



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. The Defense-State Liaison Office assists national state boards and membership associations in educating legislators on the benefits of their license compacts to the military community. The DSLO is currently assisting the following compacts:
 - Nurse Licensure: NLC
 - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse: APRN Compact
 - Physical Therapy: PT Compact
 - Occupational Therapy: OT Compact
 - Emergency Medical Services: EMS Compact
 - Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact: PSYPACT
 - Counseling Compact
 - Audiology and Speech-Language-Hearing Interstate Compact: ASLP-IC
2. For example, these compacts provide the following benefits to members of the military community:
 - The NLC, APRN Compact, PT Compact, OT Compact, ASLP-IC and Counseling 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 EMS Compact simplifies endorsement requirements for transferring a license.
 - The PSYPACT 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.
3. 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