PA Licensure Compact (PALC): What's the Latest

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History of the PA Licensure Compact

- The PA Licensure Compact is a joint initiative started in 2019 to improve licensure portability for PAs
- The initiative is made possible through the partnership with the following organizations:

✔Council of State Governments (CSG)

✔Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB)

✔American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA)

✔National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)

- First organizational meeting was held in Washington, DC in November 2019 with nearly 100 attendees representing multiple stakeholder groups and representatives of other interstate compacts who presented various models
- Multiple follow-up meetings occurred (mainly via Zoom) to develop the model legislation language

The Council of State Governments Was Founded in 1933

Scope	Membership	Mission
The nation's only organization serving all three branches of state government	CSG is a region-based membership organization that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy	Champion excellence in state governments in order to advance the common good

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Interstate Compacts (NCIC)

- Seeks to help states work cooperatively to solve mutual issues and meet shared goals

- Serves as an:
  - ✔ Information clearinghouse
  - ✔ Provider of training and technical assistance
  - ✔ Primary facilitator for assisting states in the review, revision and creation of new interstate compacts

What Is An Interstate Compact

- A legislatively enacted agreement between states (each state must pass precisely the same legislation)
- Developed through a collaborative process
- Establishes uniform standards for participating states
- Creates a licensure data system
- Administered by a Compact Commission
- Licensure compacts exist for many professions, including multiple healthcare professions (e.g. physicians, nurses, PTs, OTs, counseling, speech/language pathology, etc)

PA Licensure Compact Purpose

- Facilitates PA licensure portability
- Ensures PAs meet acceptable standards of practice
- Expands the availability of PA services
- Supports military families
- Promotes cooperation among PA member states in the areas of licensure and regulation
- Offers a high degree of patient protection across state lines

How It Works

- The PA Licensure Compact is a mutual recognition model that is similar in form and function to other occupational licensing compacts (vs an expedited license model like the IMLC)
- Mutual recognition means that compact member states agree to mutually recognize a valid, unrestricted license of other compact member states
- The PA Licensure Compact will allow PAs to practice in compact member states via a Compact Privilege
- The Compact Privilege provides the same benefits as licensure

Compact Privilege Details

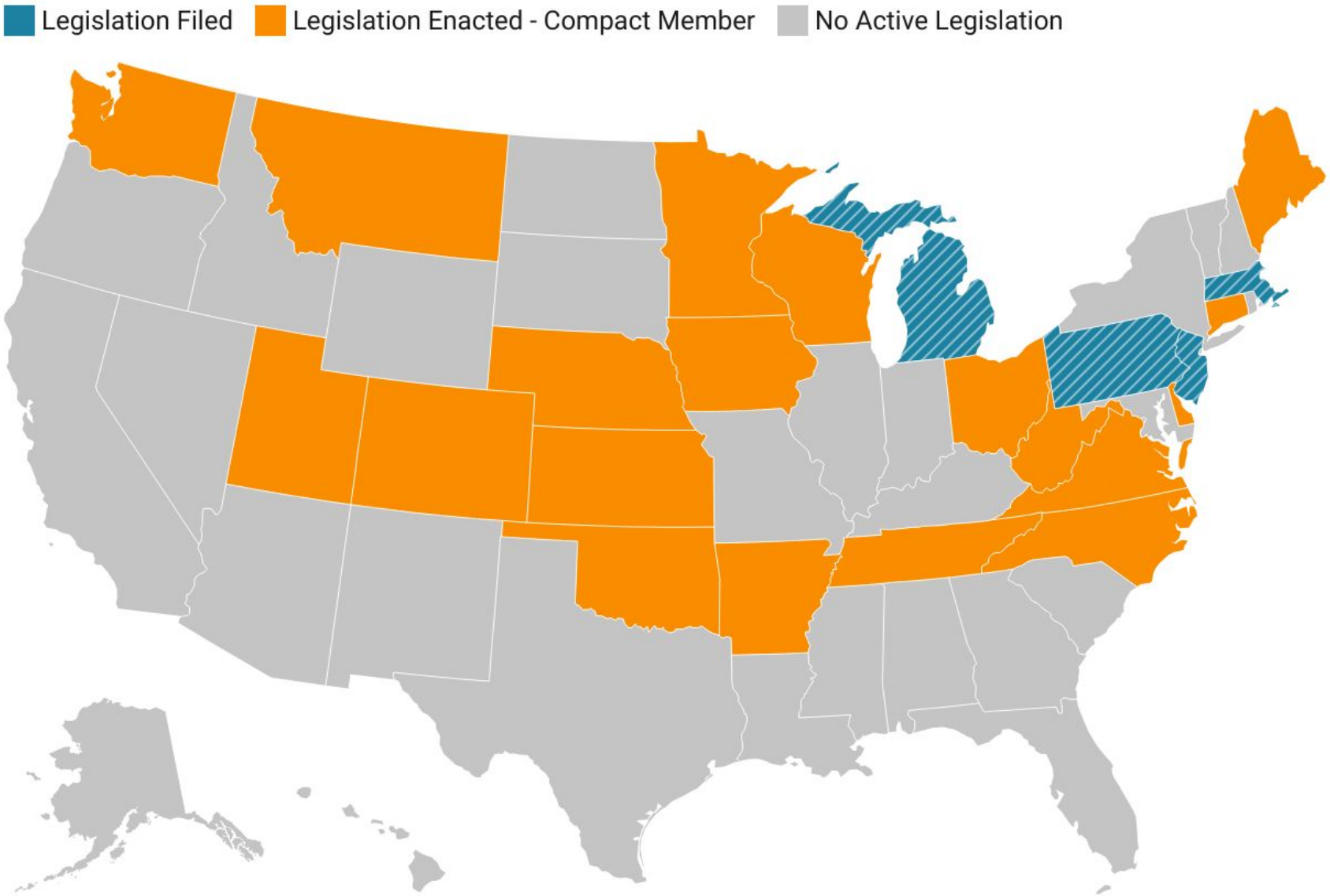
- A compact privilege must be individually applied for by a holder of a qualifying license
- States may issue a fee for each compact privilege they issue
- Compact privileges expire when the qualifying license expires
- PAs with a compact privilege must meet the requirements of each state's laws and regulations regarding supervision/collaboration, prescribing and scope of practice

Individual Requirements to Obtain Compact Privileges

- Have graduated from an accredited PA program
- Hold current NCCPA certification
- Have no felony or misdemeanor convictions
- Have never had a controlled substance license or permit suspended or revoked
- Have a unique identifier as determined by the Compact Commission

PA Licensure Compact Update

- The PA Licensure Compact was activated in 2024 when the threshold of a minimum of 7 states enacted the required legislation
- 19 states (AR, CO, CT, DE, IA, KS, ME, MN, MT, NC, NE, OH, OK, TN, UT, VA, WA, WV and WI) have enacted the model legislation
- 9 states considered legislation in 2025: IL, MA, MI, MO, NJ, NV, NY, OR and TX but none actually passed it
- As many as 15 states plan for introduction of legislation in 2026 including some of the above plus AL, AZ, GA, ND, PA, RI and SD
- The passage of the Rural Health Transformation Act in 2025 will likely stimulate more interest in new legislation



PA Licensure Compact Update

PA Licensure Compact Commission

The PA Licensure Compact Commission is an independent, semi-governmental entity that consists of one delegate from each state appointed by that state. The representative must be:

- A current PA, physician or public member of a Licensing Board or PA Council/Committee; or
- An administrator of a Licensing Board

PA Licensure Compact Commission Update

- Each state that has enacted the Compact appoints a Delegate to the PALC Commission
  - ✔ Of the 18 Delegates appointed to date, 5 (IA, MT, TN, VA and WI) are PAs; a PA (WI) is chairing the Communications Committee
  - ✔ 1 state (NC) is awaiting appointment of a Delegate
  - ✔ NCCPA and AAPA have appointed ex-officio, non-voting members to the Commission (both are PAs)
- CSG is acting as the interim Secretariat
  - ✔ External funding from NCCPA and AAPA supports CSG's role and each provided an initial grant of $150,000 in 2025 with plans for additional grants of $150,000 @ in 2026
  - ✔ In addition, a renewal grant from HRSA of $63,000 and a $15,000 grant from the FSMB Foundation have both been approved

PA Licensure Compact Commission Update

The PALC Commission held an inaugural meeting Sept 24-25, 2024 in Washington, DC

- ✔ The group elected Officers and an Executive Committee and established Bylaws and preliminary Rules
- ✔ There are 4 operational standing committees at this time: Executive, Finance, Communications and Rules
- ✔ Executive, Finance and Communications Committees have been meeting monthly via Zoom since October 2024 (a total of >30 meetings!) and delegates from NCCPA and AAPA are represented on all of those committees
- ✔ An in-person meeting of the full Commission was held at the FSMB conference on April 25, 2025 and a 2nd meeting was held on November 3, 2025 via Zoom
- ✔ Meetings of the Commission (and Committees) are open to the public but only Delegates can vote

PA Licensure Compact Commission Next Steps

- A PALC data system will need to be created to allow processing of applications and verification of required credentials
  - ✔ A Request for Information (RFI) was distributed earlier this year
  - ✔ Multiple parties expressed preliminary interest in providing this service and 5 (including NCCPA) responded to the RFI
  - ✔ 4 parties (including NCCPA) presented a brief overview/demonstration at the full Commission meeting on April 25, 2025
  - ✔ An RFP has been distributed with responses due by December 19, 2025
- Full operation of the PALC and granting of Compact Privileges is projected for early 2027

PA Licensure Compact Website

- The website www.pacompact.org is being managed by CSG and hosted by FSMB and is continually updated
- Ultimately, the website will transition to the PALC Commission and PAs will be able to apply for Compact Privileges through the website
- Since its creation in November 2022 through October 2025, there have been 142,028 pageviews by 62,261 users with 9,352 file downloads (2,132 of which were copies of the Model Legislation)

Additional Resources

https://www.pacompact.org/

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Compact Toolkit

- Model Legislation
- Section-by-Section Summary
- Reference Sheet for Legislative Testimony
- FAQ