



Board of Behavioral Sciences

Memo

1625 North Market Blvd., Suite S-200
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 574-7830, (916) 574-8625 Fax
www.bbs.ca.gov

To: Board Members

Date: February 17, 2025

From: Steve Sodergren
Executive Officer

Subject: Social Work Compact Presentation

Kaitlyn Bison of The Council of State Governments will present an overview of the Social Work Licensure Compact.

Attachments

Attachment A: CGS Overview of Social Work Compact

Blank Page

Social Work Licensure Compact Overview

Kaitlyn Bison, The Council of State Governments



1



The Council of State Governments

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

Scope	Membership	Mission
The nation's only organization serving all three branches of state government	CSG is a region-based membership organization that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy	Champion excellence in state governments in order to advance the common good

@CSGovts | csg.org

2

National Center for Interstate Compacts (NCIC)

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



Multistate Problem Solving
with Interstate Compacts

3

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



4

Occupational Licensing Interstate Compacts

Facilitate Multistate Practice

Maintain or Improve Public Health and Safety

Preserve State Authority Over Professional Licensing



52 states and territories have adopted at least 1 compact.
42 states (+ DC) have adopted at least 3 compacts.



370+ pieces of occupational licensure compact legislation have been enacted since January 2016.



18 professions have active interstate compacts for occupational licensing.

5

Active Occupational Licensing Interstate Compacts

Nurse Licensure Compact – 43

Counseling Compact – 38

Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact - 14

PA Compact- 13

Medical Licensure Compact – 42

Audiology and Speech Language Pathology Compact – 34

Advanced Practice Nursing Compact – 4

School Psychology Compact– 2

Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact – 42

Occupational Therapy Compact – 31

Cosmetology Compact – 8

Social Work Compact - 22

Physical Therapy Compact – 40

EMS Compact – 24

Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact - 10

Dietitian Licensure Compact - 4

6

BENEFITS OF THE SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT FOR LICENSEES



Eases mobility for licensees



Expands employment opportunities into new markets



Allows social workers to continue caring for clients who are moving to a new jurisdiction or who frequently relocate



Leverages technological innovations like telehealth



Supports relocating military spouses and families

7

BENEFITS OF THE SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT FOR REGULATORS



Reduces application processing time



Provides access to investigative and disciplinary information about licensees



Expands cooperation among state licensure boards on investigations and disputes



Enhances public safety

8

BENEFITS OF THE SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT FOR STATES



Provides a tool for addressing workforce shortages and strengthening labor markets



Expands consumer access to highly qualified social workers



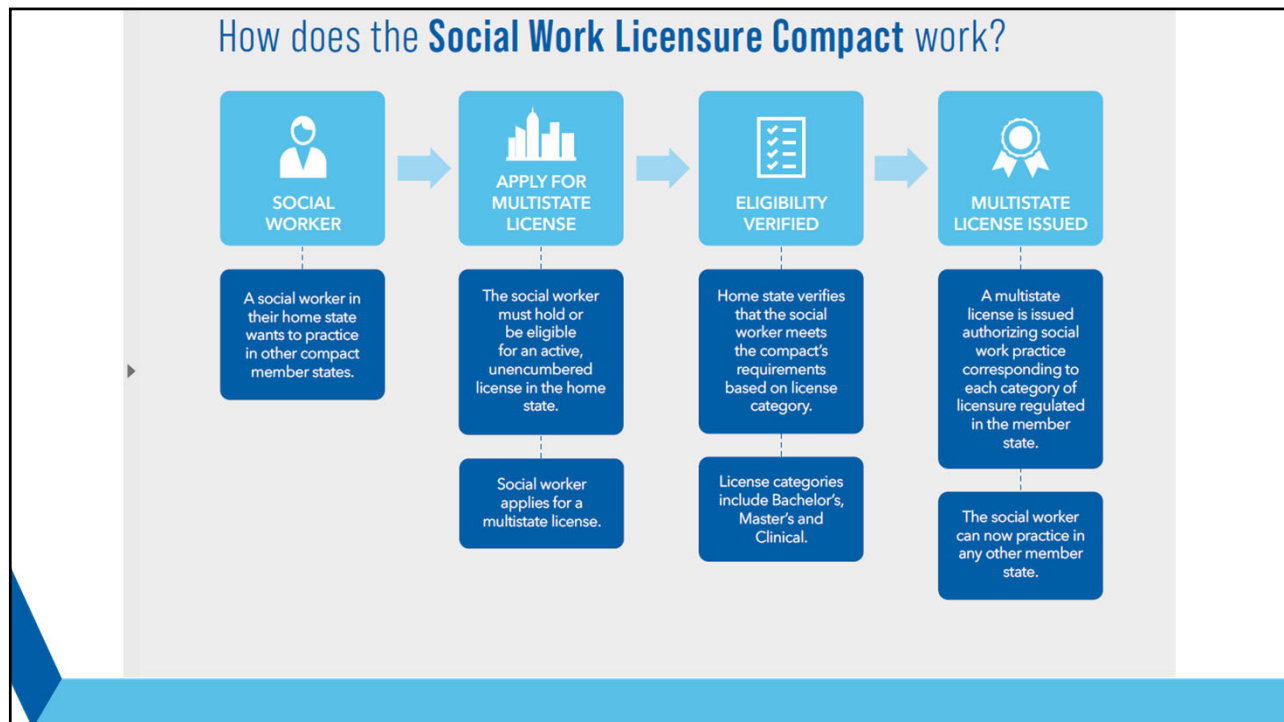
Preserves state sovereignty

9

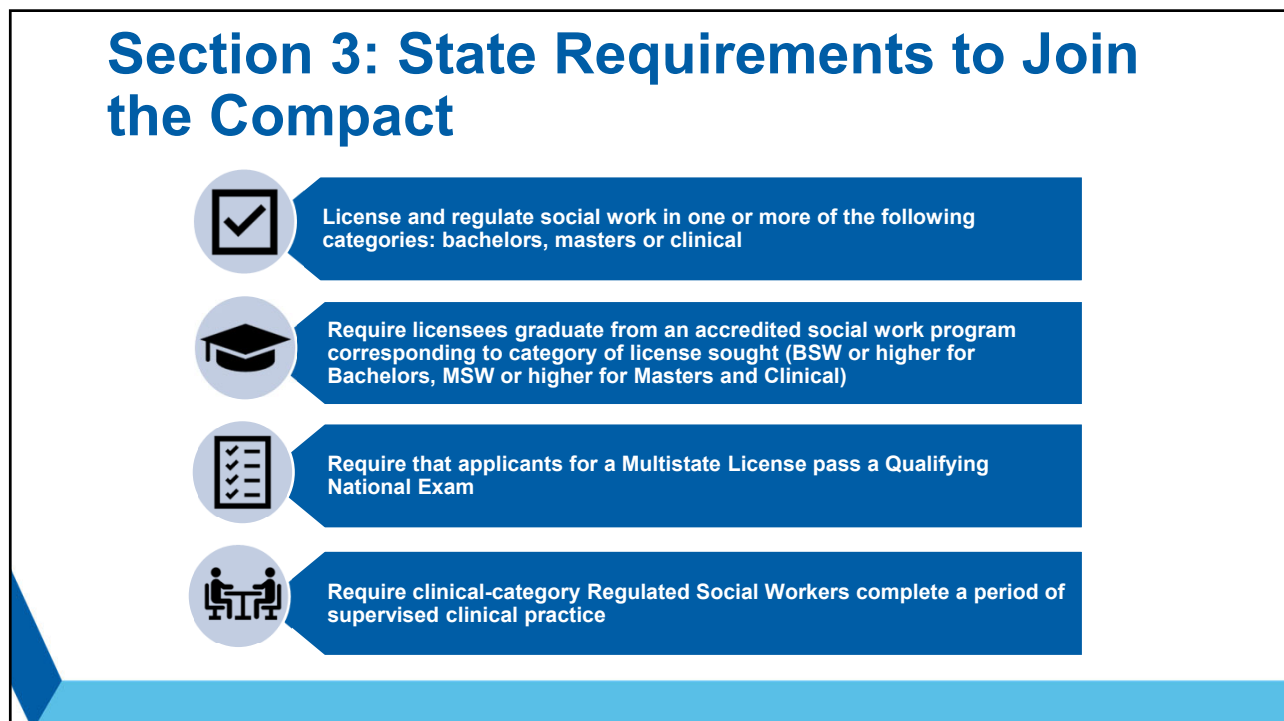
Social Work Compact Commonly Used Terms

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
Multistate License	License granted by the compact that authorizes practice in all compact member states
Multistate Authorization to Practice	Authorization granted through a Multistate License to practice in a single Remote State
Compact Commission or Commission	Governing body made up of member states who is responsible for administering the compact

10



11



12

Section 3: 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

13

Section 4: Eligibility Requirements for Social Workers

Competency Requirement



- Pass Qualifying National Exam
- Period of continuous licensure (for social workers licensed before ASWB exam was required)
- Substantial equivalent approved by compact commission

Accredited Social Work Degree



- Clinical: MSW or Higher
- Masters: MSW or Higher
- Bachelors: BSW or Higher

Practice Requirement (Clinical)



- 3,000 hours postgraduate supervised clinical practice
- Two years postgraduate supervised clinical practice
- Substantial equivalent approved by compact commission

14

Section 4: Social Worker Participation in the Compact



Hold an active, Unencumbered License in the Home State



Pay all required fees related to the application



Complete the continuing competency/education requirements of the Home State



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

15

Summary of Remaining Sections



Section 5: Issuance of a Multistate License

Gives licensing authority direction regarding the application verification process



Section 6: Authority of Compact Commission and Member State Licensing Authorities

Outlines how the compact protects state sovereignty and what the compact commission is not authorized to do.



Section 7: Reissuance of a Multistate License in a New Home State

Expedited process to obtain a new home state license if moving between compact member states

16

Reissuance of Multistate License

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



Social Workers may only hold one Multistate License at a time. A social worker moving between compact member states will be allowed to exchange their multistate license issued by their previous home state for a multistate license issued by their new home state

17

Summary of Remaining Sections



Section 8: Active-Duty Military and Spouses

Allows active-duty military and spouses to designate a home state and retain that designate throughout their active-duty military service



Section 9: Adverse Action

Establishes disciplinary process whereby remote states can act against a multistate authorization to practice as if the practitioner held a license



Section 10: Establishment of the Compact Commission

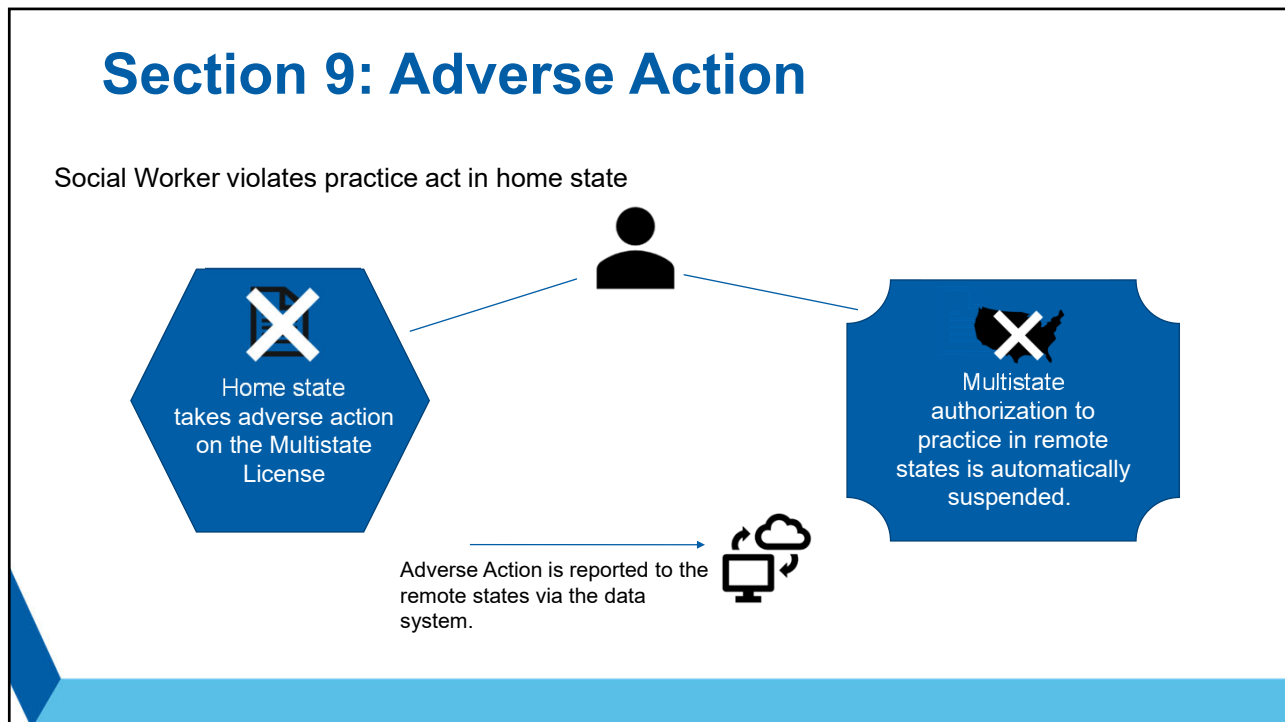
Member states must appoint 1 commissioner and the delegate must be a representative of the State Licensing Authority or their designee



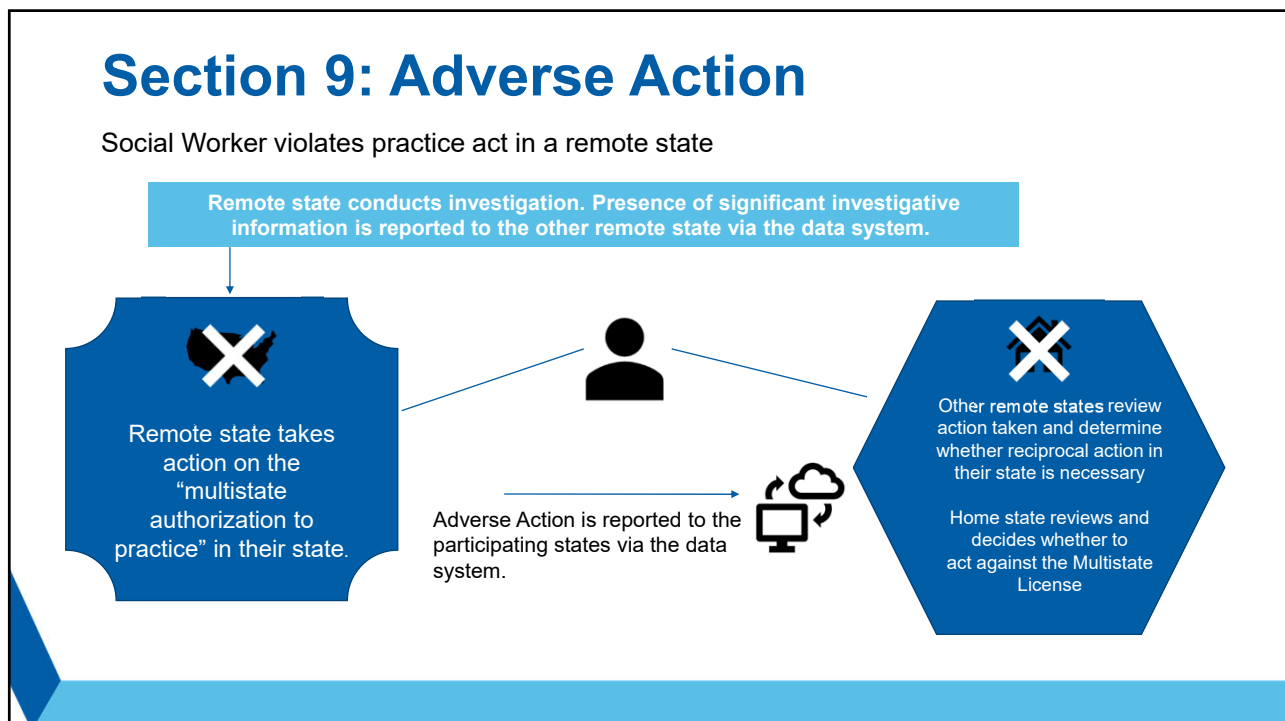
Section 11: Data System

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.

18



19



20

The Compact Commission



- Joint-government agency comprised of one representative from each member state
- Flexible tool used to facilitate the implementation of the compact
- Create workable procedures and standards to a level of detail not specified in the compact
- Rules are limited to the implementation of the compact
- Rules are limited to those licensees using the compact.
- Rules can be rejected if voted by majority of member state legislatures



- Rules cannot apply to practitioners not seeking to practice via the compact.
- Rules cannot extend beyond the implementation of the compact

21

Summary of Remaining Sections



Section 12: Rulemaking

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



Section 13: Oversight, Dispute Resolution and Enforcement



Section 14: 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.

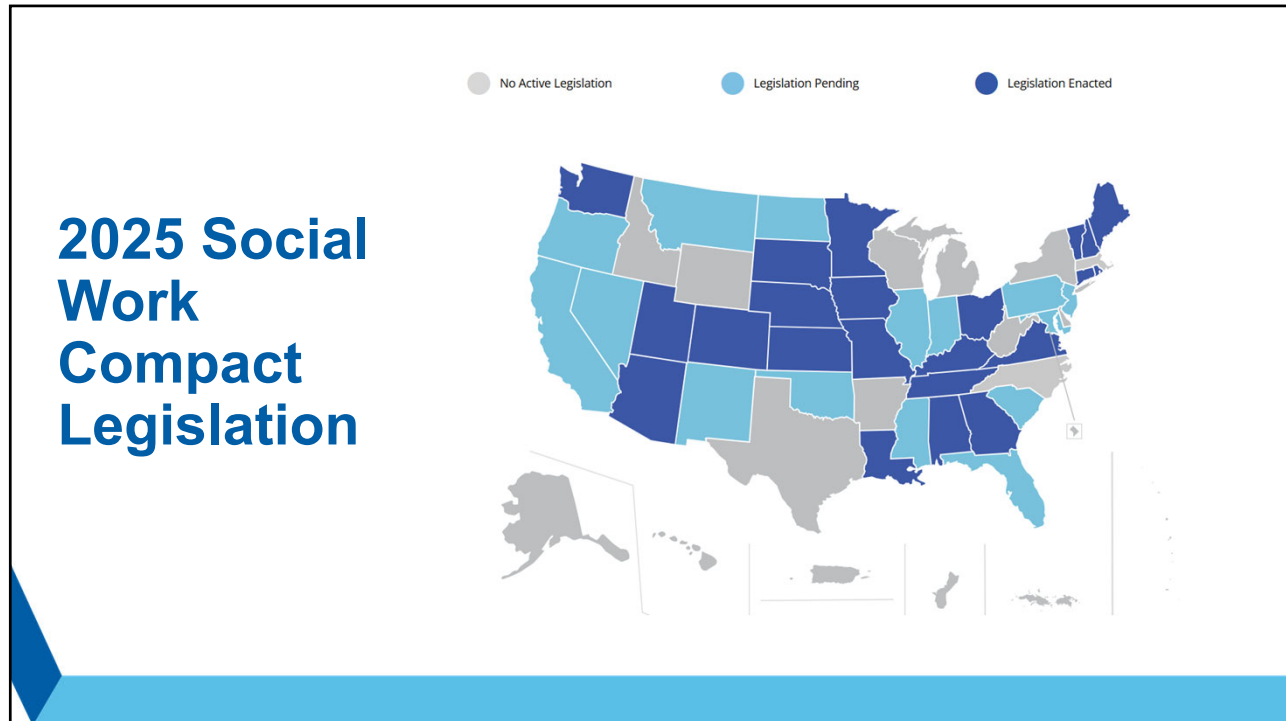


Section 15: Construction and Severability



Section 16: Binding Effect of Compact and Other Laws

22



23

Social Work Compact Status and Timeline

- 22 states; Compact has reached activation status.
 - Pending legislation in 13 states
- **Multistate licenses are not yet being issued.** The implementation process for the compact will take 12 to 24 months before multistate licenses are able to issued.
- Next steps:
 - Second meeting: February 4th -5th , 2025
 - Setting up Data system

24

swcompact.org



SW SOCIALWORK LICENSURE COMPACT
The project is funded by the Department of Defense

What is the Social Work Licensure Compact?

The Social Work Licensure Compact is a model interstate compact between compact states and territories that will allow social workers to practice in multiple states. The compact will enable social workers to practice in multiple states and jurisdictions to be able to work in any state that has the compact, which will greatly benefit the nation's population that needs their services. Like the compact in other states, each Social Work Licensure Compact member state agrees to mutually recognize the licenses issued by any other member state.

How does the Social Work Licensure Compact work?



● Legislation Not Introduced ● Legislation Pending ● Legislation Enacted



SW SOCIALWORK LICENSURE COMPACT

Social Work Licensure Compact Model Legislation

This project is funded by the Department of Defense.

The following language must be enacted into law by a state to officially join the Social Work Licensure Compact.

No substantive changes should be made to the model language. Any substantive changes may jeopardize the enacting state's participation in the Compact.

The Council of State Governments National Center for Interstate Compacts reviews state compact legislation to ensure consistency with the model language. Please direct inquiries to Kaitlyn Bison at kbison@csg.org.

Contact: socialworkcompact@csg.org
mshafer@csg.org
kbison@csg.org

25



Thank You!







26