



## Reference Sheet for Legislative Testimony or Letters to Legislators

This reference sheet provides summary information about the PA Compact, including its purpose, design, benefits and other important policy considerations, to support practitioners, regulators and other stakeholders who may provide legislative testimony or letters to state leaders.

### History of the PA Compact

The PA Compact is a joint initiative started in 2019 to improve licensure portability for physician assistants (PAs). The initiative is made possible through a partnership with the following organizations:

- Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), a nonprofit association comprised of medical and osteopathic licensing and disciplinary boards of the United States and its territories.
- American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), the national professional society for PAs.
- National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), the only certifying organization for PAs in the United States.

The Council of State Governments is providing technical assistance in the development of the compact and its consideration by states.

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of funding for grant #H1MRH24097. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

### About Licensure Compacts

The PA Compact is an interstate occupational licensure compact. Interstate compacts are constitutionally authorized, legislatively enacted, legally binding agreements among states. Interstate licensure compacts are developed through a collaborative and transparent process to establish uniform standards for participating states and licensees. Licensure compacts are administered by a compact commission, an interstate government agency comprised of delegates from compact member states. Licensure compacts also create a licensure data system to improve information sharing between compact member states, including disciplinary information.

As of 2022, there are nine licensure compacts in existence and eight licensure compacts in development, including the PA Compact.



## About the PA Compact

The PA compact will facilitate the ability of licensed PAs to practice in states that join the compact. Rather than having to obtain an individual license in every state in which they want to practice, PAs will be able to apply for a compact privilege through a streamlined process. The compact privilege provides the authorization to provide medical services and other licensed activity to a patient located in a particular compact state under that state's laws and regulations.

## Who can use the PA Compact?

PAs who hold an active, unencumbered license in a compact member state can use the compact to practice in other participating states, provided the practitioner:

- Has graduated from a program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc., or other programs authorized by commission rule.
- Holds current National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants certification.
- Passes the background checks and jurisprudence exams in the states where they want to practice, if required.
- Does not have any disqualifying criminal history.
- Does not have any limitations or restrictions on any license or Compact License in the previous two years.

Other requirements may apply. PAs should refer to the model compact legislation for a comprehensive list of requirements.

## Benefits of the Compact

### Practitioners and Patients:

- Facilitates multistate practice by reducing the burden of maintaining multiple licenses.
- Expands employment opportunities into new markets.
- Improves continuity of care when patients or providers relocate.
- Supports relocating military spouses.

### Regulators:

- Reduces application processing time.
- Provides access to investigative and disciplinary information for better public protection through an interstate data system.
- Increases cooperation among state licensure boards on regulation and discipline.
- Safeguards existing, applicable state laws and regulations for all patients within the state regardless of where the practitioner is located.
- Allows states to charge a fee for a compact privilege in that state.
- Preserves the current state-based licensure system.



### States:

- Promotes workforce development and strengthens labor markets.
- Expands consumer access to highly qualified practitioners.
- Preserves state sovereignty.
- Increases collaboration among states.
- Facilitates practitioner mobility during public health emergencies.

### **Other Policy Considerations**

- As with the existing licensure compacts, the PA Compact has no impact on a state's laws and regulations except as defined in the compact — this is not a takeover of state regulatory authority
- Practitioners are licensed in U.S. states, territories and Washington, D.C., with consistency in licensure requirements.
- The PA Compact legislation only permits the compact commission to promulgate rules directly related to the implementation and administration of the compact. The commission does not dictate policy to the states.

### **Further Assistance**

For further information and resources on the PA Compact, please visit <https://www.pacompact.org/>. If you are a bill sponsor or regulator and would like a policy expert to provide nonpartisan legislative testimony or an informational presentation, please reach out to [pacompact@csg.org](mailto:pacompact@csg.org).