

VERMONT LEGISLATIVE

Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

Updated 2/15/2023

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H.86 – An Act Relating to Vermont's adoption of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact

As introduced

 $\frac{https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/Docs/BILLS/H-0086/H-0086\%20As\%20Introduced.pdf}{}$

Bill Summary

he bill proposes the State adopt the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC), which allows licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) residing in a compact member state to practice in other compact member states. Entering the compact would result in an estimated revenue reduction of approximately \$16,800 from the loss of licensing fees and approximately \$400 from the loss of application fees from out-of-state applicants from compact states in fiscal year 2024.

Background and Details

The compact was developed by the Council of State Governments (CSG) and its National Center for Interstate Compacts. Like all interstate licensure compacts, the ASLP-IC establishes uniform requirements for a "compact license." The ASLP-IC reached the number of states necessary to convene a compact commission in January 2022. The compact commission is in the process of establishing bylaws and initial rules with compact privileges expected to be issued in 2023. As of August 2022, 23 states, including New Hampshire, have joined the compact.

Revenue Reductions

In Vermont, licenses for audiologists and SLPs are renewed in August of even years for a fee of \$240. Revenues from license and application fees are deposited into the Professional Regulatory Fee Fund (21150). According to the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR), there are 76 audiologists and 636 SLPs licensed in Vermont. Of those, 11 audiologists and 59 SLPs are from states that have signed onto the ASLP-IC. OPR estimates it would see a revenue reduction of \$16,800 from the loss of licensing fees and approximately \$400 from the loss of application fees from out-of-state applicants from compact states in fiscal year 2024. Additional states joining the ASLP-IC could further impact revenue; 9 states including Vermont have legislation pending regarding joining the compact.ⁱⁱ



Compact Fees

The fee to purchase Compact privileges varies state to state. Applicants will pay a compact commission fee and an optional state fee charged for each state compact privilege. No state privilege fees have been established as the compact hasn't begun yet. While the fee will offset a small amount of the revenue loss, it is not expected to come close to covering the gap.

While current state applications are done online, OPR will need to process compact applications manually, requiring significantly more staff time. OPR's license platform could automate compact applications by building a compact-specific portal, but that would require additional financial resources.

Summary

- The estimated revenue loss for fiscal year 2024 is approximately \$17,200.
- If more states join the ASLP-IC, future revenue impacts will be greater.
- Some revenue loss may be offset by instituting a state privilege fee.
- More staff and/or IT resources could be needed at OPR to process fees received through this and other compacts.

	Audiologists	Speech-Lanuage Pathologists	\$240 Fee
	Audiologists	1 deliologists	3240 FEE
Compact States	11	59	\$16,800
Other States	65	577	\$154,080
	76	636	

Other considerations

Currently, there are two other House bills related to adopting interstate licensure compacts which would result in further revenue losses to the Office of Professional Regulations.

- H.62 An act relating to the Interstate Counseling Compact
- H.77 An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact

i https://aslpcompact.com/

ii https://aslpcompact.com/compact-map/