

NMFAM Legislative Guide for SB 1

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

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SB 1 Simplified Breakdown

What Is SB 1? (Plain Language)

SB 1 allows New Mexico to join the **Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**, making it easier for qualified doctors to become licensed in multiple states—**without lowering standards or giving up state oversight**.

The goal is simple:

- ✓ Improve access to health care
- ✓ Reduce red tape for physicians
- ✓ Maintain patient safety and state authority

SB0001

How SB 1 Works (In Brief)

- **Creates an expedited licensing pathway** for already-licensed, highly qualified physicians
 - **Does not replace New Mexico's Medical Practice Act**
 - **Keeps disciplinary authority with the state medical board**
 - **Requires transparency** through public posting of rules, bylaws, and commission actions
 - **Includes a contingent repeal** if the compact ever conflicts with New Mexico law
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Why SB 1 Matters to New Mexico Families

- **More doctors, faster access to care**—especially in rural and underserved areas
 - **Stronger health care workforce without lowering standards**
 - **Preserves patient protections and accountability**
 - **Modernizes licensure while respecting state sovereignty**
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Messaging & Fact Tool (For Legislators)

Core Message

SB 1 improves access to care while protecting New Mexico’s authority, transparency, and patient safety.

What SB 1 DOES

- ✓ Expands access to licensed physicians
- ✓ Reduces unnecessary administrative delays
- ✓ Maintains state control over licensure and discipline
- ✓ Requires public transparency
- ✓ Includes safeguards and a repeal mechanism

What SB 1 DOES NOT DO

- ✗ Does not lower licensure standards
- ✗ Does not override New Mexico law
- ✗ Does not remove state disciplinary authority
- ✗ Does not mandate participation by physicians or employers

Simple Talking Point

“SB 1 helps doctors who already meet high standards get licensed faster in New Mexico, so families can see a doctor sooner—while the state keeps all the rules and safety checks.”

SB 1 — Possible Concerns & How to Respond

Concern #1: “This gives up New Mexico’s control to an interstate commission.”

Response:

SB 1 **explicitly preserves New Mexico’s authority** over medical licensure and discipline. The state medical board retains full power to license, investigate, discipline, or revoke licenses under New Mexico law.

The compact simply creates an *expedited pathway*—it does not override state law or standards.

Key Line:

New Mexico keeps the keys. The compact only opens the door faster.

Concern #2: “Interstate compacts can expand beyond what the legislature intended.”

Response:

SB 1 includes a **contingent repeal clause**.

If a court finds that the compact’s rules or decisions conflict with New Mexico law or alter scope of practice or professional standards, **the entire compact is automatically repealed** and New Mexico withdraws.

Key Line:

This compact comes with an off-ramp built into statute.

Concern #3: “Could this lower standards for doctors practicing in New Mexico?”

Response:

No. SB 1 applies only to **highly qualified physicians** who already meet rigorous requirements, including:

- Full, unrestricted licensure
- Clean disciplinary history
- Background checks
- Ongoing compliance with state standards

Every physician must still comply with **New Mexico’s Medical Practice Act**.

Key Line:

Faster does not mean looser—standards stay high.

Concern #4: “Will doctors be forced to use the compact?”

Response:

No. Participation is **voluntary**.

SB 1 also explicitly prohibits employers from requiring physicians to use the compact as a condition of employment.

Key Line:

This is an option—not a mandate.

Concern #5: “Does this create new costs or bureaucracy?”

Response:

SB 1 is largely **self-funded through licensing fees**, not the general fund. It reduces duplicative administrative work and improves efficiency without creating a new state agency.

Key Line:

Less red tape, not more bureaucracy.

Concern #6: “Could this be used to shield bad actors across states?”

Response:

The compact actually **strengthens accountability** by:

- Requiring shared disciplinary information
- Coordinating investigations across states
- Allowing automatic action when licenses are suspended or revoked elsewhere

Bad actors are easier—not harder—to track.

Key Line:

Shared data strengthens oversight.

Concern #7 (Quiet but Real): “Is this connected to controversial health policy issues?”

Response:

SB 1 is a **licensure and workforce bill**, not a health-policy mandate.

It does not expand scope of practice, alter standards of care, or override state law in any area.

Key Line:

This bill is about *who is licensed*, not *what medicine is practiced*.

Strategic Framing Tip:

If someone asks, “*Why is this getting broad support?*”

Answer:

Because SB 1 is pro-patient, pro-access, pro-accountability, and respectful of state authority—without ideological overreach.

Messaging for Action & Socials

Take Action: Support SB 1

Support Access to Quality Health Care in New Mexico

SB 1 allows New Mexico to join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact—making it easier for highly qualified doctors to become licensed in multiple states while keeping New Mexico’s standards, oversight, and patient protections fully intact.

This bill:

- **Expands access to physicians, especially in rural and underserved areas**
- **Reduces unnecessary licensing delays**
- **Preserves state authority and accountability**
- **Includes transparency requirements and safeguards**

👉 Take action today.

Send a message to your legislators urging them to SUPPORT SB 1 and improve access to quality health care for New Mexico families.

Quick CTA Button Text Options

- **Support SB 1**
- **Protect Access to Care — Support SB 1**
- **Tell Lawmakers: Vote YES on SB 1**
- **Support Doctors. Support Patients. Support SB 1.**

Ultra-Short Version (For Tight Spaces / Mobile)

SB 1 improves access to health care by streamlining licensure for qualified doctors—without lowering standards or sacrificing oversight.

Contact your legislators and urge them to SUPPORT SB 1 today.

Call to Action

Support SB 1 to improve access to quality health care for New Mexico families—without sacrificing oversight or safety.

Key Line for Legislators

SB 1 is a commonsense, pro-patient bill that modernizes licensing, expands access to care, and protects state authority.

Social Caption (Short)

More doctors. Same high standards.

SB 1 improves access to care while keeping New Mexico in control.

Support SB 1.