

# Social Work Licensure Compact Overview

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# The Council of State Governments

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

## Scope

The nation's only organization serving all three branches of state government

## Membership

CSG is a region-based membership organization that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy

## Mission

Champion excellence in state governments in order to advance the common good

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# 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



# 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



# 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.**

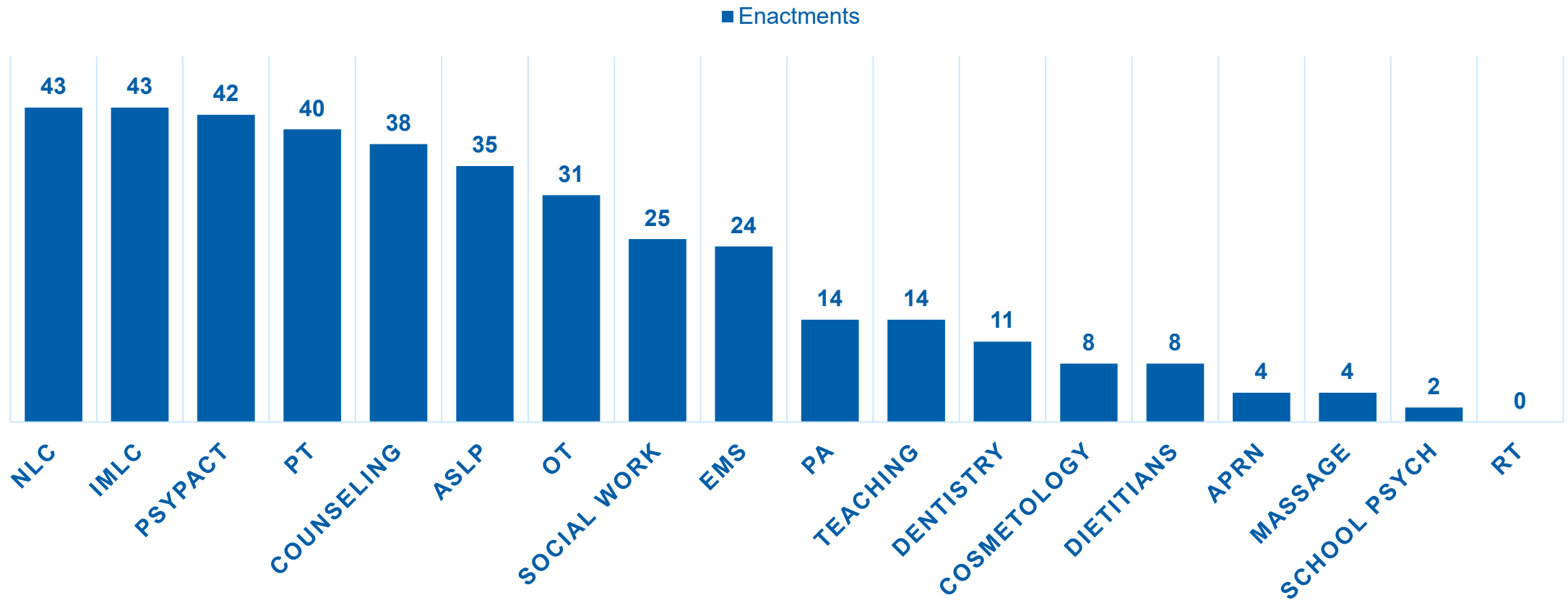


**370+ pieces of occupational licensure compact legislation  
have been enacted since January 2016.**



**18 professions have active interstate compacts for  
occupational licensing.**

# Licensing Compact Enactments



## 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

## 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



## 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

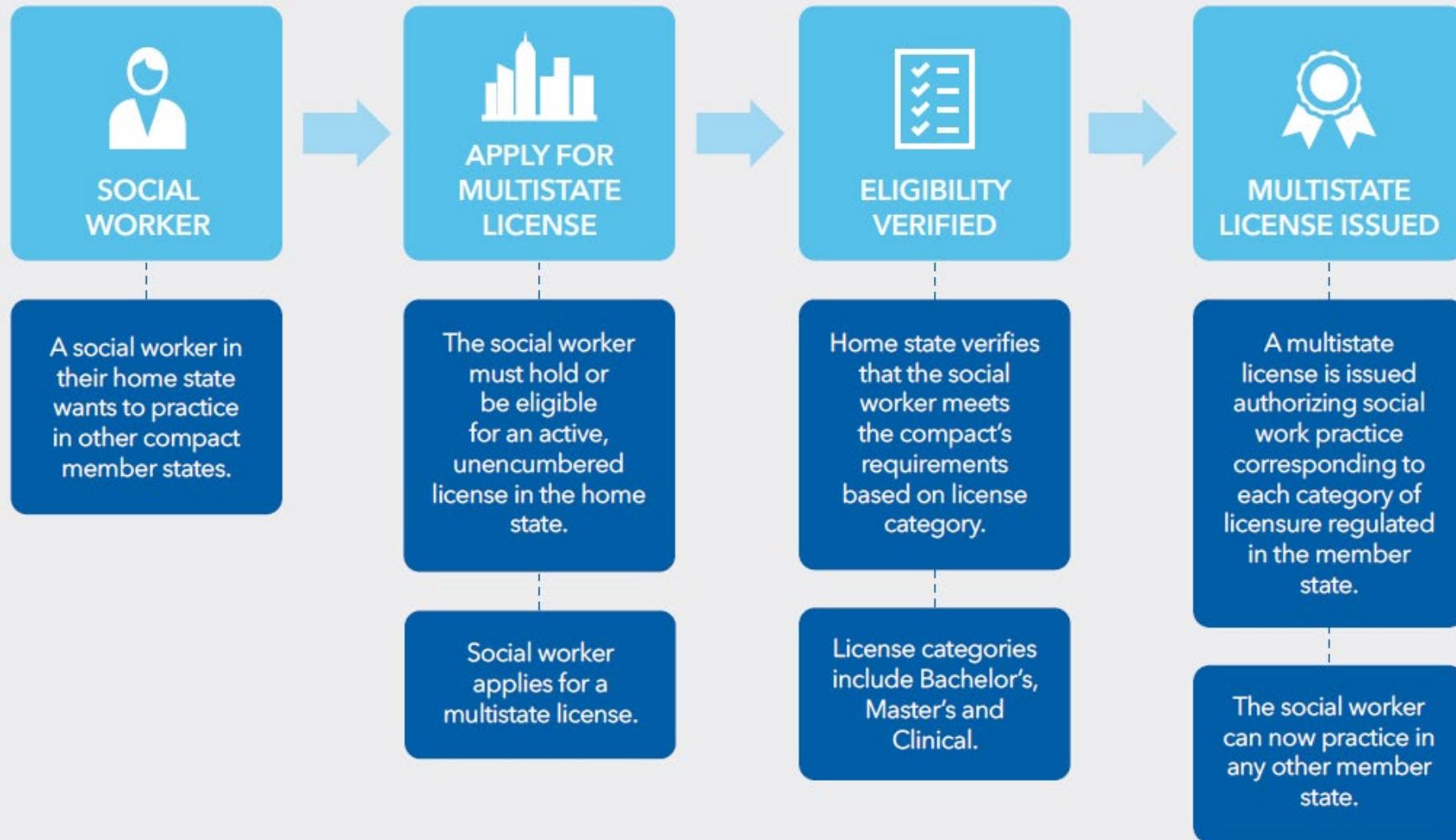


Preserves state sovereignty

# 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

# How does the **Social Work Licensure Compact** work?



# Section 3: State Requirements to Join the Compact



**License and regulate social work in one or more of the following categories: bachelors, masters or clinical**



**Require licensees graduate from an accredited social work program corresponding to category of license sought (BSW or higher for Bachelors, MSW or higher for Masters and Clinical)**



**Require that applicants for a Multistate License pass a Qualifying National Exam**



**Require clinical-category Regulated Social Workers complete a period of supervised clinical practice**

# Section 3: State Participation in the Compact



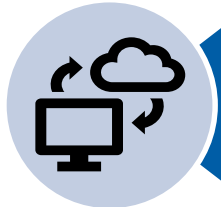
Notify the commission of discipline actions taken against a licensee



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



# 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

# 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**

# 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

# Reissuance of Multistate License

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



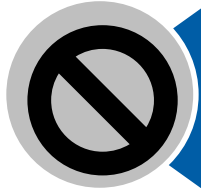
Social Workers may only hold one Multistate License at a time. A social worker moving between compact member states will be allowed to exchange their multistate license issued by their previous home state for a multistate license issued by their new home state

# 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



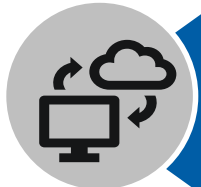
## **Section 9: Adverse Action**

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



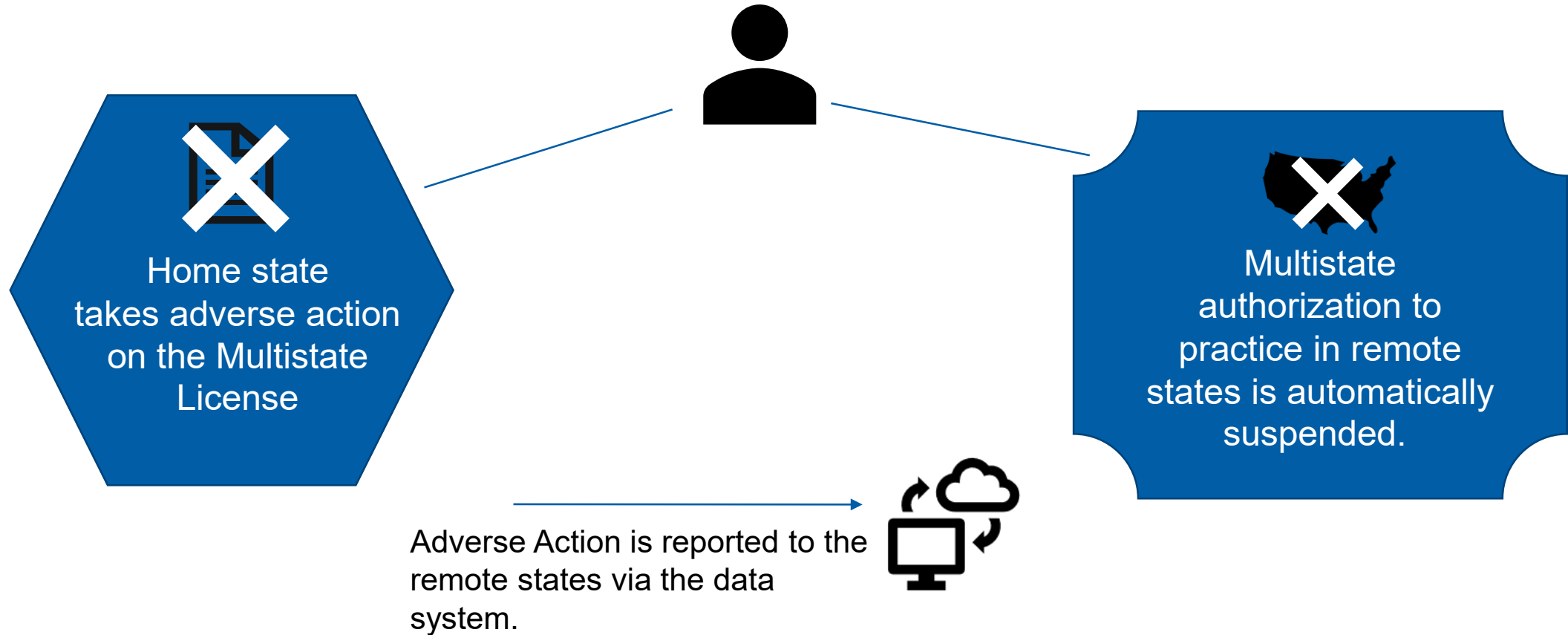
## **Section 11: Data System**

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.



# Section 9: Adverse Action

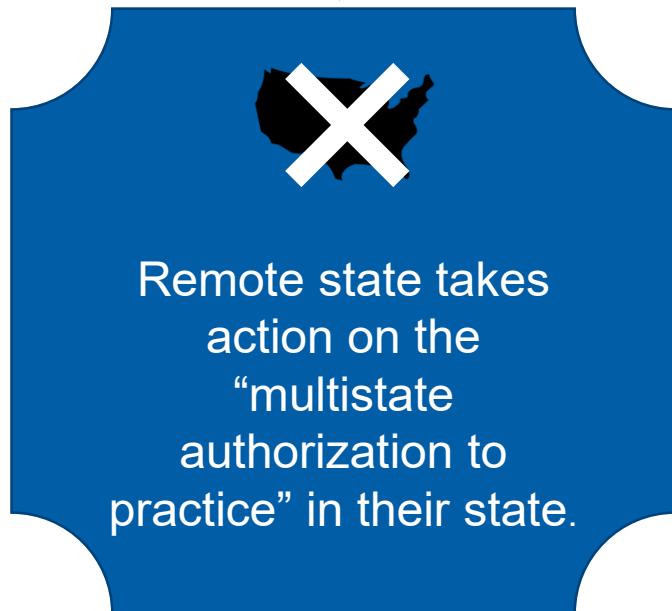
Social Worker violates practice act in home state



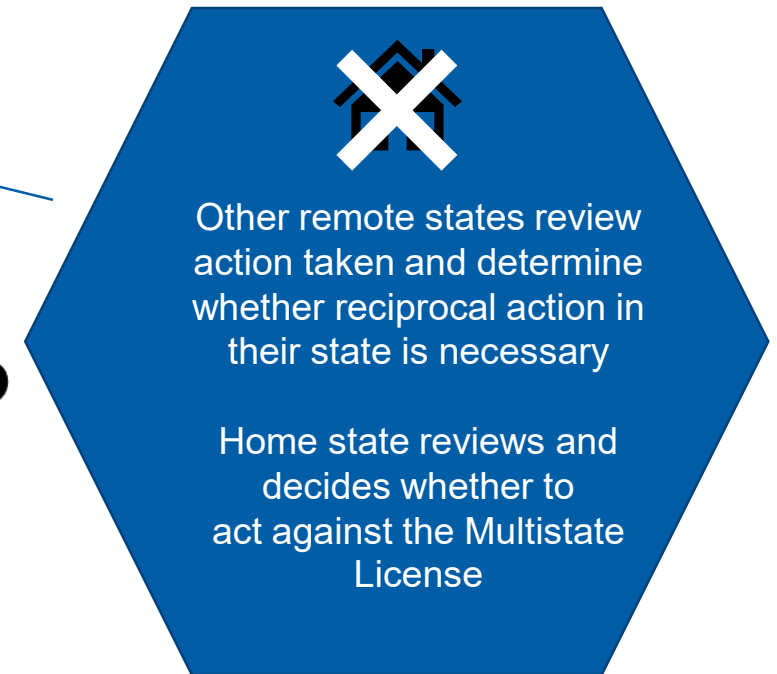
# Section 9: Adverse Action

Social Worker violates practice act in a remote state

Remote state conducts investigation. Presence of significant investigative information is reported to the other remote state via the data system.



Adverse Action is reported to the participating states via the data system.



# 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

# Summary of Remaining Sections

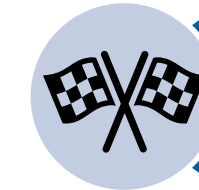


## Section 12: Rulemaking

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.

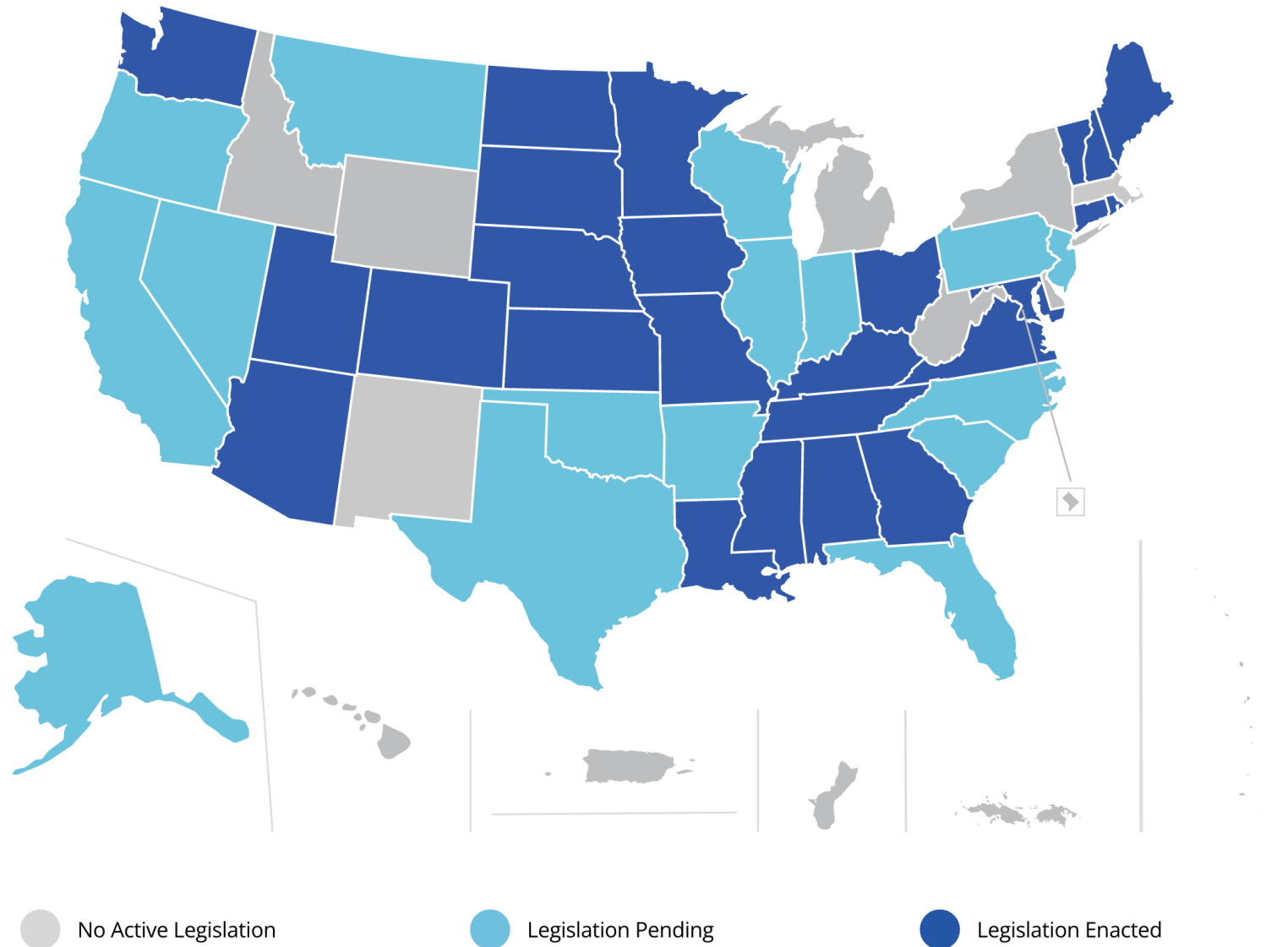


## Section 15: Construction and Severability



## Section 16: Binding Effect of Compact and Other Laws

# 2025 Social Work Compact Legislation





# Social Work Compact Status and Timeline

- 25 states; Compact has reached activation status.
- **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:
  - Setting up Data system

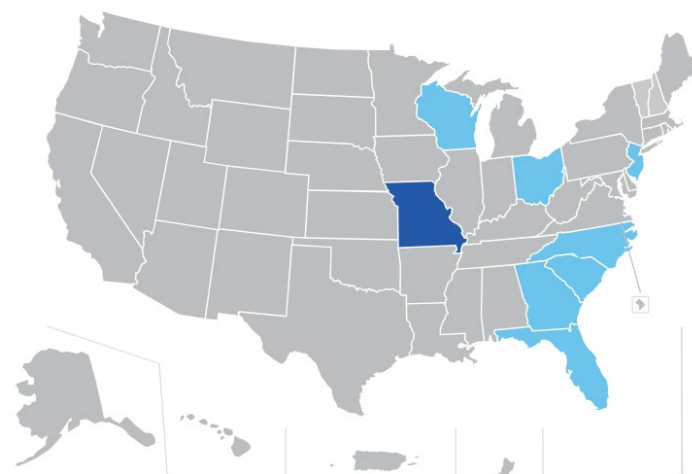


## What is the Social Work Licensure Compact?

## How does the Social Work Licensure Compact work?



**What other professions have an interstate compact?**

Audiology and  
Speech-Language  
Pathology Interstate  
Compact (ASLP-IC)

## Social Work Licensure Compact Model Legislation

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@csq.org](mailto:kbison@csq.org).

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# Thank You!

