



2019 Legislative Session

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact – SB 97

Purpose

The purpose of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact is to expedite and simplify the process for physicians (and state boards) of applying for and obtaining medical licenses in multiple states. The Compact counters the efforts by some lawmakers and stakeholders who seek to federalize or nationalize the medical licensure system. This is not a national license – licenses via the Compact are issued by individual state boards.

Structure

Interstate compacts are formal agreements between states that are enacted by state legislatures. Compact terms cannot be modified (beyond minor state legislative formatting requirements) unilaterally by any one state’s legislation. The Compact does not change a state’s Medical Practice Act. Instead, it creates an additional and voluntary pathway for licensure that would grant the same full and unrestricted license to practice medicine as the physician would receive if applying through state licensure processes one state board at a time.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for multiple licenses under the Compact, the physician must:

- * Possess a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in a Compact state;
- * Successfully complete a graduate medical education (GME) program;
- * Possess specialty certification or be in possession of a time unlimited specialty certificate;
- * Have passed the USMLE or COMLEX within 3 attempts;
- * Have no history of discipline on any state medical license;
- * Have no history of discipline related to controlled substances;
- * Not be under investigation by any licensing agency or law enforcement;

Physicians ineligible to participate in the Compact are still eligible to apply for as many state medical licenses as they wish through the existing state medical board licensing processes.

The Compact does NOT require Maintenance of Certification (MOC) at any stage of the process. Specialty certification is only a requirement as an entry point into the Compact expedited licensing process. No state medical board requires MOC as a condition of licensure renewal; therefore, MOC will not be required of physicians participating in the Compact process.

The Interstate Commission

Under the Compact, a physician would apply and have their eligibility verified by a member state (selected by the physician as the “State of Principal Licensure”), which will communicate the necessary information to an Interstate Commission. The Commission, which would have two state medical board representatives from every participating state, would then facilitate the sharing of information and licensure fees with those Compact states that the physician selects for additional licensure.

Upon receipt of the information from the Commission, the selected states will issue a license to practice medicine in that state. In addition to the license fee set by each state medical board, there is also an application/service fee of \$700 for the applying physician, \$300 of which shall be remitted to the applicant's state of principal licensure and \$400 of which shall be remitted to the Commission's general fund.

Complaints/Investigation/Discipline

A physician must comply with all statutes, rules and regulations (including for licensure renewal) of the state where he or she obtains medical licensure under the Compact. The Compact establishes a new system of sharing of complaint and investigative information between medical boards and allows for joint investigations. Any disciplinary action on a license issued by a member state under the Compact may be subject to discipline by other member states. The Commission does not issue or revoke licenses – it serves in an administrative role only. Only state medical boards may issue or revoke licenses.

Track Record

The Compact was developed by representatives of state medical boards from across the country, with input from key health care stakeholders, beginning in April 2013, and supported by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and Council of State Governments (CSG). After the minimum number of seven (7) states to enact the Compact was achieved and rules were promulgated by the Commission during a year-long process, the Commission began processing applications in April 2017. The first application resulted in receiving a license in 12 days. Through September 30, 2018, more than 1,800 physicians have utilized the Compact to secure more than 3,400 medical licenses and 500 license renewals.

National Support

The Compact has the support of nearly 30 state medical and osteopathic boards, as well as a number of hospitals, health systems, patient advocacy, and medical provider/specialty organizations across the nation, including: American Medical Association, American Osteopathic Association, American College of Physicians, Council of Medical Specialty Societies, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Dermatology, American Academy of Neurology, National Association Medical Staff Services, and the Society of Hospital Medicine. The Compact has been enacted in 24 states, 1 territory, and the District of Columbia.

New Mexico Medical Society asks for support for the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact to be adopted in New Mexico.

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