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HOUSE BILL 56

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson and Dayan Hochman-Vigil

AN ACT

RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL LICENSES; REQUIRING THE REGULATION AND LICENSING DEPARTMENT TO PERFORM A STUDY OF CERTAIN BEHAVIORAL-HEALTH-RELATED BOARDS AND LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR BEHAVIORAL-HEALTH-RELATED PROFESSIONS; REQUIRING REPORTS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--STUDY OF BEHAVIORAL-HEALTH-RELATED LICENSING REQUIREMENTS--REPORTING.--

A. The regulation and licensing department shall conduct a study of the licensing of behavioral-health-related professions by the following boards:

- (1) the counseling and therapy practice board;
- (2) the board of examiners for occupational

therapy;

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1 (3) the New Mexico state board of psychologist
2 examiners; and

3 (4) the board of social work examiners.

4 B. The study shall include:

5 (1) an evaluation of each license overseen by
6 each board as provided pursuant to Subsection A of this
7 section;

8 (2) a comparative analysis of each state's
9 initial and renewal licensure requirements for the behavioral-
10 health-related professions overseen by boards or commissions
11 that are similar to those listed in Subsection A of this
12 section;

13 (3) identification of licensure requirements
14 for behavioral-health-related professions that:

15 (a) are unique to New Mexico and not
16 required in other states, which states shall be identified in
17 the study; and

18 (b) could be eliminated or lessened to
19 make licensure in New Mexico's behavioral-health-related
20 professions easier and more efficient;

21 (4) identification of opportunities for New
22 Mexico to join existing interstate compacts through which
23 licenses granted by member states in behavioral-health-related
24 professions may be granted or recognized by other member states
25 in a system of reciprocity or a similar system; and

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1 (5) an explanation of how each board listed in
2 Subsection A of this section could improve licensure and
3 renewal processes for applicants.

4 C. The regulation and licensing department shall
5 report its findings and recommendations to each board listed
6 in Subsection A of this section by January 1, 2021.

7 D. The regulation and licensing department shall
8 report its findings and recommendations, including recommended
9 executive and legislative actions, to the legislative health
10 and human services committee by October 1, 2021.

11 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Two hundred thousand dollars
12 (\$200,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
13 regulation and licensing department for expenditure in fiscal
14 years 2021 and 2022 for a study of the licensing of behavioral-
15 health-related professions as provided in Section 1 of this
16 act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the
17 end of fiscal year 2022 shall revert to the general fund.