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| <b>LFC Requester:</b> | <b>Noah Montano</b> |
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**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:** 1/27/2025 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** SB 104 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

**Sponsor:** Linda M. Trujillo and Antoinette Sedillo Lopez **Agency Name and Code Number:** NM Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing- 604  
**Short Title:** Audiology and Speech Language Compact **Person Writing:** Nathan Gomme  
**Title:** Language Compact **Phone:** (505) 796-5441 **Email:** Nathan.gomme@cdhh.nm.gov

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

| Appropriation |      | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---------------|------|---------------------------|---------------|
| FY25          | FY26 |                           |               |
|               |      |                           |               |
|               |      |                           |               |

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

| Estimated Revenue |      |      | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|-------------------|------|------|---------------------------|---------------|
| FY25              | FY26 | FY27 |                           |               |
|                   |      |      |                           |               |
|                   |      |      |                           |               |

(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> |      |      |      |                   |                           |               |

(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: The Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact intention is to join a membership with other states participating in the interstate compact that allows the communication and exchanging of information including the validity of licensure and any disciplinary sanctions. Each state maintains autonomy and the ability to regulate a practice in their state but now has the ability to allow professionals to participate in multiple states without obtaining additional state level licenses. This will enable the end consumer to have more variety and access to audiology and speech-language pathology services as well as potentially using telehealth tools when appropriate. In addition, the bill provides an avenue for said audiologist and speech language practitioner who may be a spouse of a military veteran to continue practicing in the field regardless of a potential relocation. In summary the bill increases interstate cooperation while increasing availability of these services via a licensed practitioner to the state.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The state of New Mexico has a Speech- Language Pathology, Audiology, and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices board which currently carries out the duties of licensing and providing enforcement of practitioners in the state of New Mexico. These duties would continue as they were prior to this compact and there would be no stated fiscal impact on these duties in terms of additional costs or revenue. Instead, the bill serves as a way to likely increase the availability of possible licensed individuals. There may be some need to collaborate and learn the mechanisms of compact with the assistance of the National Council of State Boards of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology as well as the National Center for Interstate Compacts which are the partners of the American Speech-Language- Hearing Association. However, nothing in the bill indicates a necessary change to the current operations of the current board which would indicate an increased cost with the exception perhaps of a background check listed in Section 4. According to the Board webpage there is not currently a requirement for a background check. This addition of background checks may require additional costs to conduct but this may be a matter of adjusting the fees currently in place to offset any of those costs.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Currently the threshold for compact to activate is 10 states, according to the Audiology & Speech-Language Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) website. The ASLP-IC states that over 34 states already have legislation enacted with additional states in the middle of active legislation and that the process for application will be available this year 2025. Rules and bylaws are already established, and work is being done to proceed. It can be assumed that the timeline for compact operations will be in place after passage of this bill, but it is not as of yet.

The enactment of this bill will add New Mexico to the list of states with enacted legislation which when fully functional will support various aspects of both the professionals with such a license as well as the persons looking for support with their hearing and speech. It improves the

continuity of care for a person with a hearing loss or need for speech related services, improves access to providers, enables the use of telehealth services with the provider of choice regardless of residence. Providers who are spouses of military personnel will be able to continue their practice and reduce barriers if a person receiving services in their state when in need of said services without unnecessary travel or expenses. Hearing loss impacts roughly 1 in 10 people worldwide with a disabling hearing loss, screening and detection is a critical part of the care needed when there is a possible hearing loss, in addition continued care and resources can assist a person experiencing a hearing loss over the course of their life improve outcomes and the benefits can mean offsetting cognitive decline, reduction of depression symptoms and in some cases address the increased risk of dementia according to the Hearing Health Foundation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, and US Department of Veteran Affairs. These benefits from participating in the compact and reducing barriers to health care services in the hearing loss and speech language community are critical.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

## **ALTERNATIVES**

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

## **AMENDMENTS**