

HB 1875 (Representative Ryan Guillen)

Audiology & Speech – Language Pathology Interstate Compact

- The Interstate Compact facilitates the practice of speech-language pathology (SLP) and audiology in member states. (Currently 23)
- 23,500 licensed Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology professionals practice in Texas.
- 17,300 practitioners practice within 100 miles of one of our borders.
- There is a severe shortage of speech-language pathologists in Texas, particularly in rural areas. A 2022 TSHA survey indicated 89% of school districts reported a shortage of SLPs.
- The Compact would facilitate the use of Telepractice to provide services to areas of need, in schools, hospitals and clinics.
- The Compact preserves the regulatory authority of states (Texas) to protect the public through state licensure. Anyone practicing in Texas must adhere to Texas licensure laws.
- Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative and disciplinary information among member states.
- Saves our licensees who want to practice in another “compact” state from buying their license.
- Joining the Interstate Compact and paying fees would be completely optional for Texas licensees.
- The Interstate Compact would not be a burden to TDLR nor add cost to the State of Texas. All costs would be incurred by those professionals who choose to participate in the Interstate Compact.

For questions or comments please contact the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (TSHA) Legislative team: **Larry Higdon**, Director of Governmental Relations, 830-265-0828 / lwhtsha@gmail.com or **Mark J. Hanna**, Legal and Legislative Counsel, 512-477-6200 / mhanna@markjhanna.com.