

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website ([www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov)). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/31/13  
 SPONSOR Rue LAST UPDATED 02/15/13 HB \_\_\_\_\_  
 SHORT TITLE Professional Licensure Standards & Boards SB 181/aSPAC  
 ANALYST Weber

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

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		NFI				

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

Department of Health (DOH)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of SPAC Amendment

1. On page 18, lines 19 and 20, strike ", a clinical fellow in audiology". This eliminates a clinical fellow in audiology as being eligible for a license as a hearing aid dispenser.
2. On page 19, strike lines 3 and 4 in their entirety. Omits the power of the board to require additional educational requirements for a hearing aid dispenser license..
3. Renumber the succeeding paragraphs accordingly.
4. On page 19, line 6, remove the bracket and line through "and".
5. On page 19, line 9, strike "; and" and insert in lieu thereof a period.
6. On page 19, strike lines 10 and 11 in their entirety. This eliminates the requirement for a surety bond.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 181 provides for the following changes in the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Act (61-14B-1 thru 61-14B-25 NMSA 1978)

1. Adding a scope of practice for the Clinical Fellow for Speech Language Pathology.
2. Adding a Speech Language Pathologist to board changing the composition from ten to eleven members.
3. Changing the licensure requirements for Audiologist. Currently there are two separate licenses for an Audiologist and an Audiologist who dispenses hearing aids. The changes will combine the scope of practice and requirements so Audiologists can dispense hearing aids without obtaining a second license.
4. Change the licensure requirements for Hearing Aid Dispensers to include requiring Hearing Aid Dispensers to meet additional education requirements of the board.
5. Require Hearing Aid Dispensers maintain a surety bond.
6. Requiring Clinical Fellows and Speech Language Pathology Apprentice to work under appropriate supervision.
7. Changing the licensing renewal period for annually to biennially, and provide for staggered biennial terms; allowing clinical fellows to have two years to pass the recognized standard national examination; require hearing aid dispensers to submit evidence of board certification.
8. Increase the maximum amount the Board is able to charge for licensure and renewals.
9. Creating requirements for a Bilingual or Multilingual Endorsement to an individual as determined by board rules.
10. Repeals the section of the law related to the endorsement to dispense hearing aids as an audiologist or otolaryngologist.

In addition, there are language and style changes to update and provide consistency throughout the statutes.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

No fiscal implications are identified.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

RLD notes that the proposed changes will update and clarify scope of practice and licensure definitions. It will help state licensure conform to national standards.

The bill clearly defines the additional scope of practice for a clinical fellow of speech-language pathology. The bill also outlines what is meant by appropriate supervision for this type of professional.

Regarding the additional board member, 95 percent of the issues brought before the Board are related to Speech Language Pathology (SLP). Adding another SLP member will help alleviate the workload from the two SLP members currently on the Board.

DOH raises a concern related to the speech language pathologist (SLP) apprentice:

As written, the new service called SLP apprentice does have an identified Scope; however, the educational requirements are broad and not well established and the training curriculum does not address clinical experience. The Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DOH) (DDSD) contracts with 80 SLP agencies in the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver who provide services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and serves over 3800 persons that have an array of needs including multiple, complex medical and behavioral issues. If DDSD were to determine it safe to utilize SLP apprentices, the Division would need to collaborate with the Human Services Department (HSD) and Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to amend the Home and Community Based Waiver and edit the DD Waiver standards and reimbursement rates. As written, there are no requirements for licensure for speech-language pathologists

MW/svb:blm