
An Overview of Occupational Licensure Compacts in the United States

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For the:
Interstate Commission for Emergency Medical
Services Personnel Practice



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This report provides an overview of various occupational licensure compacts in the United States. The purpose of this report is to raise awareness among EMS Compact Commissioners and EMS Stakeholders about the existence and benefits of these compacts. It aims to show that the EMS Compact is not unique and to highlight states that are not part of the EMS Compact but participate in other compacts, making them high-priority targets for future legislation.

Current Occupational Licensing Compacts

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

Allows advanced practice registered nurses to have one multistate license giving them the ability to practice across all compact member states.

Audiology and Speech Language Pathology Interstate Compact

Facilitates the interstate practice of audiologists and speech-language pathologists while maintaining public protection.

Cosmetology Compact

The Cosmetology Licensure Compact seeks to provide licensees with opportunities for multistate practice, support relocating military families, improve the safety of cosmetology services and foster workforce development by reducing unnecessary licensure burdens.

Counseling Compact

Allows professional counselors licensed and residing in a compact member state to practice in other compact member states without the need for multiple licenses.

Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact

The Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact is a legally binding agreement among states that establishes an optional, additional pathway for dentists and dental hygienists to practice in states where they do not hold a license.

Dietitian Licensure Compact

The Dietitian Licensure Compact is a legally binding agreement among states that provides a pathway to practice through which dietitians can obtain compact privileges which authorize practice in states where they are not licensed.

Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Compact

Facilitates interstate practice for licensed EMS professionals.

Interstate Compact for School Psychologists

Facilitates the interstate practice of School Psychology in educational or school settings, improving the availability of School Psychological Services to the public.

Interstate Massage Compact

Allows eligible massage therapists to practice in all compact member states.

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

Offers a voluntary expedited pathway to licensure for qualified physicians who wish to practice in multiple states, increasing access to health care for patients in underserved or rural areas.

Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact

Creates a streamlined pathway for licensure mobility for teachers.

Nurse Licensure Compact

Establishes reciprocal licensing arrangements between the party states for licensed practical/vocational nurses.

Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact

Facilitates interstate practice of occupational therapists between compact member states.

Physician Assistant Licensure Compact

Facilitates interstate practice for licensed physician assistants.

Physical Therapy Licensure Compact

Enhances public protection by facilitating the interstate practice of physical therapy with the goal of improving access to physical therapy services.

Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact

Facilitates the practice of telepsychology and the temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology across state boundaries.

Social Work Compact

Allows eligible social workers to practice in all compact member states.

Tables of Information

Occupational Licensing Compact Membership (July 2024)

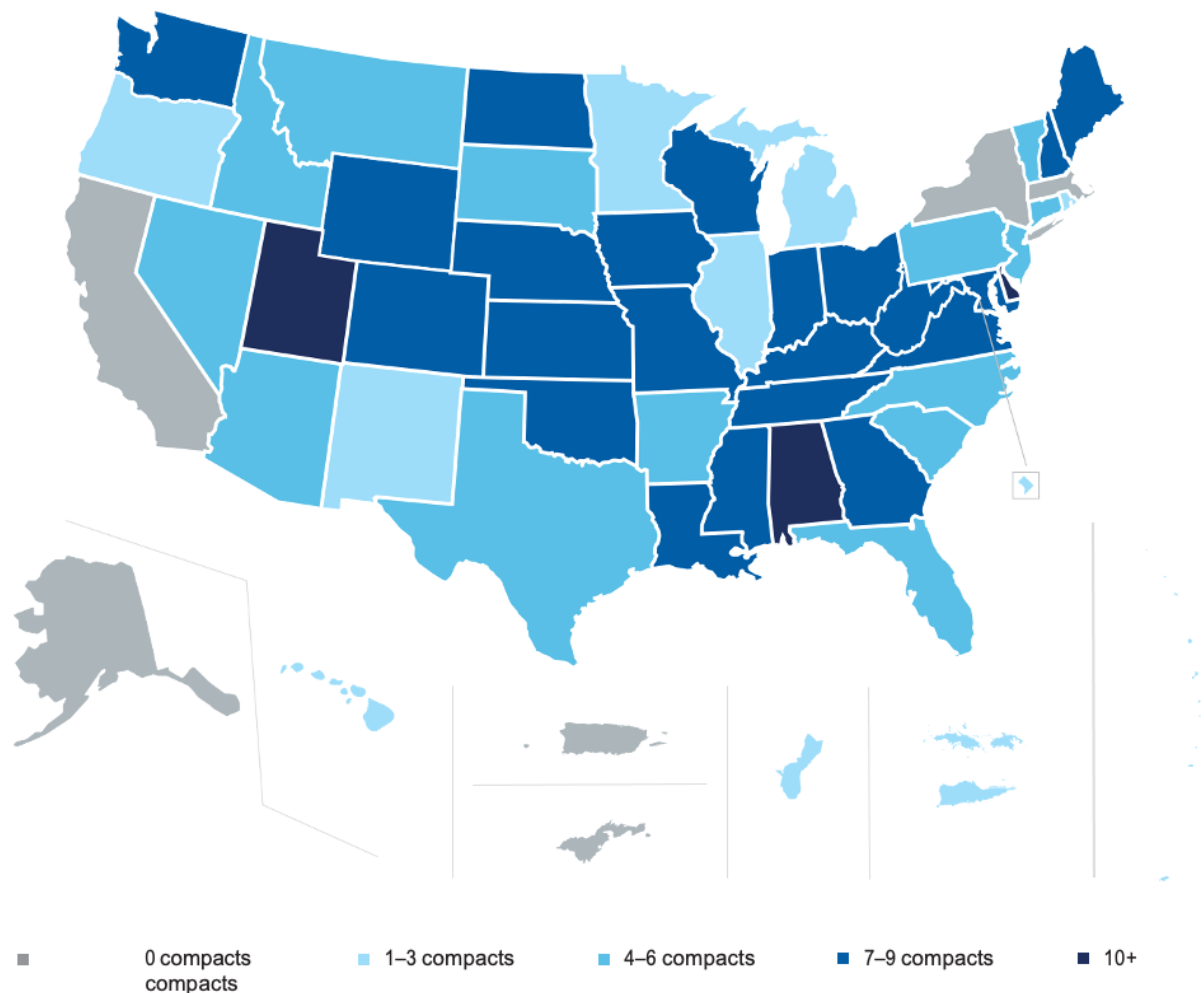


Table 1: Jurisdictions in the EMS Compact

State/Territory	Year Joined
Alabama	2017
Colorado	2015
Delaware	2017
Georgia	2017
Idaho	2016
Indiana	2020
Iowa	2019
Kansas	2016
Louisiana	2020
Mississippi	2017
Missouri	2018
Nebraska	2018
Nevada	2023
North Dakota	2019
Oklahoma	2023
Pennsylvania	2022
South Carolina	2018
South Dakota	2021
Tennessee	2016
Texas	2015
Utah	2016
Virginia	2016
West Virginia	2020
Wyoming	2017

Table 2: Jurisdictions Not in the EMS Compact

State/Territory	Audiology and Speech Interstate Compact	Cosmetology Compact	Counseling Compact	Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact	Dietitian Licensure Compact	Interstate Medical Licensure Compact	Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact	Nurse Licensure Compact	Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact	PA Licensure Compact	Physical Therapy Licensure Compact	Psychology Compact	Social Work Compact
Alaska	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arizona	-	2023	2024	-	-	2016	-	2016	2022	-	2016	2016	-
Arkansas	2023	-	2023	-	-	-	-	2017	2023	-	2019	2021	-
California	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Connecticut	-	-	2023	-	-	2022	-	2023	-	-	2023	2022	-
District of Columbia	-	-	-	-	-	2018	-	2021	2021	-	2021	2021	-
Florida	2024	-	2022	-	-	2024	2023	2016	-	-	2021	2023	-
Guam	-	-	-	-	-	2017	-	2021	-	-	-	-	-
Hawaii	-	-	-	-	-	2023	-	-	-	-	-	2023	-
Illinois	-	-	-	-	-	2015	-	-	-	-	-	2018	-
Kentucky	2021	2023	2022	-	-	2019	2023	2017	2022	-	2017	2021	-
Maine	2023	-	2022	-	2024	2017	-	2018	2021	2024	-	2021	2024
Maryland	2021	-	2021	-	-	2018	-	2019	2021	-	2019	2021	-
Massachusetts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Michigan	-	-	-	-	-	2018	-	-	-	-	-	2022	-
Minnesota	-	-	-	-	-	2015	-	-	-	-	-	2021	-
Montana	2023	-	2023	-	-	2015	-	2015	2023	-	2017	2021	-
New Hampshire	2022	-	2022	-	-	2016	-	2017	2021	-	2017	2019	-
New Jersey	-	-	2024	-	-	2022	-	2021	-	-	2018	2021	-
New Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2018	-	-	-	-	-
New York	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	2020	-	2022	-	-	2017	-	2018	2022	-	2017	2020	-
Northern Mariana Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2022	-
Ohio	2022	-	2022	-	-	2021	-	2023	2021	-	2021	2021	2024
Oregon	-	-	-	-	-	-	2023	-	-	-	2016	-	-
Rhode Island	-	-	-	-	-	2022	-	2023	-	-	-	2022	-
Virgin Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2021	-	-	-	-	-

Table 3: Jurisdictions Not Part of Occupational Licensure Compacts

State/Territory

California

Massachusetts

New York

Alaska

EMS Compact Growth Opportunities

It is crucial for additional states to join the EMS Compact to ensure that EMS professionals are not disenfranchised or disadvantaged compared to their professional colleagues who benefit from other occupational licensure compacts. The EMS Compact facilitates the interstate practice of licensed EMS professionals, allowing them to provide critical services across state lines efficiently and without unnecessary administrative burdens. This compact is especially important in emergencies, disasters, and situations requiring rapid deployment of EMS personnel to areas with urgent needs.

States that are already part of other occupational licensure compacts, such as the Nurse Licensure Compact or the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, have recognized the value of enabling healthcare professionals to practice across state lines seamlessly. By joining the EMS Compact, these states can e-tend similar privileges to EMS professionals, ensuring they have the same opportunities and are not left behind in terms of mobility and practice rights.

Moreover, joining the EMS Compact enhances public safety and healthcare delivery by allowing for a more flexible and responsive EMS workforce. It supports the rapid mobilization of EMS personnel during large-scale emergencies and facilitates collaboration and mutual aid among states. For states already participating in other compacts, the transition to include the EMS Compact is a logical step that aligns with their existing commitment to interstate professional practice and public protection. Expanding the EMS Compact to include more states is essential for ensuring that EMS professionals receive equitable treatment and opportunities compared to other medical professionals. It strengthens the overall healthcare system's ability to respond to emergencies and provides a framework for improved workforce mobility and cooperation across state lines.