



The Council  
of State  
Governments

# SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT

Review of Model Legislation



# The Council of State Governments

Founded in 1933, CSG is our nation's only organization serving all three branches of state government.

## Scope

The nation's only organization serving all three branches of state government

## Membership

CSG is a region-based membership organization that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy

## Mission

Champion excellence in state governments in order to advance the common good

@CSGovts | [csg.org](https://www.csg.org)

# National Center for Interstate Compacts (NCIC)

- Exists within The CSG Center of Innovation
- Seeks to help states work cooperatively to solve mutual issues and meet shared goals
- Serves as an:
  1. Information clearinghouse
  2. Provider of training and technical assistance
  3. Primary facilitator for assisting states in the review, revision and creation of new interstate compacts



Multistate Problem Solving  
with Interstate Compacts

# What is an interstate compact?

A legal contract between two or more states that allows states to:



#1 Cooperatively address shared problems

#2 Maintain sovereignty over issues belonging to states

#3 Respond to national priorities with one voice

# Occupational Licensing Interstate Compacts

Facilitate  
Multistate  
Practice

Maintain or  
Improve Public  
Health and  
Safety

Preserve State  
Authority Over  
Professional  
Licensing



44 states (+ DC, Guam, USVI) have adopted at least 1 compact.  
35 states (+ DC) have adopted at least 3 compacts.



Over 220 pieces of occupational licensure compact legislation  
have been enacted since January 2016.



9 professions have active interstate compacts for  
occupational licensing.

# Active Occupational Licensing Interstate Compacts

Nurse Licensure  
Compact – 39

Psychology  
Interjurisdictional  
Compact – 31

Occupational Therapy  
Compact – 21

Medical Licensure  
Compact – 38

EMS Compact – 21

Counseling Compact  
– 14

Physical Therapy  
Compact – 34

Audiology and  
Speech Language  
Pathology Compact –  
22

Advanced Practice  
Nursing Compact – 3

# Occupational Licensing Interstate Compacts Under Development

Cosmetology and Barbering

Physician Assistant

Dentistry and Dental Hygiene

Social Work

Massage Therapy

K-12 Teaching

School Psychologists

Dieticians and Nutritionists



# Compact Development Process

## Phase I Development

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GROUP

- Composed of approximately 20 state officials, stakeholders and issue experts
- Examines issues, current policy, best practices and alternative structures
- Establishes recommendations as to the content of an interstate compact

### COMPACT DOCUMENT TEAM

- Composed of 5 to 8 state officials, stakeholders, and issue experts
- Crafts compact based on Technical Assistance Group recommendations
- **Circulates draft compact to states and stakeholder groups for comment**

### FINAL PRODUCT

- Drafting team considers comments and incorporates into compact
- Final product sent to TA group
- Released to states for consideration

## Phase II Education and Enactment

### EDUCATION

- Develop comprehensive legislative resource kit
- Develop informational website with state-by-state tracking and support documents
- Convene “National Briefing” to educate legislators and key state officials

### STATE SUPPORT

- Develop network of “champions”
- Provide on-site technical support and assistance
- Provide informational testimony to legislative committees

### STATE ENACTMENTS

- Track and support state enactments
- Prepare for transition and implementation of compact
- Provide requested support as needed

## Phase III Transition and Operation

### TRANSITION

- Enactment threshold met
- State notification
- Interim Executive Board appointed
- Interim Committee’s established
- Convene first Compact meeting
- Information system development (standards, security, vendors)

### OPERATION

- Ongoing state control and governance
- Staff support
- Annual assessment, if necessary
- Annual business meeting
- Information system oversight (maintenance, security, training, etc.)
- Long-term enhancements / up-grades

# Stakeholder Review

- 1 Draft compact circulated and published online for public review
- 2 Virtual meetings to explain provisions of the compact
- 3 Provide comments and feedback through survey
- 4 Development Teams consider feedback and edit the compact as needed
- 5 Released to states for consideration and enactment



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# Overview of the Social Work Licensure Compact

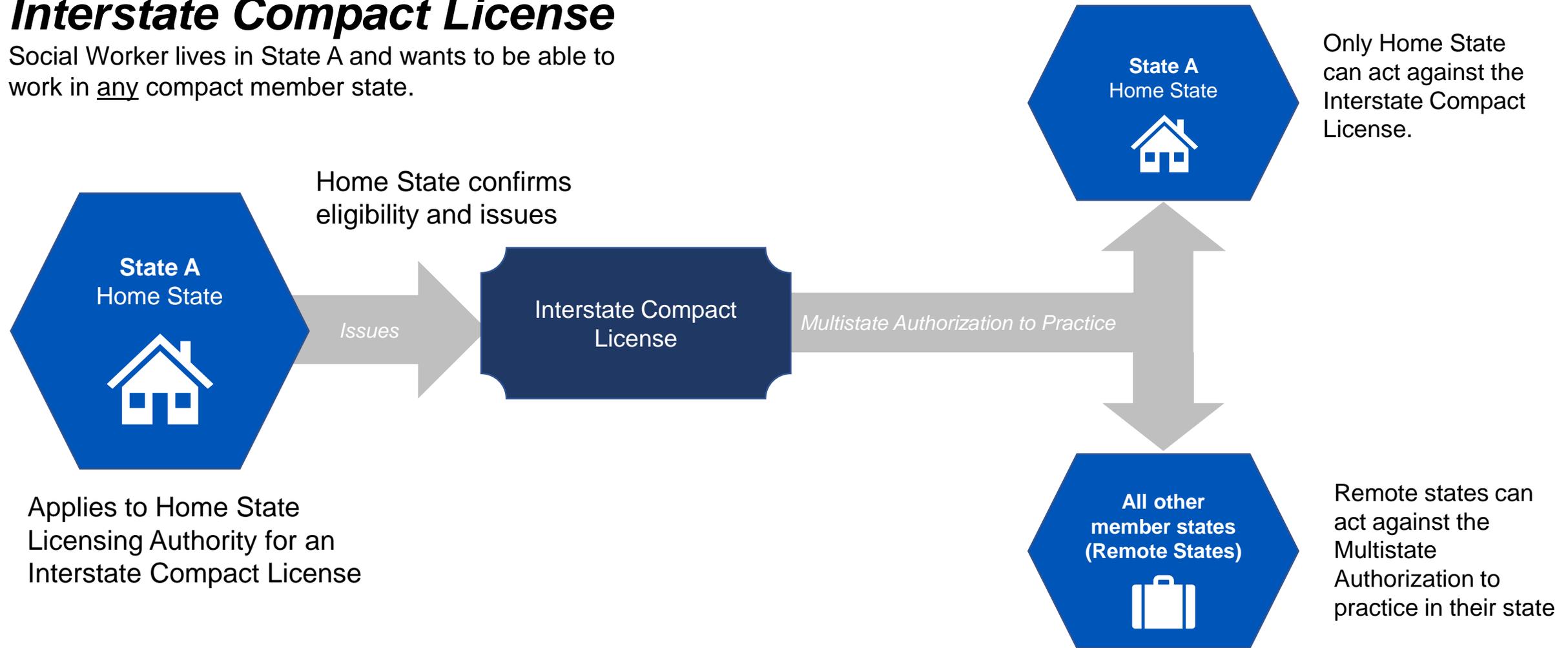
# Commonly Used Terms

Social Work Licensure Compact Defined Term	What does it mean?
Regulated Social Worker	Social Worker who holds a license to practice
Home State	Compact Member State where a Regulated Social Worker is Domiciled
Remote State	Compact Member State other than a Regulated Social Worker's Home State
Interstate Compact License	License granted by the compact that authorizes practice in all compact member states
Multistate Authorization to Practice	Authorization granted through an Interstate Compact License to practice in a single Remote State
Compact Commission or Commission	Agency responsible for administering the compact

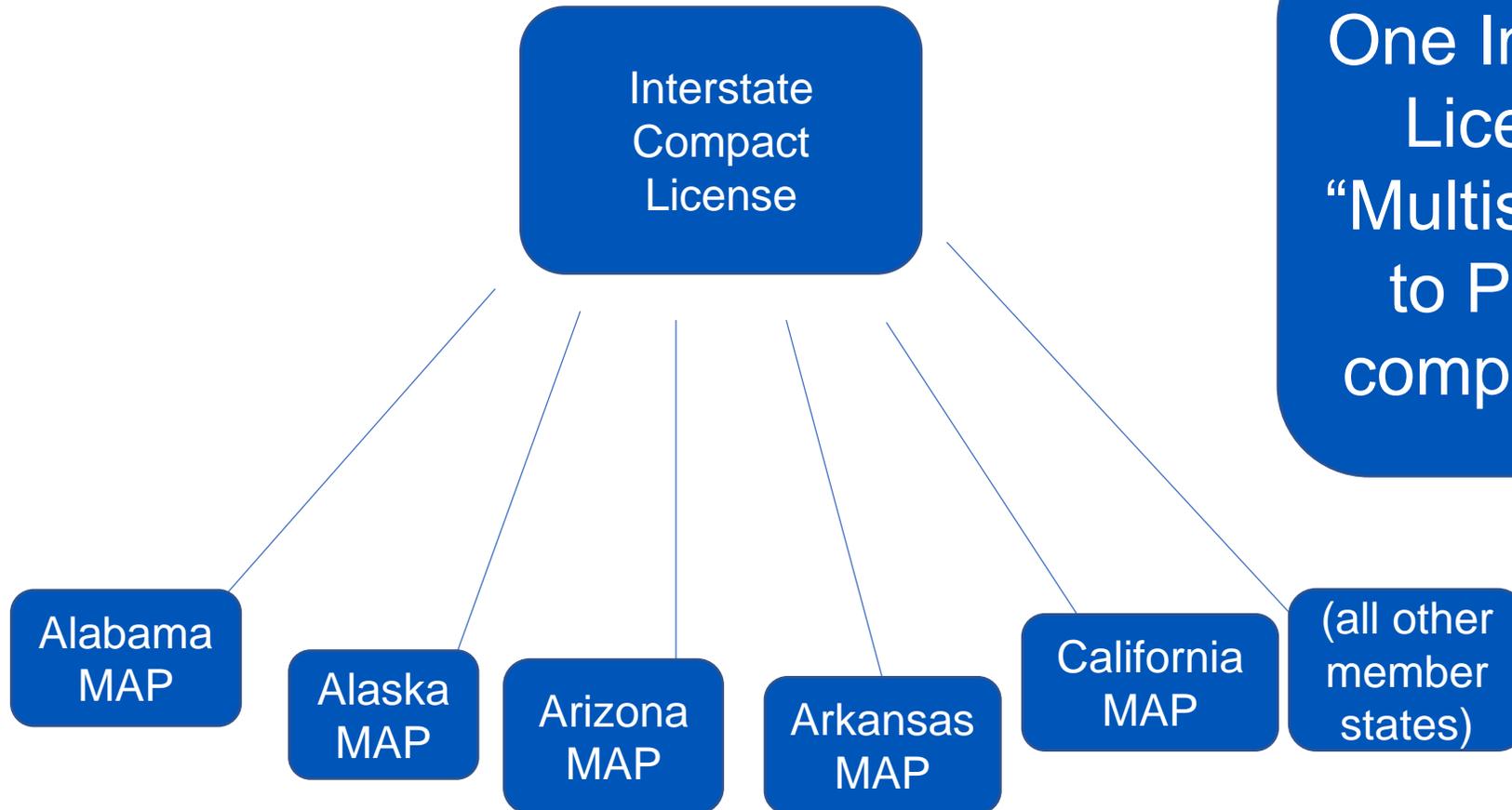
# Social Work Licensure Compact Model

## ***Interstate Compact License***

Social Worker lives in State A and wants to be able to work in any compact member state.



# Interstate Compact License



One Interstate Compact License grants you “Multistate Authorization to Practice” in every compact member state

# State Requirements to Join the Compact



License and regulate social work in one or more of the following categories: bachelors, masters or clinical



Require licensees graduate from an accredited social work program corresponding to category of license sought (BSW or higher for Bachelors, MSW or higher for Masters and Clinical)



Require licensees pass Qualifying National Exam corresponding to category of license sought (ASWB Exam or other competency assessment approved by the Commission)

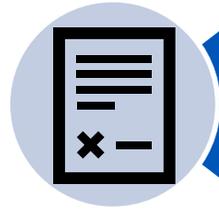


Require clinical-category Regulated Social Workers complete a period of supervised clinical practice

# State Participation in the Compact



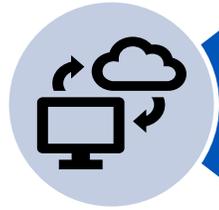
Notify the commission of discipline actions taken against a licensee



Comply with the rules of the Commission



Implement and utilize a criminal history or background check of applicants for licensure



Participate in the Data System

# Eligibility Requirements for Social Workers



Hold an active, Unencumbered License in a compact Member State



Graduate from an accredited social work program corresponding to category of license sought (BSW or higher for Bachelors, MSW or higher for Masters and Clinical)



Pass a Qualifying National Exam corresponding to category of license sought (those licensed prior to exam requirement will be exempted)

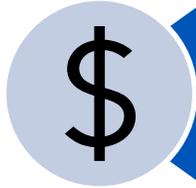


Clinical Social Workers must have completed three thousand (3,000) hours or two years of full-time, post-graduate supervised clinical practice

# Social Worker Participation in the Compact



Hold and maintain a unique identifier as determined by the Commission



Pay all required fees related to the application



Complete the continuing competency/education requirements of the Home State



Notify the Home State License Authority of any Adverse Action, Encumbrance or Restriction on ANY professional license within 30 days



Agree to abide by the laws, regulations and scope of practice of the state where client is located

# Interstate Compact License Transfer

A Regulated Social Worker moves from one Member State to another Member State



Regulated Social Workers may only hold one Interstate Compact License at a time. States may opt-in to a set of provisions allowing a Regulated Social Worker to seamlessly transfer an Interstate Compact License to a new Home State if/when a Regulated Social Worker moves (defined in the compact as change of domicile). States using this provision can confirm a Regulated Social Worker's eligibility via the compact Data System.

# Summary of other significant provisions



## Section 7: Adverse Action

The compact provides a regulatory framework whereby remote states can act against a regulated social worker's multistate authorization to practice in the remote state, while the home state has exclusive authority to take action against the social worker's interstate compact license.



## Section 8: Establishment of the Compact Commission

Member states must appoint 1 delegate and the delegate must be a current member of the state's licensing authority who is either a:

- a. Regulated social worker
- b. Public member of the member state's licensing authority
- c. An administrator or director of the member state's licensing authority OR their designee



## Section 9: Data System

To function, the compact requires the Commission to develop, maintain and operate a data system containing licensure, Adverse Action and Current Significant Investigative Information on all licensees.



## Section 10: Rulemaking

The compact gives the Commission the power to promulgate rules in order to effectively and efficiently implement and administer the purposes and provisions.

# Summary of other significant provisions



## Section 11: Oversight, Dispute Resolution and Enforcement

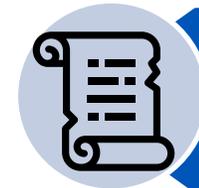


## Section 12: Effective Date, Withdrawal and Amendment

The compact shall come into effect and the commission established once the Compact legislation has been enacted by a seventh member state.



## Section 13: Construction and Severability



## Section 14: Binding Effect of Compact and Other Laws

# Next Steps

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Weekly Stakeholder Review Meetings  
Every Monday beginning July 18 @ 3 pm ET

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Request a presentation for your stakeholder group  
(CSWA, ASWB, CSWE)

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Submit feedback via the survey

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Compact development teams review survey  
feedback and edit model legislation as necessary

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Compact released to states for consideration  
(targeting 2023 legislative sessions)

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# Stakeholder Survey



Interested in providing feedback on the draft of the compact?



Fill out survey questionnaire:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/socialworkcompact>



<https://compacts.csg.org/compact-updates/social-work/>

## Social Work Stakeholder Review Survey

### Feedback Survey

Thank you for participating in the stakeholder review process for the Social Work Licensure Compact. The Council of State Governments and our partners value community feedback and your participation will help shape the Compact to best serve regulators and social workers. This survey will take about 30 minutes. You are not required to provide a response to each question.

If you have additional thoughts or questions not covered in the presentation visit:

<https://compacts.csg.org/compact-updates/social-work/> or reach out to our staff at [socialworkcompact@csg.org](mailto:socialworkcompact@csg.org).

Click "Next" to begin survey.

NEXT

# FAQs

1. What is an “Interstate Compact License” and how much does it cost?
2. What is a compact member state? What is a home state? What is a remote state?
3. What do social workers do when practicing in a remote state with scope of practice rules that are different from their home state?
4. What is a Qualifying National Exam? If I already passed the ASWB exam do I need to pass another exam?
5. How do social workers renew an interstate compact license? Do licensees have to complete continuing education in each member state?
6. What is the Compact Commission? How is it funded?



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# QUESTIONS?

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