

LFC Requestor: Anne, Hanika-Ortiz

**2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS**

Section I: General

Chamber: House
Number: HB0031

Category: Bill
Type: Introduced

Date (of THIS analysis): 1/21/2026

Sponsor(s): Marian Matthews

Short Title: EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact

Reviewing Agency: Agency 665 - Department of Health

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Section II: Fiscal Impact

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation Contained		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 26	FY 27		
\$	\$		

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 26	FY 27	FY 28		
\$	\$	\$		

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-recurring	Fund Affected
Total	\$	\$250	\$250	\$500	Recurring	General Fund

Personnel (2 staff members)

1 Senior Healthcare Program Coordinator (compact participation, data coordination, and inter-state communication functions) C9 Midpoint \$40.19 x 2080 Hours x 1.36 benefits = 113,636 + \$4628 yearly IT cost + rent \$3644 = \$121,908

1 Senior Healthcare Program Coordinator C9 (regulatory oversight activities, medical direction alignment, and response to adverse actions) Midpoint \$40.19 x 2080 Hours x 1.36 benefits = 113,636 + \$4628 yearly IT cost + rent \$3644 = \$121,908

Total Personnel = \$243,816

Travel x 2 positions= 6,184

Annual Cost: \$250,000

Section III: Relationship to other legislation

Duplicates: None

Conflicts with: None

Companion to: None

Relates to: None

Duplicates/Relates to an Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None

Section IV: Narrative

1. BILL SUMMARY

a) Synopsis

House Bill 31 (HB31) proposes to enact the Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact authorizing the mutual recognition of emergency medical services (EMS) personnel licenses across member states through a “privilege to practice” model. The stated purpose of the Compact is to facilitate the movement of EMS personnel across state boundaries, enhance information sharing among states, and support workforce mobility.

Is this an amendment or substitution? Yes No

Is there an emergency clause? Yes No

b) Significant Issues

1. Local Medical Direction and Patient Safety

New Mexico's EMS system is built upon local physician medical direction as a foundational patient-safety safeguard. Current statute and regulation require EMS personnel practicing in New Mexico to operate under medical direction approved within the state.

HB31 requires EMS personnel to function under the supervision of a medical director registered and practicing within the state. As the Compact is implemented, clarification may be beneficial regarding how existing New Mexico medical direction requirements will interface with Compact-based practice, including mechanisms for verification and alignment with state-specific protocols and accountability structures.

Ensuring clarity in this area during implementation would support continuity with New Mexico's existing EMS oversight framework and promote consistent patient safety expectations.

2. Notification to DOH EMS Bureau

HB31 will require coordination between DOH, the Compact Commission, and participating states to support implementation, including licensure tracking, medical direction alignment, and response to adverse actions. A notification or registration mechanism when an EMS clinician exercises Compact privileges in New Mexico will need to be identified. A potential method for this could happen as EMS clinicians become affiliated with state registered EMS agencies.

As implementation proceeds, establishing clear processes for state-level awareness may enhance coordination, support medical direction alignment, and facilitate timely regulatory response when necessary. Other healthcare compacts have incorporated notification mechanisms that may offer useful reference points during implementation planning.

3. Scope of Practice

Under HB31 and the Compact Rules, EMS personnel practicing in a remote state initially function under the scope of practice authorized by their home state, unless modified by the remote state.

New Mexico's EMT-Basic and Intermediate scopes of practice exceed national minimum models in several areas. As a result, Compact implementation may require thoughtful coordination to ensure that scope-of-practice expectations are clearly communicated and appropriately modified where necessary to maintain statewide consistency.

The Compact Rules provide mechanisms for remote states to modify scope and require additional education. Clear implementation guidance and communication pathways will support effective use of these tools.

4. Education and Licensure Standards

HB31 relies on National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians certification as a baseline licensure requirement. New Mexico currently requires all EMS education programs, including EMT-Basic and EMT-Intermediate, to originate from nationally accredited schools.

As Compact participation expands, implementation planning may benefit from identifying how differences in education accreditation and continuing education standards across states will be addressed, including use of existing Compact provisions that allow for additional education or competency verification when appropriate.

5. Compact Rule Framework

The Compact Rules adopted by the Commission establish the operational foundation for interstate practice. As with other interstate compacts, some operational details will continue to be refined through ongoing rulemaking and implementation experience.

DOH anticipates participating in Compact governance processes to support continued development of clear, consistent, and transparent operational guidance.

2. PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

- Does this bill impact the current delivery of NMDOH services or operations?
 Yes No
- Is this proposal related to the NMDOH Strategic Plan? Yes No

3. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the Executive Budget Request?
 Yes No N/A
- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the LFC Budget Request?
 Yes No N/A
- Does this bill have a fiscal impact on NMDOH? Yes No

4. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Will this bill have an administrative impact on NMDOH? Yes No

Implementation of HB31 will require the Department of Health to assume new and ongoing administrative, regulatory, and coordination responsibilities associated with participation in the Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact. These responsibilities include verification and monitoring of Compact privileges, coordination with the Compact Commission and other member states, management of licensure and disciplinary data exchanges, and integration of Compact activity into New Mexico's existing EMS oversight and medical direction framework.

To effectively implement and sustain these functions, the Department anticipates the need for two additional full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions and associated operating funding. One position would be required to support Compact participation, data coordination for tracking and impact, and inter-state communication functions, while a second position would

be necessary to support regulatory oversight activities, including review of scope-of-practice modifications, medical direction alignment, and response to adverse actions involving out-of-state EMS clinicians practicing in New Mexico.

Adequate staffing will help ensure timely implementation, maintain patient safety oversight, track the impact of the compact, and support New Mexico's ongoing compliance with Compact obligations as participation and utilization increase over time.

5. DUPLICATION, CONFLICT, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

No

6. TECHNICAL ISSUES

Are there technical issues with the bill? Yes No

7. LEGAL/REGULATORY ISSUES (OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES)

- Will administrative rules need to be updated or new rules written? Yes No
- Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary (or unnecessary)? Yes No
- Does this bill conflict with federal grant requirements or associated regulations?
 Yes No
- Are there any legal problems or conflicts with existing laws, regulations, policies, or programs? Yes No

HB31 authorizes participation in an interstate compact governed by a multi-state commission with rulemaking authority. As implementation proceeds, continued coordination between the Compact Commission and member states will be important to ensure alignment with New Mexico law, transparency in governance, and clarity regarding fiscal and indemnification provisions authorized under the Compact.

8. DISPARITIES ISSUES

None

9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)

None

10. ALTERNATIVES

None

11. WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

If HB31 is not enacted, current regulatory oversight rules and statutes for EMS will remain in effect. This will result in the continued inability for EMS license holders in other compact states, such as Texas or Colorado, to practice in New Mexico.

12. AMENDMENTS

None