the PED to support programs that promote friendships between students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. *HB 548 includes \$100,000 for this purpose.*

HB 567 *Students in need of accommodations.* Rep. Javier Martinez. Same as SB 467, below.

HB 591 *Mental, emotional and social health education.* Rep. Joy Garratt. Require mental, social and emotional health education to be integrated into school curricula for grades K through 12.

HB 615 *Mental health training for school personnel.* Rep. Raymundo Lara. Establish a pilot program of training for school personnel on student mental health needs. *HB 548 includes \$30,000 for this purpose.*

HM 75 *Educational stability for foster children.* Rep. Patricio Ruiloba. Request CYFD to convene a task force to make recommendations to promote educational stability for children in foster care.

HJM 15 *School bus safety task force.* Rep. Natalie Figueroa. Request PED to convene a task force to make recommendations about safe transportation of special needs students in school buses.

SB 467 *Students in need of accommodations.* Sen. Linda Lopez. Establish extensive new requirements on public schools designed to provide individually appropriate supports and services to students with behavioral challenges and reduce referrals of students to the juvenile justice system. Same as HB 567, above.

SB 611 *Train school personnel re special needs students.* Sen. Linda Lopez. Appropriate \$500,000 to the Public Education Department to train teachers, assistants, resource officers and others on working with students with special needs.

SB 612 *Special education reform.* Sen. Linda Lopez. Increase the unit values for special education to substantially increase the amount of funding flowing to public schools to serve special education students. Increase the visibility and role of special education within the PED.

SB 630 *Special education loans for service.* Sen. Linda Lopez. Authorize the Higher Education Department to provide loans to students pursuing careers in special education, including teachers, therapists, diagnosticians, etc. The loans would be forgiven if the students complete the applicable educational and license requirements and work in areas designated as shortage areas.

Health Care

HB 70 *Health insurance coverage of prosthetics and orthotics.* Rep. Liz Thomson. Require insurance policies to cover prosthetics and orthotics to at least the same extent as Medicare and on terms equivalent to other covered services.

HB 88 *Health care value & access commission.* Rep. Debbie Armstrong. Establish a state commission to gather data on health care services and costs and make recommendations to improve the provision of health care services in NM. Same as SB 101, below.

HB 90 *Aid in dying.* Rep. Debbie Armstrong. Authorize prescriptions that an individual with a terminal illness could self-administer that would bring about the person's death. Same as SB 153, below.

HB 142 *Pre-existing condition exclusions.* Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero. Prohibit health insurers from denying coverage to persons with pre-existing conditions.

HB 143 *PCS rate and wage increase.* Rep. Christine Trujillo. Provide \$6 million to HSD to increase provider reimbursement rates for Medicaid personal care services, with a requirement that at least half of the money be used to increase wages for the workers who provide personal care services. *HB 2 includes an increase of \$6.76 million for Medicaid. Some of that funding is earmarked for a personal care rate increase, and HSD staff indicate that some pass-through for wage increases will be required.*

HB 213 *Family and medical leave program.* Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero. Create a new benefit program allowing employees to take paid leave to take care of themselves or other family members experiencing a serious medical condition. **[public and private business employees?]**

HB 264 *Family and medical leave program.* Rep. Christine Chandler. Similar to HB 213, above, although funded through a different method.

HB 295 Health Security Act. Rep. Debbie Armstrong. Establish a state Health Care Commission with the authority to design a single-payer health care system for the state of New Mexico. Same as SB 279, below.

HB 414 Nursing home closures. Rep. Susan Herrera. Require nursing homes to provide at least 90 days notice to residents, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and others before a facility can be closed, and require transition planning for the residents.

HB 416 Medicaid buy-in. Create a Medicaid buy-in program to offer a new health coverage option that would increase affordability and access to care by leveraging the Medicaid program. Same as SB 405, below. *SB 536 includes \$132,000 to plan for a buy-in program.*

HB 642 ALS support. Rep. Antonio Maestas. Appropriate \$100,000 to the Department of Health to provide supports and services to individuals with ALS and their caretakers.

SB 101 Health care value & access commission. Sen. Jeff Steinborn. Same as HB 88, above.

SB 112 Limiting insurance policy changes. Sen. Liz Stefanics. Prohibit health insurers from changing coverage or co-pays for prescription drugs during a plan year, and require notice of any proposed changes at least 90 days before a new plan year.

SB 153 Aid in dying. Sen. Liz Stefanics. Same as HB 90, above.

SB 185 Monitoring neurological disorders. Sen. Jeff Steinborn. Appropriate \$100,000 to DOH to establish a program to monitor the incidence of neurological disorders and to identify, prevent and treat such disorders. *SB 536 includes \$100,000 for this purpose.*

SB 279 Health Security Act. Sen. Carlos Cisneros. Same as HB 295, above.

SB 405 Medicaid buy-in. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. Same as HB 416, above. *SB 536 includes \$132,000 to plan for a buy-in program*

SM 125 Study health care value and access commission. Sen. Jeff Steinborn. Request a study of establishing a health care value and access commission, as provided for in HB 88 and SB 101.

Housing/Home Modifications

HB 82 Home rehab for veterans. Rep. Eliseo Alcon. Appropriate \$2 million to the Mortgage Finance Authority to rehabilitate homes owned and occupied by low-income veterans, including home modifications for accessibility. *There is \$110,000 non-recurring and \$17,500 recurring funds in HB 548 for this purpose.*

HB 483 Zoning accommodations. Rep. Gregg Schmedes. Require local zoning authorities to permit a second small home on a residential lot, even in an area zoned for only one home per lot, if the second home is for the residence and care of a family member with disabilities.

SB 46 Home rehab for veterans. Sen. Richard Martinez. Same as HB 82, above. *There is \$110,000 non-recurring and \$17,500 recurring funds in HB 548 for this purpose.*

SB 139 Funding for GCD programs. Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino. Appropriate \$300,000 to the Governor's Commission on Disability for its assistive technology and home modifications programs. *There is \$150,000 in SB 536 for this purpose.*

Motor Vehicles/Accessible Parking

HB 136 Voluntary driver registry. Rep. Liz Thomson. Allow persons with disabilities to note, in conjunction with their car registration, that they have a disability that might affect their ability to communicate. Require law enforcement officers to consult the registry prior to interacting with a motorist.

HB 209 Car registration fee waiver. Rep. Miguel Garcia. Allow a low-income person with a severe, permanent disability to register one vehicle owned by the person without having to pay the usual registration fee.

HB 245 *Accessibility icon on specialty plates.* Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil. Direct the Motor Vehicle Division to develop an accessibility emblem or decal that could be affixed to any other specialty license plate. Same as SB 206, below.

SB 206 *Accessibility icon on specialty plates.* Sen. Mark Moores. Same as HB 245, above.

Protective Arrangements and Services / Investigations

HB 61 *Sexual assault study.* Rep. Christine Trujillo. Appropriate \$450,000 to the Crime Victims Reparation Commission to conduct a study of sexual assaults against persons with disabilities and to identify needed improvements in data collection to support future steps to address this problem. *HB 548 includes \$50,000 and SB 536 includes \$100,000 for this purpose.*

SM 22 *Sexual assault task force.* Sen. Linda Lopez. Request a task force, appointed by the Legislature, to make recommendations on how to improve and coordinate reporting of sexual assaults against individuals with disabilities.

Tax Exemptions/Limitations

HJR 3 *Low-income property tax exemption.* Rep. Miguel Garcia. Amend the state constitution to exempt very low-income persons with severe disabilities from property taxes on a home they own and occupy.

SB 220 *Increasing income limits for property tax limitation.* Sen. Peter Wirth. Same as HB 429, which passed.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

Legislative Proposals

HB	House Bill	SB	Senate Bill
HM	House Memorial	SM	Senate Memorial
HJM	House Joint Memorial	SJM	Senate Joint Memorial

State Agencies

CYFD	Children, Youth and Families Department
DDPC	Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
DOH	Department of Health
GCD	Governor's Commission on Disability
HSD	Human Services Department
PED	Public Education Department