



Interstate Compacts to Support License Portability

States are considering licensure compacts for several occupations. Compact drafters are now recognizing military-specific needs as part of the compact provisions.

KEY MESSAGE: Occupational licensure compacts provide consistent rules that allow licensed members to work in other states through “privilege to practice policies” or to more easily transfer their license to a new state. The military provisions added to these compacts assist Service members and their spouses to participate in these occupational compacts.



DISCUSSION POINTS:

- 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.
- The Defense – State Liaison Office (DSLO) is currently assisting the respective national state board and membership associations for physical therapy, nursing, emergency medical services (EMS) and psychology in educating legislators on the benefits of their license compacts to their occupation and to the military community.
- For example these compacts provide the following benefits to members of the military community:
 - The Physical Therapy Licensure Compact (PTLC) allows military spouses to designate a home state for their license and use the “privilege to practice” provision in the compact to work in any other member state without obtaining another license.¹
 - The Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (ENLC) allows military spouses to use their state of legal residence as their home state for privilege to practice. When tied to the Military Spouse Residency Relief Act, spouses can maintain one license in one state.
 - The Interstate Compact for EMS (REPLICA) simplifies endorsement requirements for transferring a license.
 - The Interjurisdictional Compact for Psychology (PSYPACT) supports tele-practice and temporary practice (30 days). This provides an opportunity to improve access to mental health services by military families and also allows military spouses who are psychologists to sustain a counseling practice through telecommunications in compact states.
- DSLO intends to work with other occupations to ensure provisions such as those found in PTLC are included. DSLO has been invited to participate in the drafting of the Speech, Language and Hearing Licensure Compact.

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

- Common understanding of standards.
- Mechanisms for states to share authority and responsibility to oversee occupational practice.
- “Privilege to practice” policies that allow members in compact states to work in other compact states.
- Improved methods for allowing endorsements when members need to transfer a license, primarily based upon changing legal residence.
- Tele-practice opportunities using technology to work across state boundaries.

¹ As part of the privilege to practice provision, states have the option of charging a fee and requesting licensees comply with state jurisprudence requirements.