



# Physical Therapy Compact (PT Compact)

## BACKGROUND ON INTERSTATE COMPACTS

Interstate compacts are contracts between two or more states that are in agreement on an issue. States use compacts as a legal relationship to address an issue. Indiana currently participates in 37 interstate compacts.

## WHAT ARE THE HEALTH-RELATED COMPACTS

There are a number of health-related compacts, including the EMS Compact and NLC, which Indiana enacted in recent years. Each compact is structured differently. The NLC creates a multi-state license, whereas the EMS compact offers recognition of licensure for professionals holding a license in a participating state. This falls under the concept of “privilege to practice” because it authorizes professionals to practice in participating states. Another health-related compact, the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (for physicians) serves as an “expedited review process.”

## WHAT IS THE PT COMPACT AND HOW DOES IT COMPARE TO OTHER HEALTH-RELATED COMPACTS?

The PT Compact is an agreement between states which allows PT/As to work in multiple states.<sup>1</sup> The intent of the Compact is to improve access to physical therapy services. The PT Compact is governed by the PT Compact Commission, a governing body comprised of one PT board member from each Compact-participating state.<sup>1</sup> The PT Compact is structured under the “privilege to practice” model, as professionals submit a request to the compact (and pay related fees) to receive privilege to practice in other Compact participating states under their singular home state license.

## WHAT STATES PARTICIPATE IN THE PT COMPACT?

There are currently 20 states actively issuing and accepting compact privileges. There are 9 states that have enacted legislation but have not yet achieved full implementation and are not yet accepting compact privileges. An additional 5 states have introduced PT Compact legislation (including Indiana).<sup>3</sup> One of Indiana’s contiguous states, Kentucky, is an active Compact member. Two of Indiana’s contiguous states, Michigan and Ohio, have also introduced PT compact legislation in their legislatures.

### Active States

- Washington
- Oregon
- Arizona
- Utah
- Colorado
- Texas
- Oklahoma
- Nebraska
- North Dakota
- Iowa
- Missouri
- Arkansas
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Tennessee
- Kentucky
- West Virginia
- Virginia
- North Carolina
- New Hampshire

### Introduced Legislation

- Washington D.C.
- Ohio
- Indiana
- Michigan
- New Mexico

### Enacted Legislation

- Montana
- South Dakota
- Wisconsin
- Georgia
- South Carolina
- Pennsylvania
- Maryland
- Delaware
- New Jersey

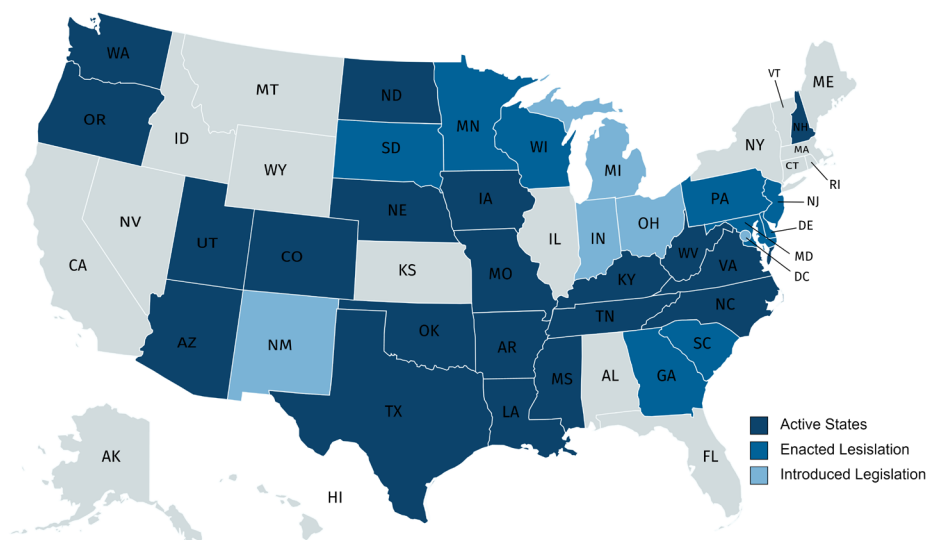
**KEY DEFINITIONS**

**PT/A:** Physical Therapist and/or Physical Therapist Assistant

**PT:** Physical Therapy/ist

**Home state:** State where PT/A has permanent residence. This state hosts the individual’s PT/A license.

**Remote state:** A state other than the home state that participates in the PT Compact, and where a PT/A can apply for and have Compact Privilege to practice.



## **DOES INDIANA PARTICIPATE IN THE PT COMPACT?**

Indiana is not currently an active member of the PT Compact. Senate Bill 305<sup>5</sup> has been introduced into the 2021 Indiana legislative session, and if enacted, it would establish Indiana as an active member of the PT Compact. This would allow Indiana PT/As to practice within other states that are PT Compact members under their Indiana license, after gaining “Compact privilege” to practice in other member states. It would also enable PT/As that hold a license issued by another compact member state to apply for privilege to practice in Indiana.

## **HOW DOES A PT/A LEVERAGE THE COMPACT AND OBTAIN PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE IN MEMBERS STATES?**

In order to obtain privileges to practice in the PT Compact, a PT/A must hold an active PT or PTA license in their home state and meet the other eligibility criteria outlined in the Compact, which include paying the required fees and meeting jurisprudence requirements of the remote state where they intend to practice. Licensees must undergo a separate and individual process to pay for and obtain compact privileges in each state that they intend to provide PT services.<sup>2,4</sup>

## **HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO OBTAIN COMPACT PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE IN MEMBER STATES?**

PT/As interested to obtaining compact privileges in a remote state (not their home state) may do so through the PT Compact website. The privilege to practice in each member state is obtained separately for each state where the PT/A plans to practice. There is a \$45 Commission fee per state application, and, in some cases, and additional state-imposed fee (which is in many cases waived for military personnel and their spouses).<sup>5</sup> After an application is submitted and once the state’s jurisprudence exam is successfully completed (if applicable), the “privilege to practice” is processed and activated.

## **HOW MUCH DOES IT COST A STATE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMPACT?**

Member states may be charged an “annual assessment fee” by the Commission.<sup>2</sup> The assessment fee may be \$0, but information on the actual cost is not publicly available.

## **WHAT SCOPE OF PRACTICE DO LICENSEES FOLLOW UNDER THE COMPACT?**

When practicing in a remote state under their privilege to practice, a PT or PTA must practice under the scope of the remote state, which is defined as the location of the practice/patient.<sup>4</sup> The PT/PTA is subject to the remote state’s regulatory authority.

## **HOW DO EMPLOYERS OR THE PUBLIC VERIFY WHERE PT/PTA LICENSEES HAVE A PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE UNDER THE COMPACT?**

The PT Compact website has a link where the general public can search for licensees by their first and last name to see if and in what state a PT/PTA has a privilege to practice.

## **ARE COMPACT PRIVILEGES IN REMOTE STATES LIMITED ON THE AMOUNT OF TIME THAT CAN BE PRACTICED?**

A PT/PTA’s privileges expire on the same day that their home state license expires. In order to renew privileges and continue practice in a remote state, the PT/PTA must renew their state license first then renew their Compact Practice Privilege for the remote states.<sup>4</sup>

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF A HOME STATE LICENSE IS ENCUMBERED OR RECEIVES AN ADVERSE ACTION?**

A PT/PTA who receives adverse actions or an encumbered license loses all compact privileges effective on the date the action is made by the licensing board.<sup>4</sup>

- An adverse action is a disciplinary action taken against a license or privilege of a PT/PTA by the licensing board.<sup>4</sup>
- An encumbrance is any action by the licensing board that limits the practice or work of a PT/PTA.<sup>4</sup>

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1. Information about the PT Compact and Board can be found at: <http://ptcompact.org/about-compact>

2. PT Compact model legislation can be found at: [http://ptcompact.org/Portals/0/Images/PT\\_Compact\\_Language\\_Final.pdf?ver=2017-09-14-171542-143](http://ptcompact.org/Portals/0/Images/PT_Compact_Language_Final.pdf?ver=2017-09-14-171542-143)

3. PT Compact map can be found at: <http://ptcompact.org/ptc-states>

4. PT Compact FAQ: [http://ptcompact.org/Portals/0/Images/PTCFrequentlyAskedQuestionsV\\_20190612.pdf](http://ptcompact.org/Portals/0/Images/PTCFrequentlyAskedQuestionsV_20190612.pdf)

5. Compact Privilege and Jurisprudence fees can be found at: <http://ptcompact.org/Compact-Privilege-Fee-Jurisprudence-and-Waiver-Table>

6. Senate Bill 305: <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2021/bills/senate/305>

**For questions or additional information, please contact the  
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