

PA Licensure Compact: Status and Updates

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Agenda

- History of the PA Compact
- Specifics on the PA Compact
- Next Steps for the PA Compact
- Select Compact Topics
- Q&A



History of the PA Compact



History of the PA Compact

The PA 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:

- Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB)
- American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA)
- National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)

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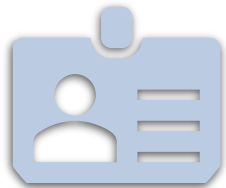
Specifics of the PA Compact



How it Works



By enacting the compact legislation, compact member states agree to mutually recognize the unrestricted licenses of other compact member states via a Compact Privilege



The Compact Privilege is the authorization for a PA to practice in another compact member state



Qualified PAs in a compact member state may apply for a Compact Privilege in each compact member state they wish to practice in

PA 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 recognition
- Offers a high degree of patient protection across state lines



Compact Privileges

- A compact privilege must be obtained in each compact state where a PA wants to practice
- States and the Compact Commission may charge a fee for each compact privilege issued
- Compact privileges expire when the qualifying license expires (renewal fees may apply)
- PAs must meet the state specific requirements for practice (collaboration or supervision, prescription, jurisprudence exams, etc)
- PAs must abide by the laws and regulations of the state where services are being provided



**National Center for
Interstate Compacts**
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

How to Get a Compact Privilege



Benefits for Patients



Increases access
to services



Improves continuity
of care



Promotes practitioner diversity



Enhances patient protection



Benefits for Practitioners



Authorizes practice in
compact member
states



Reduces time and
effort needed to
practice



Includes telehealth



Benefits for Regulators



States retain control of
scope of practice



States retain control of
initial licensure process



Compacts facilitate the
exchange of licensure and
disciplinary information



Compacts improve
cooperation in regulating the
profession



Compact Requirements

State Requirements to Join the Compact

- Includes prerequisites for a state to join the compact
- Includes participation requirements after a state joins

Individual Requirements to Participate in the Compact

- Requirements to be completed prior to being issued compact privileges
- Include automatic disqualifiers which can prohibit PAs from obtaining a compact privilege

Requirements for a State to Join the PA Compact

Licensure Requirements

- License PAs
- Utilize passage of a recognized national exam such as the NCCPA PANCE as a requirement for PA licensure
- Grant the compact privilege to a holder of a qualifying license in another state participating in the compact

Public Protection

- Fully implement a criminal background check requirement
- Have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints against licensees and license applicants
- Notify the commission of any adverse action against or significant investigation information of a licensee or license applicant

Compact Commission Participation

- Participate in the compact commission
- Comply with the rules of the compact commission

Requirements for an Individual to obtain compact privileges

License, Certification, and Education Qualifications

- Hold an unrestricted license issued by a participating compact state to provide medical services as a PA
- Have graduated from an accredited PA program
- Hold current NCCPA certification

Public Protection Requirements

- Have no felony or misdemeanor convictions
- Have never had a controlled substance license or permit suspended or revoked
- Have no limitation or restriction on any state license or compact privilege in the previous two years
- Have never had a controlled substance license, permit, or registration suspended or revoked by a State or by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

Compact Privilege Process

- Notify the compact commission of their intent to seek the compact privilege in a remote state
- Meet any jurisprudence requirements in the remote state
- Report to the commission any adverse action taken by a non-member state within 30 days after the action is taken

Provisions Respecting Individual State Laws and Regulations

States CAN

- ✓ Investigate compact privilege holders for action taken in their state
- ✓ Act on a privilege issued by their state
- ✓ Participate in joint investigations with other member states

States CAN'T

- ✗ Act on a privilege issued by another member state
- ✗ Deny a privilege or investigate a PA for lawful action in another state
- ✗ Specify the laws and regulations a PA must follow in a remote state

PA Compact Privilege holders must always abide by the laws and regulations of the state where the patient is located

What does the PA Compact mean for...

Scenario #1

- PA that is licensed in State X (a compact member state)
- PA is not interested in practicing in other states through the compact
- PA Compact is optional – traditional licensure application and renewal process unchanged

Scenario #2

- PA that is licensed in State X (a compact member state)
- Ineligible to apply for a compact privilege because of a recent adverse action against their license (within the past two years)
- PA Compact is one pathway to licensure – the PA can explore traditional licensure process or other licensure portability pathways that they might otherwise qualify for

Scenario #3

- PA that is licensed in State X and wishes to practice State Y (X is not a member state, Y is a member state)
- The PA is not able to access the compact since State X is not a member

What does the PA Compact mean for...

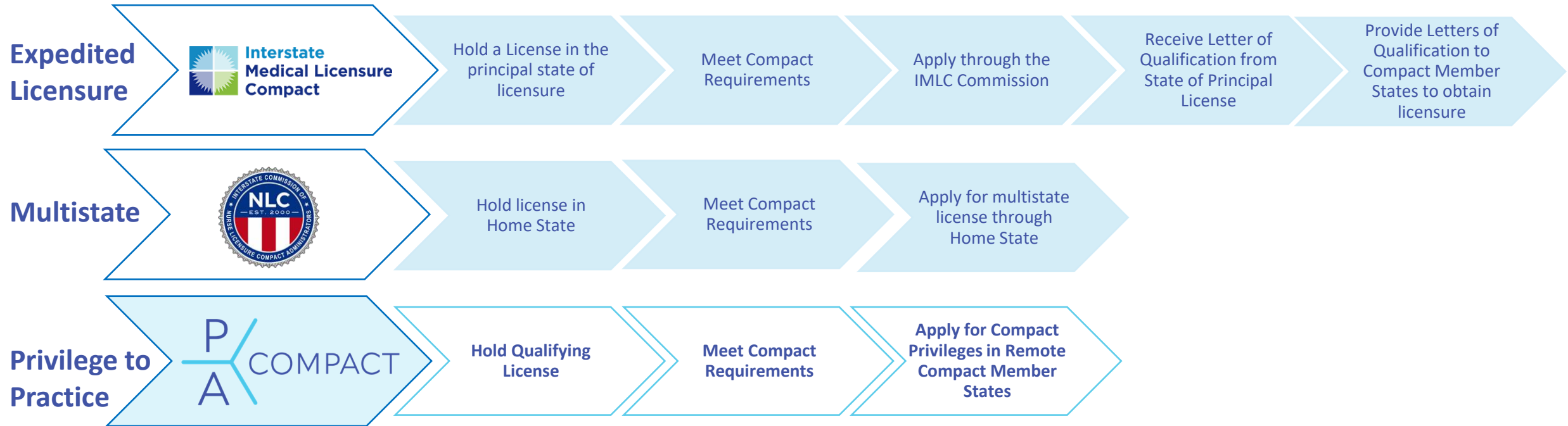
Scenario #4

- PA that is licensed in State X and wishes to provide telehealth services in States Y and Z (all compact member states)
- The PA would use their qualifying license of State X to apply for a privilege to practice for each state
- The PA would abide by all laws and regulations of States Y and Z when providing services in that state

Scenario #5

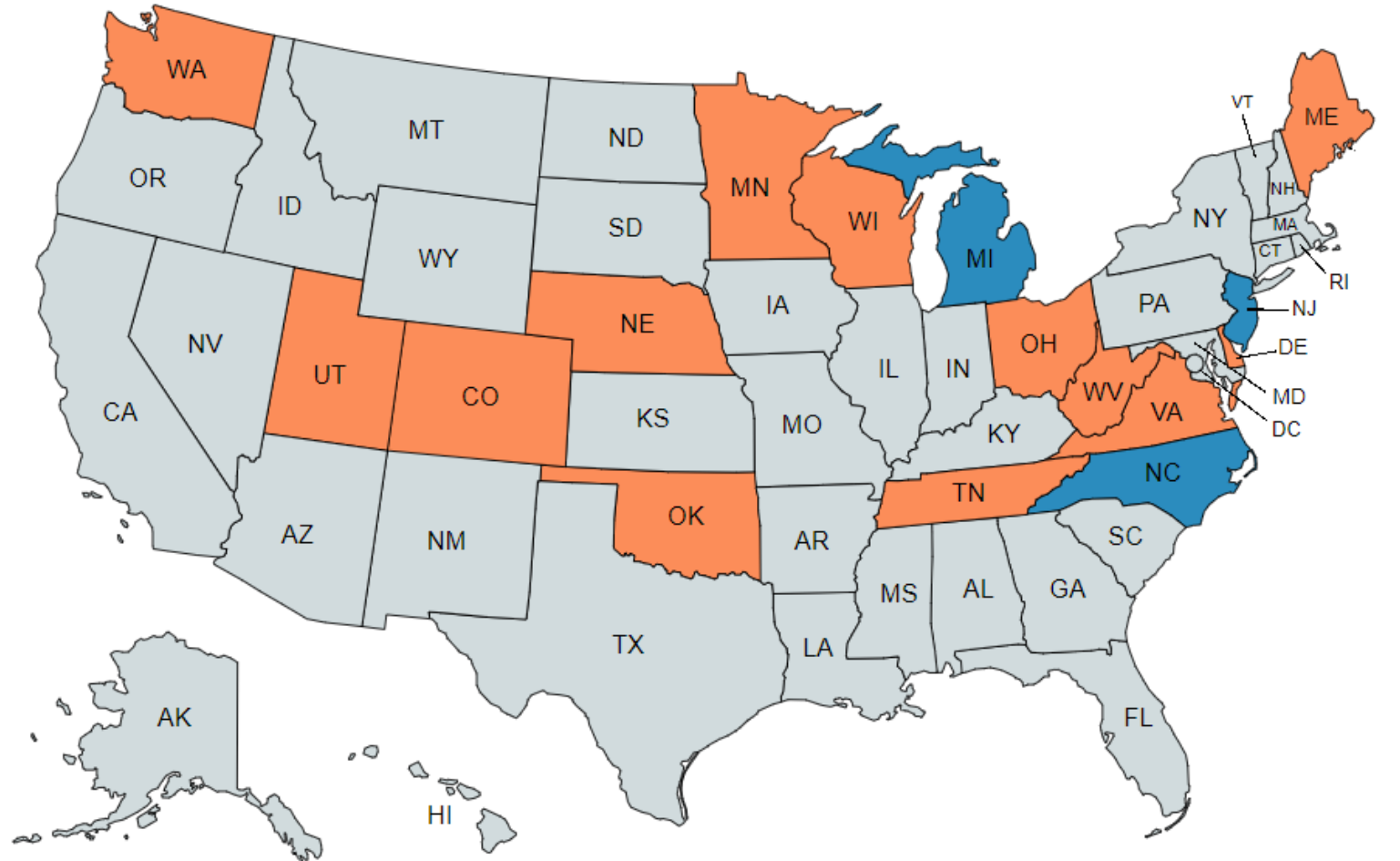
- PA who lives in State X, is licensed in State Y, and now wishes to also provide services in State Z (State X is the only non-compact member state)
- PA would use qualifying license of State Y to apply for a privilege to practice in State Z

Pathways to Practice for Healthcare Compacts



The PA Compact: Where are we now?

- The PA Compact started being introduced in states in 2023
- 13 states have joined the compact
- The compact reached its activation threshold, meaning the compact commission has convened and begun the first steps to operationalize the compact



■ Legislation enacted
■ Legislation still pending

The PA Compact Commission

The PA Compact Commission will consist of one delegate from each state. The delegate must be:

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

The PA Compact: Where are we going?

- Inaugural Compact Commission meeting held Sept. 24-25 in Washington, DC
- The Commission will work to operationalize the compact including hiring staff, developing a data system, and writing rules
- Typically, it takes 2-3 years for a compact commission to become operationalize



The PA Compact: Where are we going?

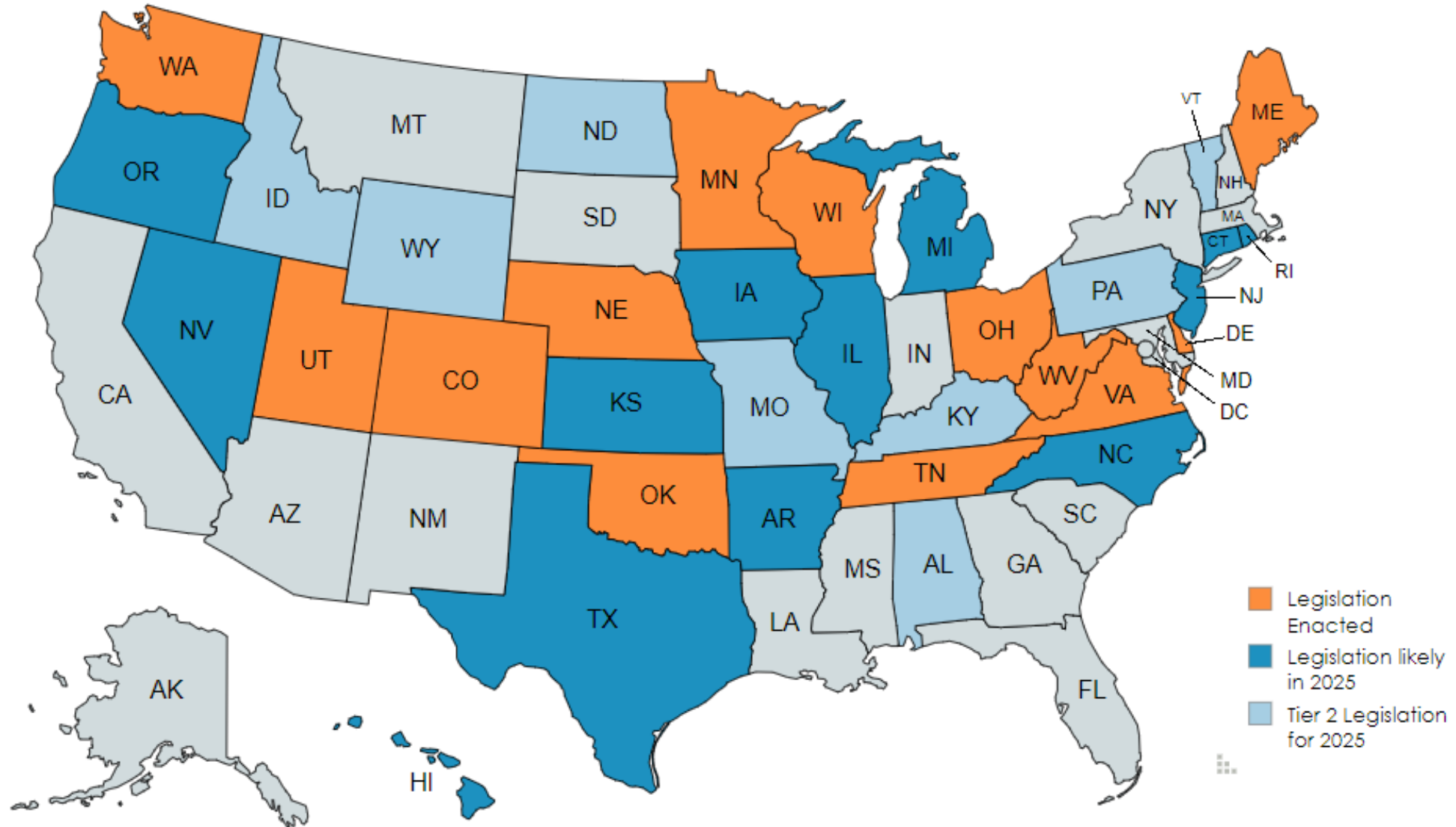


The Compact Commission elected the following individuals for their Executive Committee:

- Timothy E. Terranova (Maine), Chair
- Marisa Courtney (Washington), Chair
- Larry Marx (Utah), Treasurer
- Jamie Alley (West Virginia), Secretary
- Elizabeth Huntley, JD, CMBE (Minnesota), At-Large
- Paula E. Martinez, MBA (Colorado), At-Large
- Justin Hepner, PA-C (Virginia), At-Large



The PA Compact: Where are we going?



Select Compact Topics



Scope of Practice

- Scope of practice is preserved with a state's participation in the PA compact
- PAs practicing under the compact must abide by the laws and regulations of where the patient is located / where they are providing services

Section 2. Definitions

“Compact Privilege” means the authorization granted by a Remote State to allow a Licensee from another Participating State to practice as a PA to provide Medical Services and other licensed activity to a patient located in the Remote State under the Remote State's laws and regulations.



Collaboration / Supervision Requirements

- State collaboration and supervision requirements are preserved with a state's participation in the PA compact
- PAs must follow collaboration and supervision requirements of the state where the patient is located.
- The compact provides PAs the authorization to practice from a licensure aspect. PA professionals may be subject to other requirements in order to legally practice, including supervision/collaboration and prescribing authority requirements.



Adverse Actions

- **A Participating State** in which a PA is licensed shall have exclusive power to impose adverse action against the qualifying license issued by that participating state
- **Remote states** shall have the authority to remove a compact privilege and issue subpoenas
- Compact member states may participate in joint investigations



Continuing Medical Education (CME)

- PAs are required to meet the CME requirements of the state in which they hold a qualifying license
- PAs must also maintain current NCCPA certification, which requires continuing education
- PAs will not need to complete additional continuing education units for states where they hold compact privileges



Cost to the States

- Participating states charge a fee for the compact privilege, as well as a re-privileging fee.
- Not able to provide a specific quote; state fiscal impacts vary. Advice to states is to look at past experiences with onboarding other compact systems (e.g., PT compact)
- Costs to states for the compact will involve onboarding/integrating a state's existing data system to the compact data system – dependent on state. Compact commission will consider different elements in the design of the system it creates. Generally compact systems are designed so that the system is able to meet states where they are at technologically and to minimize the cost to onboarding as much as possible.



Background Checks

- The background check provides an important feature to achieve “borderless practice.”
- This state requirement for compact participation allows the compact commission discretion of when participating states must fully meet this requirement; compact commission rules will further provide clarity on the specifics of the requirement.
- Issues with FBI: The SHARE Act (H.R. 1310) makes technical correction to authorize the FBI to share criminal history record information between states for licensure purposes



Questions?

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<http://pacompact.org>

