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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 7

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

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson and Dayan Hochman-Vigil

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE REGULATION AND LICENSING DEPARTMENT, THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY AND REPORT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.

WHEREAS, licensure requirements for behavioral health professionals vary from state to state; and

WHEREAS, the United States department of health and human services reported in 2019 that New Mexico continues to suffer from a shortage of behavioral health providers; and

WHEREAS, this shortage could be addressed by removing barriers to licensure for behavioral health professionals and by allowing licensure reciprocity with other states; and

WHEREAS, standardizing New Mexico state licensure procedures for behavioral health professionals could provide a

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1 solution to the disparities in behavioral health care; and

2 WHEREAS, the regulation and licensing department has the  
3 expertise necessary to evaluate and make recommendations for  
4 licensure requirements for behavioral health professionals;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the regulation and licensing  
7 department, the human services department and the department of  
8 health be requested to study and report and make  
9 recommendations on licensure requirements for behavioral health  
10 professionals; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the licensing of behavioral  
12 health professionals by the following boards be studied:

- 13 A. the counseling and therapy practice board;
- 14 B. the board of examiners for occupational therapy;
- 15 C. the New Mexico state board of psychologist  
16 examiners; and
- 17 D. the board of social work examiners; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as part of the study, the  
19 regulation and licensing department, the human services  
20 department and the department of health be requested to:

- 21 A. evaluate each license overseen by each of those  
22 boards;
- 23 B. conduct a comparative analysis of each state's  
24 initial and renewal licensure requirements for the behavioral  
25 health professions overseen by boards or commissions;

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1 C. identify licensure requirements for behavioral  
2 health professionals that:

3 (1) are unique to New Mexico and not required  
4 in other identified states; and

5 (2) could be eliminated or lessened to make  
6 licensure of New Mexico's behavioral health professionals  
7 easier and more efficient;

8 D. identify opportunities for the state to join  
9 existing interstate compacts through which licenses granted by  
10 member states for behavioral health professionals may be  
11 granted or recognized by other member states in a system of  
12 reciprocity or a similar system; and

13 E. provide an explanation of how each board that is  
14 the subject of the study could improve licensure and renewal  
15 processes for applicants; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the regulation and licensing  
17 department be requested to report its findings and  
18 recommendations by January 1, 2021 to the counseling and  
19 therapy practice board, the board of examiners for occupational  
20 therapy, the New Mexico state board of psychologist examiners  
21 and the board of social work examiners; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the regulation and licensing  
23 department be requested to report its findings and  
24 recommendations to the legislative health and human services  
25 committee by October 1, 2020; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the superintendent of regulation and licensing, the secretary of the human services, the secretary of health and the chair of the interim legislative health and human services committee.