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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR <u>Senate Judiciary Committee</u>	LAST UPDATED <u>3/11/2025</u>	ORIGINAL DATE <u>2/25/2025</u>
SHORT TITLE <u>Social Work Licensure Compact</u>	BILL NUMBER <u>CS/Senate Bill 105/SJCS</u>	ANALYST <u>Hanika-Ortiz</u>

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
RLD		\$40.0		\$40.0	Nonrecurring	Other state funds
RLD		\$8.0	\$8.0	\$16.0	Recurring	Other state funds
Total		\$48.0	\$8.0	\$56.0		Other state funds

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to House Bills 79, 81, 82, 110, and 217 and Senate Bills 46 and 104

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis (for original SB105) Received From
 Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SJC Substitute for Senate Bill 105

The Senate Judiciary Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 105 (SB105) enters New Mexico into the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact (SW compact) to make it easier for a social worker to practice across state lines with other participating compact member states. The compact preserves the regulatory authority of each state; allows the exchange of licensure and disciplinary information between states; and facilitates telehealth to improve access to services.

Participating states must require graduation from an accredited institution; a period of supervised practice; passage of a qualifying national exam; and have the ability to receive, investigate, and adjudicate license complaints. States shall designate the categories of social work licensure eligible for a multistate license in that state. Each state must send one delegate to serve on the compact's commission. The commission will develop and maintain a coordinated database and reporting system to which states submit a uniform data set of licensee information. The compact grants power to the home state to investigate violations by licensees from other member states.

The bill amends Section 61-31-8 NMSA 1978 to add to the board’s authority the ability to obtain state and federal criminal history checks, as a condition for initial licensure. The bill also amends Section 61-31-6 NMSA 1978 to add knowledge of New Mexico cultures within the scope of social work practice in New Mexico.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns if enacted, or June 20, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD) said fees to upgrade the NM Plus licensing system are approximately \$40 thousand. An administrative rulemaking process, including a public hearing and publication of notices and such, would be required. RLD noted the Social Work Board should be able to absorb the costs.

The Board “may” but more likely will be required to pay an annual assessment based on a formula determined by the commission. If the substitute is enacted, the Board will incur travel expenses for a delegate to attend annual commission meetings. If the Board is responsible for these costs, the potential expenses are estimated at \$2,000 per day for one delegate each year, with an estimated four days of travel and attendance each year. Therefore, RLD anticipates a recurring expense of \$8,000 per year in FY26 and future fiscal years. With respect to adjudicating license complaints, states may incur expenses related to taking any adverse actions.

The Board is in support of SB105. The Board cites concerns about unmet mental health diagnoses, treatment and substance use/misuse disorders, limited mobility and licensure for social workers, reduced availability of telehealth options, and ongoing social work shortages.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Department of Health (DOH) explains that the compact is a result of collaboration between the Department of Defense, the Association of Social Work Boards, and Council of State Governments, which houses the National Center for Interstate Compacts. The compact has been activated by the membership of the required seven states, but multistate licenses are not yet being issued; that process will take 12 to 24 months. They note that the lack of easy interstate licensing hits military families hard, as 36 percent of spouses need an occupational license for work.

Additionally, DOH notes, social work services are often required by a student’s Individualized Education Plan, and those services are reimbursable. School social workers may require specialized training for working in special education. New Mexico’s Medicaid services plan also allows schools to be reimbursed for social work services for their general education students.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

RLD also explained that the board would be required to adopt rules in accordance with requirements to participate in the compact. In addition, staff would need to develop procedures for using the database, which is the licensure information system maintained by the commission. Background checks would also need to be implemented. RLD says those contracts already exists.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

This bill relates to other bills enacting other model interstate licensing compacts, including:

- House Bill 79 Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Compact,
- House Bill 81 Occupational Therapy Compact,
- House Bill 82 Physical Therapy Licensure Compact,
- House Bill 110 Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact,
- House Bill 217 Counselling Compact,
- Senate Bill 46 Interstate Medical Licensure Compact,
- Senate Bill 104 Audiology & Speech Licensure Compact, and
- Senate Bill 106 Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact.

AHO/rl/SL2/hg/sgs