

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

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: SB 106 enacts and enters New Mexico into the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) is an interstate compact designed to allow licensed psychologists to practice of telepsychology and conduct temporary in-person face-to-face practice of psychology across state boundaries without necessitating that an individual become licensed in every state to practice.

PSYPACT was approved in 2015 and became operational in 2019.

42 states have joined the Compact

New Mexico has a significant shortage of behavioral health providers, particularly in the rural areas and is among a small minority of states that have not yet joined.

PSYPACT allows psychologists to practice in member states using a multistate license or a "compact privilege".

To practice telepsychology in PSYPACT states, psychologists must apply for an Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology (APIT).

To maintain authorization, psychologists must maintain a full, unrestricted license in a participating state, have no disciplinary action taken against them, renew required certifications and authorizations annually, and comply with all state/jurisdictional rules, laws, policies, and regulations.

Failure to join the compact could discourage psychologists from obtaining licensure in New Mexico because participation in PSYPACT enables psychologist Authorization holders to practice telepsychology from their home states and/or conduct temporary in-person, face-to-face practice across state lines without having to establish independent licensure in other states.

Participation in the compact enables licensed psychologists to provide continuity of care as clients/patients relocate.

Participating psychologists are also be able to reach populations that are currently underserved, geographically isolated or lack specialty care.

Compact participation also provides states with an external mechanism to verify that psychologists who practice telepsychology or conduct temporary in-person, face-to-face practice in their state have met defined standards and competencies to practice in other states.

Many jurisdictions issued emergency rules or executive orders temporarily waiving certain licensing requirements for out-of-state providers during the pandemic. There is some evidence that these waivers increased access to care.

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