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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Martinez, R/Thomson/Ferrary **ORIGINAL DATE** 2/6/19
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** 458
SHORT TITLE Study Interstate Health-Related Licenses **SB** _____
ANALYST Chilton

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
\$200.0		Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Senate Bill 387.
 Relates to SB 97, SB 222, and SB 141.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 458 would appropriate \$200 thousand from the General Fund to the Regulation and Licensing Department to study all health-related boards under its jurisdiction (which include boards relating to chiropractors, dental providers, massage therapists, nutritionists and dieticians, occupation therapists, optometrists, osteopathic physicians, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, social workers, physical therapists, speech therapists, but not the New Mexico Medical Board or the New Mexico Board of Nursing) to look at other states' requirements for initial and renewal licensure. The aim of the study would be to identify procedures in use in other states and territories that decrease the complexity of licensure in order to make it simpler for applicants to become licensed in New Mexico. It would also look at interstate compacts for these various health-related professions as another means of making licensure in New Mexico easier to obtain. The Regulation and Licensing Department would report to the Legislative Health and Human Services Interim Committee on the results of its study and suggested ways of increasing the efficiency of licensing procedures for its boards by June 30, 2020.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200 thousand contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of 2020 shall revert to the General Fund).

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico suffers from a deficiency of most of the types of practitioners covered by the boards under the umbrella of the Regulation and Licensing Department. Any procedure that would improve the access of providers of these services to licensure and recruit them to the state would be beneficial to the state, especially the rural areas of the state where health care practitioners of these types are in especially short supply.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

RLD states that it would need to seek an independent organization qualified to conduct the study.

DUPLICATES Senate Bill 387.

RELATES to three other bills having to do with health-related interstate compacts: SB 97 (Interstate Medical License Act), SB 222, (Nursing Licensure and Board Composition), and Senate Bill 141 (Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact)

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

New Mexico might miss out on opportunities to streamline licensing processes for health care providers and thus chances to recruit more of them to the state.

LAC/sb