

INTERSTATE LICENSURE COMPACT FAQs

Q: What is an Interstate Compact?

A: Interstate Compacts are legislatively authorized agreements among states. Like a contract, a compact establishes a formal, legal relationship among multiple states to address common problems within these states, without the involvement of the federal government.

Q: How many interstate compacts does Texas participate in?

A: Texas is currently a member of 38 interstate compacts, 5 which are related to professional licensing.

Q: What is an Interstate Licensure Compact?

A: Interstate Licensure Compacts seek to provide licensees with opportunities for multi-state practice and increase mobility for individuals who are relocating to another state while maintaining high standards of care and simultaneously reducing administrative burdens to licensure. They are an ideal solution for addressing state workforce needs.

Q: What are the benefits for licensees (dentists and dental hygienists)?

A: Benefits of a dental compact for dentists and dental hygienists include: facilitates mobility for licensees, increases access to care and continuity of services for patients and families, eases the administrative and economic burden of applying for and maintaining multiple licenses, expedites licensing process to serve Texans sooner, and leverages advances in technology such as teledentistry.

Q: How does a Dental Licensure compact benefit Texas?

A: Benefits for Texas include: allows state flexibility and autonomy in comparison to a “one-size-fits-all” federal policy solution, preserves state sovereignty (allows a state to control and enforce its own scope of practice), promotes workforce development, enhances public safety through a shared data system of licensure and disciplinary information, and expands consumer access to highly-qualified dental practitioners.

Q: How does a licensure compact benefit military- trained professionals?

A: Military families are highly mobile and reassigned to a new duty station every 2-3 years. Compacts reduce barriers to employment and career development for military spouses in licensed professions.

Q: What other professions are considering NEW Interstate Compacts in Texas?

A: Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact, Audiology and Speech-Language Compact, Cosmetology Compact, Counseling Compact, Dietician Compact, Occupational Therapy Compact, Physician Assistant Compact, and Social Work Licensure Compact.

Q: What is the next step for obtaining an Interstate Dental Compact in Texas?

A: A legislative bill will be filed during the 2025 legislative session. TDHA will be reaching out to all hygienists for help in educating our legislators about the benefits a dental compact will bring to Texans.