



LFC Requester: Liu

**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
BILL ANALYSIS
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date Prepared: 01/31 /25

Bill No: HB81

Agency Name and Code: PED - 924

Sponsor: Thomson

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Short Title: OCCUPATIONAL THERPY
LICENSURE COMPACT

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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
None	None	N/A	NFA

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
None	None	None	N/A	NFA

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	None	None	None	None	N/A	NFA

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: N/A

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: House Bill 81 (HB81) proposes to enact the [Occupational Therapy Licensure Interstate Compact](#), making New Mexico a member state and thereby facilitating the interstate practice of occupational therapy and interstate license portability, improving public access to these services.

By joining the compact, New Mexico would allow licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants to practice across member states without needing separate licenses for each state. The compact enhances the exchange of licensure and disciplinary information among member states and support the use of telehealth technology to increase access to occupational therapy services. The compact is activated upon the enactment of the compact into law in the tenth member state.

The bill does not provide an effective date. Laws go into effect 90 days after the adjournment of the Legislature enacting them, unless a later date is specified. If enacted, this bill would become effective June 20, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill does not contain an appropriation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The majority of public schools in the U.S. lack a sufficient number of nurses, psychologists, speech language pathologists and other healthcare professionals, according to a new survey by [AMN Healthcare](#), the nation's leading provider of healthcare workforce talent solutions. The compact would likely increase the number of occupational therapists authorized to provide services in New Mexico, thereby enhancing public access to care.

According to the [Occupational Therapy Compact](#) organization, the compact is a collaborative effort of the American Occupational Therapy Association and the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. The organization indicates practice privileges are not yet being issued, and practice under the compact is not authorized, even if one's jurisdiction has enacted the compact. While the requisite ten states have already enacted the compact, they expect that practice privileges will begin issuing in summer 2025. The organization is developing a national data system to provide for transfer of data among member states. Applications for practice will be handled by the compact organization.

As with most such interstate compacts, the National Military Family Association the Occupational Therapy Compact will have an outside effect upon highly mobile practitioners, including military spouses.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED may need to amend [6.63.3 NMAC, Licensure for Instructional Support Providers Pre K-12 Not Covered in Other Rules](#), to conform to the provisions of the bill.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to:

- House Bill 79, Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Compact
- *House Bill 82, Physical Therapy Licensure Compact
- House Bill 110, Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact
- House Bill 118, Professional Recruitment and Retention Act
- House Bill 217, Counselling Compact
- Senate Bill 12, Out-of-State Telehealth Providers
- Senate Bill 46, Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
- Senate Bill 104, Audiology & Speech Licensure Compact
- Senate Bill 105, Social Worker Licensure Compact
- Senate Bill 106, Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact
- Senate Bill 146, Educational Opportunity for Military Children

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

None.

AMENDMENTS

None.