

LFC Requestor:

**2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS**

Section I: General

Chamber: House

Category: Bill

Number: 50

Type: Introduced

Date (of THIS analysis): 01/15/2026

Sponsor(s): Pamela Herndon, Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Linda M. Trujillo, Sarah Silva

Short Title: Social Work 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		
\$ 0	\$ 0	N/A	N/A

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 26	FY 27	FY 28		
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	N/A	N/A

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	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	N/A	N/A

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: N/A

Section IV: Narrative

1. BILL SUMMARY

a) Synopsis

House Bill 50 (HB 50) proposes that New Mexico participate in the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact (SW compact) to make it easier for a social worker to practice across state lines with other participating compact member states. The compact preserves the regulatory authority of each state, allows the exchange of licensure and disciplinary information between states, and facilitates telehealth to improve access to services.

Participating states must require the following: 1) graduation from an accredited institution; 2) a period of supervised practice; and 3) passage of a qualifying national exam. Participating states must also have the ability to receive, investigate, and adjudicate license complaints.

States shall designate the categories of social work licensure eligible for a multistate license in that state. Each state must send one delegate to serve on the compact's commission. The commission will develop and maintain a coordinated database and reporting system to which states submit a uniform data set of licensee information. The compact grants power to the home state to investigate violations by licensees from other member states.

The bill amends Section 61-31-8 NMSA 1978 to add to the board's authority the ability to obtain state and federal criminal history checks, including a full set of fingerprints submitted to the Department of Public Safety, as a condition for initial licensure. The bill also amends Section 61-31-6 NMSA 1978 to add knowledge of New Mexico cultures within the scope of social work practice in New Mexico.

Is this an amendment or substitution? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Is there an emergency clause? ☐ Yes ☒ No

b) Significant Issues

Individuals working in the field of social work require a high level of specialized experience, education and training to provide for the increasingly complex social, cultural, and

economic needs of the individuals and families with which they work. Other academic fields might provide some relevant information and training but could lack the comprehensive approach of the field of social work. For these reasons the bill is needed to address the social work shortage in the State.

The ethical and competent services provided by educated licensed social workers prevent high-cost lawsuits and exacerbated conditions often requiring higher levels of intervention (costly hospitalizations and treatment). Benefits to the public of competent licensed social workers support the state's most vulnerable populations, alleviate stressors, and prevent other social problems such as poverty, crime, substance misuse, and child abuse and neglect.

The bill would ensure that licensed social workers would have the appropriate education, supervision hours, background checks and continuing education which could benefit New Mexican's quality of life and outcomes, as well as risk management for NM.

As of June 2025, twenty-eight states have adopted the compact, and the Compact Commission is on track to begin offering multistate licenses in 2026. The compact aims to eliminate barriers to practice and ensure public protection by allowing social workers to serve clients in every state that joins the compact. <https://swcompact.org>

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

If passed this bill would potentially increase the amount of mental health services available to all communities.

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

5. DUPLICATION, CONFLICT, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

None

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

Regulations with NMAC 16.063 would need to be updated with the new requirements to allow for interstate licensure compact.

8. DISPARITIES ISSUES

Licensed social workers play a crucial role in addressing health disparities. They are experts in identifying and addressing the social determinants of health that contribute to these disparities.

9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)

If HB 50 is enacted, it could provide greater access to services and support that licensed social workers can provide to individuals across the state. Services can include improved access to health care, and to social and community agencies that address the social determinants of health.

10. ALTERNATIVES

None

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

If HB 50 is not enacted, NM would not join the interstate social work compact, a mechanism for licensed social workers from established compact states to be more easily licensed in New Mexico would not be created, and NMDOH facilities and programs could continue to struggle with recruitment and retention of licensed social workers.

12. AMENDMENTS

None