



Interstate Massage Compact

Development Process

The Department of Defense has sought to support the development of interstate compacts as a mechanism for ensuring the professional licenses of military spouses are easily portable. In September 2020, the Department of Defense entered into a cooperative agreement with The Council of State Governments to fund the creation of new interstate compacts designed to strengthen occupational licensing portability. In collaboration with the Department of Defense, CSG developed and administered a competitive application process to select the professions for initial compact development in late 2020 and early 2021. Eligible applicants included associations of professionals, associations or federations of state licensing boards, coalitions of state licensing boards and national credentialing bodies for professions licensed in at least 30 states.

In 2021, the Department of Defense and CSG announced the selection of massage therapists as one of the first-round professions, partnering with the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards as the partner organization. To develop recommendations guiding the drafting of the Interstate Massage Compact, CSG and the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards brought together a technical assistance group made up of legislators, state board regulators, members of professional associations, licensed massage therapists and other stakeholders. The group met over the course of several months to determine the needs of the profession and the model needed for massage therapist mobility patterns and licensure systems. A separate drafting team transitioned the recommendations and model from the technical assistance group into a full draft of the Interstate Massage Compact model legislation.

Technical Assistance Group Members:

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To gather public comment on the draft legislation, CSG managed a review process during the fall of 2022. This included virtual presentations made available to the public that included CSG providing insight on the draft legislation and answering questions. CSG and the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards also attended several conferences and convenings to present the compact to interested stakeholder groups. Lastly, CSG published a website that featured the draft legislation, informational materials, and a survey for the public to submit feedback. After gathering responses, CSG reconvened the drafting team and technical assistance group to discuss and make changes, leading to a final draft.