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H.B. 252
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 252's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsors: Reps. White and Plummer

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board (SHP) may experience administrative costs to promulgate and amend rules, investigate any complaints, issue compact privileges, and provide required data to the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact Commission's data system. Additionally, SHP may realize an increase in costs to pay an annual Compact assessment.
- The bill allows SHP to charge a fee for granting compact privileges, which could impact revenues depending on the number of individuals who choose to apply for a compact privilege versus reciprocity under current law and the fee established.

Detailed Analysis

The bill enacts the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact in Ohio, which will allow audiologists and speech-language pathologists licensed in other states to practice in Ohio and those licensed in Ohio to practice in other states. The bill will likely require the State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board (SHP) to amend or adopt new rules. The Board may also receive additional complaints due to practitioners from out of state with a compact privilege, although any increase in the number of complaints is likely to be minimal. Additionally, the Board will be required to submit data to the Compact Commission's data system regarding Ohio licensees subject to the Compact. Finally, joining the Compact will require SHP to select two of its Board members to serve as delegates to the Compact Commission. The costs to the Board for these activities are expected to be minimal, but will depend on the extent of the rule changes, how many additional complaints are received, how many licensees seek a compact privilege, and any additional compensation the Board delegates may receive for performing official business.

The Compact Commission is permitted to impose annual assessments on member states, which could increase SHP costs.¹ However, the bill allows member states to charge a licensee a fee for granting a compact privilege. Any additional revenue to SHP will depend on the amount of the fee and the number of applicants. It is possible that some licensees seeking to practice in Ohio may choose to apply for the compact privilege rather than seeking reciprocity and paying the full amount of the current \$200 initial license fee for either the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology.² The Board has stated that it is likely that the fee for compact privilege will be lower than the current initial licensure fee that an applicant seeking reciprocity would pay. Thus, fee revenue could be reduced. The number of compact privilege users might increase if the number of member states grows. It is possible that as awareness of the legislation grows, the number of individuals seeking compact privilege in Ohio may increase.

The bill could also result in other indirect impacts to the state and political subdivisions. Audiologists and speech-language pathologists that practice in Ohio with a compact privilege could provide additional services to Ohioans and provide increased access. If this occurs, there could be additional reimbursements from state and local programs that reimburse for these services. If an Ohio resident utilizes an out-of-network provider, there could be additional costs to state or local programs or health plans.

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¹ According to the Compact's website, this legislation was recently enacted into law in ten states, which reaches the threshold for activation and establishing the Compact Commission. It appears the assessments have not yet been established. <https://aslpcompact.com/>.

² In the FY 2017-FY 2018 biennial renewal cycle, there were approximately 360 licenses issued under reciprocity.