



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

**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
BILL ANALYSIS  
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

Check all that apply:

Original  Amendment \_\_\_\_\_  
Correction \_\_\_\_\_ Substitute \_\_\_\_\_

Date Prepared: 01/31 /25  
Bill No: HB180

**Agency Name and Code:** PED - 924

**Sponsor:** Thomson/Johnson

**PED Lead Analyst:** David Vincent

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**Short Title:** SPEECH LANGUAGE  
PATHOLOGY LICENSE

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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
None	None	N/A	NFA

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
None	None	None	N/A	NFA

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

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	None	None	None	None	N/A	NFA

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the [General Appropriation Act](#): None.

## **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: House Bill 180 (HB180) would establish a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) license in New Mexico, replacing the existing "apprentice in speech and language" license. The bill would amend the [Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices](#) to define the role, scope of practice, qualifications, and supervision requirements for SLPAs. HB180 would create a mid-level professional category within the field of speech-language pathology, allowing SLPAs to provide therapy services under the direct supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist (SLP). The bill would also provide a regulatory framework for disciplinary actions and compliance monitoring, helping maintain professional standards in the field.

The bill does not provide an effective date. Laws go into effect 90 days after the adjournment of the Legislature enacting them, unless a later date is specified. If enacted, this bill would become effective June 20, 2025.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The bill does not contain an appropriation.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The Public School Code provides for licensure of speech-language pathologists (SLPAs) in the public schools, in the School Personnel Act, which includes speech-language pathologists in the definition of "instructional support provider," and offers licensure as such in Section 22-10A-17 NMSA 1978, and offers an alternative Level Three-B license for these pathologists in Section 22-10A-17.2 NMSA 1978. Those sections include neither speech pathology apprentices nor the proposed speech-language pathology assistants in their licensing schemes. It would be helpful to the Public Education Department (PED) if the sponsors considered also amending Section 22-10A-17 of the School Personnel Act to add speech-pathology assistants and speech-pathology clinical fellows to the list of instructional support providers, so that PED may provide for their licensure for their direct service in the public schools.

It should be noted that, while HB180 may expand speech-language services in healthcare facilities and rural areas by establishing a standardized licensing pathway for SLPAs, the requirement of direct supervision of assistants by fully qualified and licensed pathologists may make their employment in schools less likely, as every hire of an assistant will necessitate the hire of a full pathologist to supervise them. Currently, PED actively licenses 56 speech-language pathology apprentices, 12 of whom have advanced to clinical fellowship. Unlike the proposed speech-language pathology assistant, the apprentice has no requirement of "direct contact" with a fully-fledged pathologist. It is uncertain from the provisions of the bill what will happen to those who currently hold licensure as an apprentice if the bill is enacted and strikes reference to their licensure, but the requirement of direct supervision by a full pathologist will make an easy or automatic transition from apprentice to assistant problematic.

The majority of public schools in the U.S. lack a sufficient number of nurses, psychologists, speech language pathologists and other healthcare professionals, according to a new survey by [AMN Healthcare](#), the nation's leading provider of healthcare workforce talent solutions.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

PED would need to amend [6.63.3 NMAC, Licensure for Instructional Support Providers Pre K-12 Not Covered in Other Rules](#), if the bill is amended to provide for licensure of speech-language pathology assistants and clinical fellows.

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

Relates to:

- House Bill 79, Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Compact
- House Bill 81, Occupational Therapy Compact
- \*House Bill 82, Physical Therapy Licensure Compact
- House Bill 118, Professional Recruitment and Retention Act
- House Bill 217, Counselling Compact
- Senate Bill 12, Out-of-State Telehealth Providers
- Senate Bill 46, Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
- Senate Bill 104, Audiology & Speech Licensure Compact

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

None.

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

None.

## **AMENDMENTS**

The sponsor may wish to amend Section 22-10A-17 of the School Personnel Act to provide for PED licensure of speech-pathology apprentices and clinical fellows for direct service in the public schools.