



Licensing Compacts

Occupational licensure compacts provide consistent rules for licensed members to work in other states. The military provisions added to these compacts assist service members and their spouses in participating through “privilege to practice policies” or to more easily transfer their license to a new state.

Discussion Points:

1. Professional associations and related licensing boards are considering interstate compacts as a way for states to maintain control while developing processes to support the mobility of licensed professionals.
2. The Defense-State Liaison Office is currently assisting the respective national state board and membership associations for **physical therapy, nursing, emergency medical services, psychology, and audiology/speech-language pathology** in educating legislators on the benefits of their license compacts to the military community.
3. For example, these compacts provide the following benefits to members of the military community:
 - The Physical Therapy and Enhanced Nurse licensure compacts, and the Audiology/Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact allow military spouses to designate a home state for their license and use the “privilege to practice” provision to work in any member state without obtaining another license.
 - The Interstate Compact for EMS simplifies endorsement requirements for transferring a license.
 - The Interjurisdictional Compact for Psychology supports telepractice and temporary practice (30 days). This improves access to mental health services for military families while allowing military spouses who are psychologists to sustain a counseling practice through telecommunications in compact states.
4. The coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic demonstrates that interstate licensure compacts can provide a permanent solution to leverage underutilized medical talent to meet labor shortages in high-need areas.



An increasing number of occupations are establishing interstate compacts to support:

- **Common understanding of standards**
- **States sharing authority and responsibility over occupational practice**
- **“Privilege to practice” policies allowing members to work in other compact states**
- **Allowing endorsements for a license transfer, primarily based upon changing legal residence**
- **Telepractice opportunities using technology to work across state boundaries**