



The Council  
of State  
Governments

# MONTANA LICENSING REFORM TASK FORCE: HEALTHCARE SUBCOMMITTEE

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026

# The Council of State Governments

## Scope

The nation's largest organization serving all three branches of state government

## Membership

CSG is membership organization that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas among states

## Mission

Champion excellence in state governments in order to advance the common good

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**National Center for  
Interstate Compacts**  
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

# National Center for Interstate Compacts (NCIC)

- Technical assistance center at The Council of State Governments
- Seeks to help states work cooperatively to solve mutual issues and meet shared goals through interstate compacts
- Serves as an:
  1. Information clearinghouse
  2. Provider of training and technical assistance
  3. Primary facilitator for assisting states in the review, revision and creation of new interstate compacts



Multistate Problem Solving  
with Interstate Compacts



# Licensure Compacts Developed Under the Cooperative Agreement

Cosmetology

Social Work

Teaching

Massage Therapy

Dentistry

Dietetics

School Psychology



# Occupational Licensing Interstate Compacts Under Development

Respiratory Therapy

Athletic Trainers

Estheticians



# Compact Commissions

1. Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact Commission
2. Cosmetology Compact Commission
3. Counseling Compact Commission
4. Dentists and Dental Hygienist Compact Commission
5. Dietitian Compact Commission
6. Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Commission
7. Occupational Therapy Compact Commission
8. Physical Therapy Compact Commission
9. Physician Assistants Compact Commission
10. PSYPACT Commission
11. School Psychology Compact Commission
12. Social Work Compact Commission

# Professional Organizations

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

American Academy of Respiratory Care

American Association of Physician Associates

American Counseling Association

American Dental Hygienists Association

American Occupational Therapy Association

American Speech Language Hearing Association

Association of Social Work Boards

Association of State and Provisional Psychology Boards

Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer

Clinical Social Worker Association

Commission on Dietary Registration

Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy

Federation of State Medical Boards

National Association of School Psychologists

National Association of Social Workers

National Association of State Directors of Teacher Certification

National Commission on Credentialing of Physician Assistants



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# INTERSTATE COMPACTS 101

# What is an interstate compact?

A legislatively enacted contract between two or more states that allows states to:

#1 Cooperatively address shared problems

#2 Maintain sovereignty over issues belonging to states

#3 Respond to national priorities with one voice



# Compact Legislation

- Compacts are developed through model legislation
- The model legislation is created through a stakeholder driven, consensus based process
- A state must enact the model legislation to join the compact
- States must adhere to the compact's requirements to remain a participating member





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# OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE COMPACTS 101

# Why Occupational Licensure Compacts?

**Facilitate  
Multistate  
Practice**

**Maintain or  
Improve Public  
Health and  
Safety**

**Preserve State  
Authority Over  
Professional  
Licensing**



# What Licensure Compacts Do

- Establish uniform standards between compact member states
- The uniform standards reduce the time, cost and complexity needed for both regulators and practitioners to navigate other state requirements and licensure pathways
- Can be used by both practitioners currently licensed in a compact member state and those newly seeking to practice in a compact member state
- Realize other efficiencies (renewal cycles, CEs, cost)



# What Licensure Compacts Don't Do

- Licensure compacts are not a “one size fits all”, they are custom built to the regulatory and portability needs of a profession
- Licensure compacts are voluntary, no practitioner will be required to join
- Compacts do not alter state scope of practice or other licensure pathways



# Benefits to Practitioners



Reduces barriers to licensure portability



Leverages Advancing Technology (Telepractice)



Supports relocating military members and their families



# Benefits to Licensing Boards



Agreement On Uniform Licensure Requirements



Shared Data System



Retain control of scope of practice and initial licensure process



# Benefits to States



Flexibility and Autonomy In Comparison to Federal Policy



Strengthens State Sovereignty



Enhance Cooperation Between States



Strengthens Labor Markets



Expands Health Care Access



# Licensure Compacts by the Numbers



47 states, 3 territories & DC have adopted at least 1 compact.  
42 states and territories have adopted at least 3 compacts.



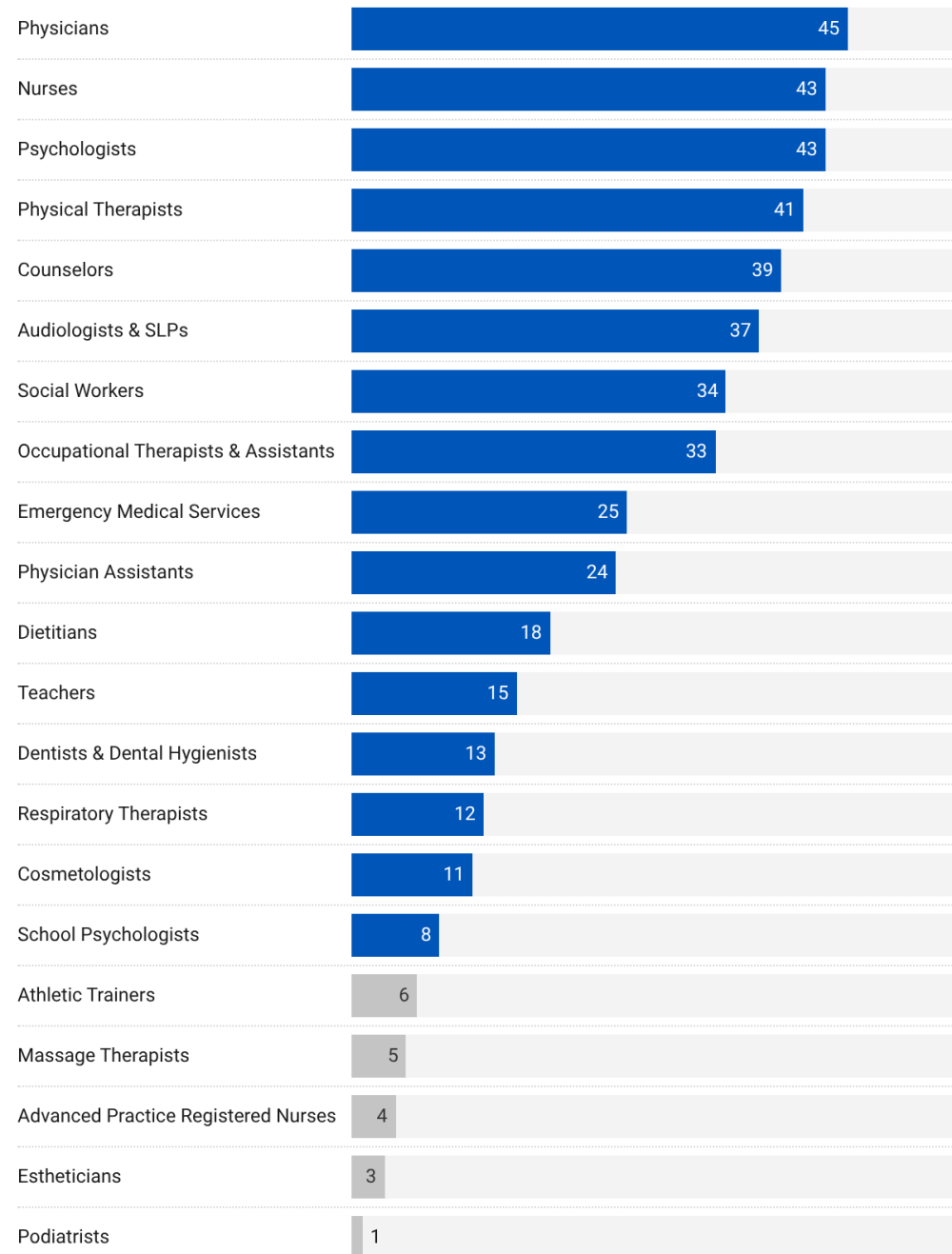
Over 370 pieces of occupational licensure compact legislation have been enacted since January 2016.



17 interstate compacts for occupational licensing.



## Licensure Compact Enactments



Data current as of  
June 26, 2024



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# COMPACT DEVELOPMENT

# Compact Development Process

Phase I Development	Phase II Education and Enactment	Phase III Transition and Operation
<p><b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GROUP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Composed of approx. 20 state officials, stakeholders and issue experts</li><li>➤ Examines issues, current policy, best practices and alternative structures</li><li>➤ Establishes recommendations as to the content of an interstate compact</li></ul> <p><b>DOCUMENT TEAM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Composed of 5 to 8 state officials, stakeholders, and issue experts</li><li>➤ Crafts compact based on recommendations</li><li>➤ Circulates draft compact to states and stakeholder groups for comment</li></ul> <p><b>FINAL PRODUCT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Drafting team considers comments and incorporates into compact</li><li>➤ Final product sent to advisory group</li><li>➤ Released to states for consideration</li></ul>	<p><b>EDUCATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Develop comprehensive legislative resource kit</li><li>➤ Develop informational internet site with state-by-state tracking and support documents</li><li>➤ Convene “National Briefing” to educate legislators and key state officials</li></ul> <p><b>STATE SUPPORT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Develop network of “champions”</li><li>➤ Provide on-site technical support and assistance</li><li>➤ Provide informational testimony to legislative committees</li></ul> <p><b>STATE ENACTMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Track and support state enactments</li><li>➤ Prepare for transition and implementation of compact</li><li>➤ Provide requested support as needed</li></ul>	<p><b>TRANSITION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Enactment threshold met</li><li>➤ State notification</li><li>➤ Interim Executive Board appointed</li><li>➤ Interim Committee’s established</li><li>➤ Convene first Compact meeting</li><li>➤ Information system development (standards, security, vendors)</li></ul> <p><b>OPERATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Ongoing state control and governance</li><li>➤ Staff support</li><li>➤ Annual assessment, if necessary</li><li>➤ Annual business meeting</li><li>➤ Information system oversight (maintenance, security, training, etc.)</li><li>➤ Long-term enhancements / up-grades</li></ul>



# Compact Timeline

**Legislation  
Development  
(~1 year)**

**Compact  
Activation  
(2-3 years)**

**Compact  
Operationalization  
(2-3 years)**



# Adverse Actions

- Establishes the rights, responsibilities, and processes for compact member states to report adverse actions to one another
- Commonly, unless a license is revoked, each compact member state will be able to use their own laws and regulations to determine if they should revoke compact authorization



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# QUESTIONS?

# Contact Information

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