

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: _____ *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB050 Original Correction _____
 Amendment Substitute _____

Sponsor: <u>P Herndon, S Silva</u> Short Title: <u>Social Work Licensure</u> Title: <u>Interstate Compact</u>	Agency Name and Code Number: <u>CYFD - 690</u> Person Writing: <u>Kathleen Hardy</u> Phone: <u>505-660-8508</u> Email: <u>Kathleen.hardy@cyfd.nm.gov</u>
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		

(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						

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: This bill enacts a new statute to allow licensed social workers in participating states to obtain a multi-state license, which allows licensed workers to practice within states that are members of the compact without having to seek a license in each state. The Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact provides the framework for interstate recognition of social work licenses at the bachelors, masters, and clinical levels; and explicitly ensures states retain authority over single state licensure, including authority over discipline of licensed individuals and enforcement of state level rules and regulations. Finally, the new statute authorizes participation in a compact commission, establishes data sharing and adverse action reporting requirements, provides provisions to address licensed individuals belonging to a military family, and establishes a license reissuance process for licensed individuals who change their home state.

This bill amends the existing statute to update the scope of social work practice, requiring state and federal criminal background checks that include fingerprint-based checks as a condition of initial licensure and eligibility for multi-state licensure.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation contained within this bill.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The amendment to the scope of social work practice in this bill, Section 17(B), adds “New Mexico culture” to the list of specialized knowledge expected to be part of social work practice. This is in addition to existing language in NMSA 1978 §61-31-8(K), which already requires the social work board to include a requirement to “demonstrate an awareness and knowledge of New Mexico cultures” among the qualifications for licensure. It is unclear how this requirement will be addressed through the multi-state licensure system.

Ultimately, the beneficiaries of this bill will be social workers, as portability of licensure allows for a greater ease of movement between states. It is likely that social work salaries will need to be increased to stay competitive with other states. More attractive salaries and benefits offered to potential employees in New Mexico will result in better applicants and more competition among applicants for those postings, which will result in more qualified employees increasing services and experience offered to those seeking a social worker.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD has performance measures, and Kevin S settlement agreement requirements, related to the recruitment and retention of employees which may be affected by this bill. The ability to recruit licensed social workers across state lines without the administrative burden of ensuring recruited workers acquire New Mexico licensure will expand the pool of skilled workers CYFD can draw upon.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Any administrative implications will be absorbed by existing resources.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None identified.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None identified.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None identified.

ALTERNATIVES

None proposed.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo. New Mexico has long struggled to find and retain qualified social workers in both the public and private sectors.

AMENDMENTS

None proposed.