

LFC Requester:

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO
AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to 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: 1/9/26 **Bill Number:** HB32 **Original** X **Amendment** **Substitute**

Short Title: INTERSTATE COUNSELING COMPACT

Sponsor: Rep. Matthews

Name and Code Number: HCA 630

Person Writing: Keenan Ryan

Phone: 505.396.0223 **Email:** keenan.ryan@hca.nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
\$0.0	\$0.0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: HB32 enacts the Counseling Compact into New Mexico law, creating a multistate agreement to facilitate the interstate practice of licensed professional counselors. The compact's primary purpose is to increase access to professional counseling services by allowing counselors licensed in one member state to practice in other member states without obtaining separate licenses, while preserving state authority to regulate and protect public health and safety. It explicitly supports the use of telehealth and encourages cooperation among states in addressing multistate counseling practice.

HB32 outlines definitions and requirements for participation in the compact. To join, a state must license and regulate professional counselors and require certain educational and supervised experience standards. The compact establishes terms like privilege to practice, remote state, and encumbered license, and requires participating states to share licensure data, adverse actions, and disciplinary information. Counselors seeking to exercise their privilege to practice must hold a valid license in their home state, meet continuing education and jurisprudence requirements, and notify the compact commission before practicing in another member state.

HB32 also creates a counseling compact commission to administer the agreement and coordinate among member states. This commission is charged with promulgating rules, maintaining a shared data system, issuing privileges to practice across states, and ensuring compliance with compact standards. It preserves each state's ability to enforce its own laws, including taking disciplinary or adverse actions against licensees, while streamlining interstate licensure recognition and cooperation. By reducing barriers to multistate practice, the compact aims to expand access to professional counseling services, especially via telehealth, while maintaining public safety protections.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None for the Health Care Authority (HCA).

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

See Performance Implications below.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

This compact may streamline the process for out-of-state provider enrollment. HB32 would expand reciprocity defined in this section by allowing counselors to provide service across state lines with a home state license. This could increase access to counseling services across state lines. Counselors from compact member states would be required to enroll as a NM Medicaid provider and follow all applicable provider requirements in order to be reimbursed.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None for HCA.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None for HCA.

ALTERNATIVES

None

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo

AMENDMENTS

None