

LFC Requester: \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION**  
**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**  
[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto:billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov)  
*(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)*

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}*

**Date Prepared:** \_\_\_\_\_ *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** HB441 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

**Sponsor:** Rep. Armstrong **Agency Name and Code** HCA 630  
**Short Title:** Denist & Dental Hygienist Act **Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Person Writing** Tashi Gyalkhar  
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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
\$0	\$0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	N/A	No Impact

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:  
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: HB441 or The Dentist and Dental Hygienist Interstate Compact facilitates the interstate practice of dentistry and dental hygiene and improve public access to dentistry and dental hygiene services by providing dentists and dental hygienists licensed in a participating state the ability to practice in participating states in which they are not licensed. The compact does this by establishing a pathway for a dentist and dental hygienists licensed in a participating state to obtain a compact privilege that authorizes them to practice in another participating state in which they are not licensed. The compact enables participating states to protect the public health and safety with respect to the practice of such dentists and dental hygienists through the state's authority to regulate the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene in the state

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

No Impact

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

No Impact

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

No Impact

HB 441 would strengthen access to dental and dental hygiene services, and in recognition of the advances in the delivery of dental services, the participating states of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Interstate Compact have joined together in a common purpose to develop a comprehensive process that complements the existing authority of state licensing boards to license and discipline dentists and dental hygienists and seeks to enhance the portability of a license to practice while safeguarding the safety of patients.

This compact allows dentistry and dental hygiene services to be provided by dentists and dental hygienists via the mutual recognition of the licensee's qualifying license by other compact participating states. The Dentist and Dental Hygienist Interstate Compact will alleviate burdens for military families by allowing active-duty military personnel and their spouses to obtain a compact privilege based on having an unrestricted license in good standing from a participating state.

If HB 441 were enacted,

- It could help increase the number of dentists and dental hygienists available to Medicaid patients in New Mexico, improving access to care, especially in underserved areas.
- The compact ensures that dentists and dental hygienists meet consistent licensure standards across participating states, which could lead to improved quality of care for Medicaid patients as providers adhere to uniform standards

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

This bill would establish and operate the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact Commission. Each participating state would have once commissioner selected by the participating state's state licensing authority. The commission would provide for the development, maintenance, operation and use of a

coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action and significant investigative information on all licensed individuals in member states. The New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD) is the state's governing authority over the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene so it is assumed RLD would be involved in data reporting.

#### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None

#### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None

#### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

Although the compact is designed to improve public access to dentistry and dental hygiene services, it may also have the unintended consequence of incentivizing New Mexico-based dentists and dental hygienists to seek employment in other compact states. Given ongoing workforce shortages, particularly in rural and underserved areas, this could exacerbate staffing challenges for dentists and dental hygienists in New Mexico if wages or working conditions are perceived to be more favorable in neighboring compact states.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

None

#### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Status Quo

#### **AMENDMENTS**

None