

Licensing Reform Task Force Healthcare Subcommittee

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION: MONTANA EMS COMPACT ADOPTION

Recommendation

The **Healthcare Subcommittee** recommends that the Licensing Reform Task Force endorse Montana legislation to enact the EMS Compact during the next legislative session and include that endorsement in the Task Force's final report. The recommendation should remain subject to final legal review, fiscal note preparation, confirmation that Montana's EMS licensing structure satisfies compact participation requirements, and coordination with DLI, DPHHS, EMS stakeholders, and the Montana Ambulance Association.

Executive Order No. 1-2026 Report Elements Addressed

This recommendation addresses the following Executive Order No. 1-2026 report elements:

- **Public health, safety, or welfare risk:** EMS practice implicates public health and safety, and the compact preserves licensure, discipline, scope-of-practice, medical-direction, and complaint/investigation safeguards.
- **Public benefit from licensure:** The compact supports public protection through interstate data sharing, adverse-action reporting, and coordination of disciplinary information.
- **Identifiable scope of practice:** Compact clinicians practicing in Montana would remain subject to Montana EMS agency affiliation, physician medical direction, and Montana scope-of-practice rules.
- **Specialized skill or training with national standards:** Montana already uses national EMS education, licensure standards, and the National Registry examination used by compact member states.
- **Justified licensure qualifications:** The compact retains core licensure prerequisites while allowing qualified, unrestricted licensees to practice across member states.
- **Unnecessary barriers to entry:** The compact reduces duplicative application, fee, and paperwork requirements for qualified EMS clinicians.
- **Workforce shortages and rural access constraints:** The compact would support EMS mobility for rural, frontier, cross-border, surge staffing, relocation, training, and emergency response needs.
- **Portability, reciprocity, or endorsement pathways:** The compact directly creates interstate practice mobility through an automatic Privilege to Practice model.
- **Alignment with rural health transformation initiatives:** The compact aligns with rural health, emergency preparedness, military/federal priorities, and the Rural Health Transformation Program.

Policy Assessment

Benefits

The primary benefit of adopting the EMS Compact is that it would expand EMS workforce mobility without requiring an additional individual compact application, fee, or paperwork process, while improving public protection through access to coordinated interstate licensure and discipline data.

Limitations

The main limitations are implementation related. Montana should confirm statutory authority for FBI-compliant biometric criminal history checks, data-sharing and reporting capacity, compact commissioner designation, and any vendor or system costs needed to connect to the National EMS Coordinated Database.

Motion

The **Healthcare Subcommittee** moves that the Licensing Reform Task Force endorse the recommendation that Montana enact the EMS Compact, direct staff to include the recommendation in the Task Force's final report as a workforce mobility and public-protection reform, and request preparation of implementing legislation for consideration during the next legislative session, subject to final legal review, fiscal note preparation, confirmation of compact participation requirements, and coordination with DLI, DPHHS, EMS stakeholders, and the Montana Ambulance Association.