



Testimony in support:

LD 2043 "An Act to Add the State of Maine to the Compact for Licensing Physician Assistants"

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and members of the committee, my name is Kimberly Caldwell, I am the President of the Maine Association of Physician Assistants (MEAPA), an Auburn resident and practice clinically in Lewiston. I am speaking on behalf of our board of directors, our membership and all Maine PAs, many of whom wanted to be here today, but unfortunately have clinical commitments they were unable to adjust at such short notice.

We urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 2043. This bill will add Maine PAs to the interstate licensure compact that has been vetted by the council of state governments (CGS), the federation of state medical boards (FSMB), our national organization the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA), and our national certification board, National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

Maine Protections

It is important to point out that the PA compact still requires PAs to abide by all current and future Maine scope of practice laws/regulations. It also bolsters protections for the safety of Mainer's by requiring background checks, fingerprinting and sharing of information between state licensure boards. During emergencies, it allows for expeditious interstate movement of PAs and reduces barriers for out-of-state PAs aiming to practice in Maine.

Patient Access/Telehealth

Through this expedited path to Maine employment, we expect to see an influx of qualified PAs to help alleviate our growing practitioner shortage and ongoing recruitment challenges. Maine is a desirable place to work for PAs after we passed the optimal team practice regulations back in 2019, which allow PAs to practice at the height of their training and experience. Despite this, PA positions are going unfilled from our rural/remote clinics to our major medical centers. There just aren't enough PAs in Maine, this is limiting access to care.

Multi state licensure is a particularly important issue for those providing Telehealth across state lines, which requires clinicians be licensed in the state they and their patient are located in during the encounter. Additionally for our health systems with satellite practices/clinics in NH, maintaining multiple licenses is a particular challenge.

IMLCC extrapolations

Importantly, Maine currently participates in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLCC) which was passed in 2017 and provides an easier pathway for out-of-state physicians to secure licensure in Maine, including for the provision of telehealth services. Maine has seen an increase in new licenses obtained via the IMLCC from 15% in 2019 to over 35% in 2022.(IMLCC, 2022) While the PA Compact is still in its infancy, we project similar utilization trends.



PA Compact Status Nationally

As of today, the PA Compact has been adopted in Utah, Delaware and Wisconsin. It has also been introduced in the New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Michigan, Ohio and Washington state legislatures. Once the Compact reaches 7 participating states, the Compact Commission will begin to operationalize it, which we expect to happen later this year.

Other Maine Compacts

As this committee is I'm sure aware, Maine is a licensure compact friendly state. In addition to the IMLCC, we have interstate licensure compacts for Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Respiratory Therapy, Psychologists and more. We ask that you add PA licensure to this list.

I'm happy to answer any additional questions you may have.

Thank you.

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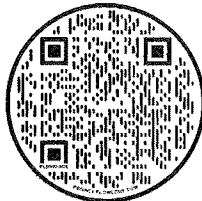
Sources:

(2022, September 15). New License Data Report. Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. Retrieved December 31, 2023, from https://www.imlcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/IMLCC_2019-2022NewLicenseVolume_DataStudy-F2.pdf

Resources:

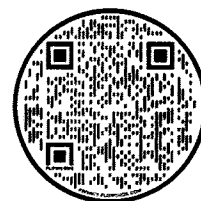
PA Compact Website with Interactive Map

<https://www.pacompact.org/>



Reference sheet for Legislative Testimony

<https://www.pacompact.org/siteassets/pa-licensure-compact/pdf/reference-sheet-for-legislative-testimony.pdf>





What is the PA Licensure Compact?

The PA Licensure Compact is an interstate occupational licensure compact for physician assistants (PAs). The compact provides a streamlined process via a compact privilege for PAs to practice in other compact member states without the need to obtain multiple state licenses. States join the compact by legislatively enacting the model compact legislation.

What You Need to Know

- The model compact legislation has been finalized and is available for state adoption.
- Qualifying PAs in a compact member state who meet all compact requirements may practice in other compact member states via a compact privilege, which is equivalent to a license. A PA must apply for an individual compact privilege in every compact member state where services will be provided.
- The compact legislation was reviewed by stakeholders in the profession, including regulators and practitioners, and revised based on their feedback.
- The PA Licensure Compact is not yet operational. The compact will be activated after seven states have adopted the compact model legislation. Historically, the process for a licensure compact to become fully operational can take up to 24 months after its activation.

Compact Benefits

- Facilitates multistate practice by reducing the burden of maintaining multiple licenses
- Improves access to PA services and the use of telehealth
- Improves continuity of care when patients or PAs relocate
- Supports relocating military spouses
- Expands employment opportunities for PAs into new markets
- Preserves and strengthens state licensure systems
- Enhances public safety and reduces application time through a shared data system
- Increases collaboration among compact member states

Additional Information

To find out more information about the current status of the PA Licensure Compact and its current status, please visit pcompact.org to view the model legislation, legislative toolkit, compact map and FAQs.



HRSA Grant Disclaimer

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MEAPA

MAINE ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

- ❖ The Maine Association of Physician Assistants (MEAPA) was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1977.
- ❖ MEAPA is a constituent organization of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), meaning we adhere to all provisions of AAPA's bylaws, policies, and uphold the principles, purposes, and philosophy for which AAPA was founded.
- ❖ MEAPA represents Physician Assistants (PAs) employed within the state of Maine.

MEAPA's Mission

- ✓ To establish and maintain a program of continuing education for PAs.
- ✓ To educate the public and other health care workers regarding the role of the PA.
- ✓ To propose and further legislation which affects the evolution of the PA as a health care provider.
- ✓ To provide a forum where PAs can meet and share experiences, concerns, and plan for the future.

Contact Us

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MEAPA's Board of Directors are:

- ❖ Clinically practicing PAs from across Maine
- ❖ Active members of AAPA
- ❖ Invested in the future of the PA profession as educators of future PAs and through leadership roles in their healthcare systems
- ❖ Practice in a variety of settings including primary care, urgent/emergency departments, and inpatient medical and surgical environments

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