



## Governor Ned Lamont State of Connecticut



FACT SHEET  
2022 Legislative Session

### HOUSE BILL 5046 GOVERNOR'S BILL ***AN ACT ADOPTING THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSING COMPACT AND PSYCHOLOGY INTERJURISDICTIONAL COMPACT***

Occupational licensing requirements preserve public health and safety as well as consumer confidence and employee welfare. As society becomes increasingly mobile, however, state-specific requirements prevent patients from accessing care and healthcare workers from providing it. Governor Lamont proposes joining two popular interstate compacts that cut red tape and make life easier for physicians, psychologists, and their patients.

#### **The Problem**

A growing number of interstate occupational licensing compacts are delivering seamless patient care, reducing regulatory burdens on healthcare workers, and increasing mutual aid during emergencies. But Connecticut is one of only 8 states that hasn't joined a single such compact. That makes it harder for our college students to hear from their psychologists during summer jobs out-of-state, and for our residents to follow up with New York-based specialists without returning to the city.

#### **Governor Lamont's Solution**

Governor Lamont proposes joining the physician's 34-state Interstate Medical Licensing Compact (IMLC) and the 28-state Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) to improve access to care, ease the burdens of maintaining multiple licenses, and facilitate telehealth. The IMLC operates like TSA Pre-Check or the college Common App, making it easier for doctors licensed in one compact state to apply for a license in others. PSYPACT allows psychologists licensed in one compact state to provide telehealth services and brief in-person care in another. Both compacts were recommended by Department of Public Health working groups convened at the direction of Public Act 21-152 and composed of patient and provider representatives.

#### *Addressing the Mental Healthcare Crisis*

Connecticut, like the rest of the country, is in the midst of a mental healthcare crisis. Access to mental health services is a major challenge for many people in need of treatment. Joining PSYPACT will make it easier for Connecticut psychologists to care for patients on the go and

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reduce barriers to both in-person and telehealth care, including for people living in rural areas of the state where the shortage is most acute.

#### *Expanding Access to Physicians*

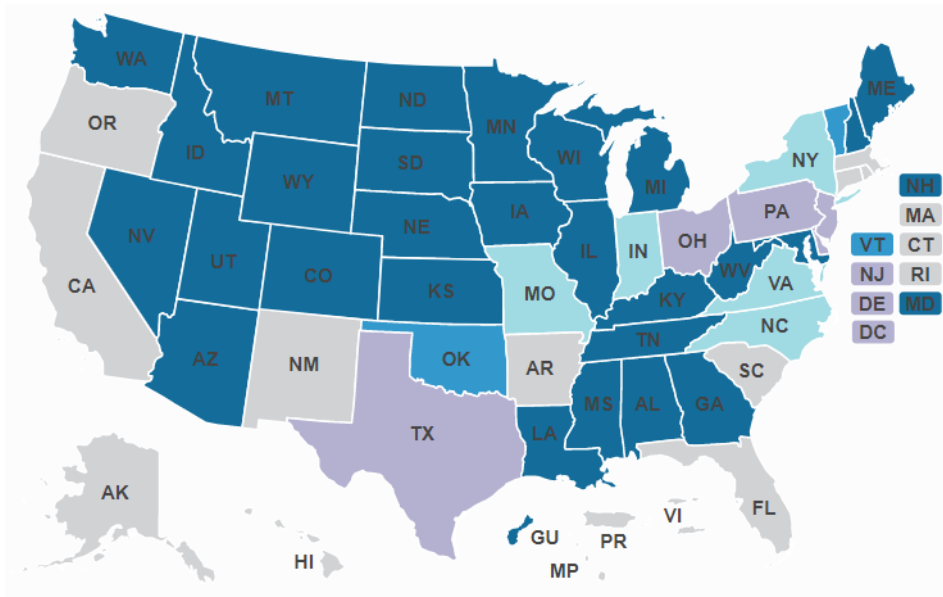
Governor Lamont's proposal to join the IMLC will expand opportunities for improving post-treatment care. The interstate compact will allow doctors from other states to jointly continue care after a patient returns home to Connecticut and will allow Connecticut-based physicians to continue to work with patients who travel from other states to receive care in Connecticut. The benefits of joining the physician compact will continue to increase as surrounding states enter the compact. New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed enabling legislation in January 2022, and New York Governor Kathy Hochul recently committed to passing similar legislation. Joining the physician compact will also help to facilitate sharing of information between states.

#### *Importance of Interstate Compacts to Ongoing COVID-19 Response*

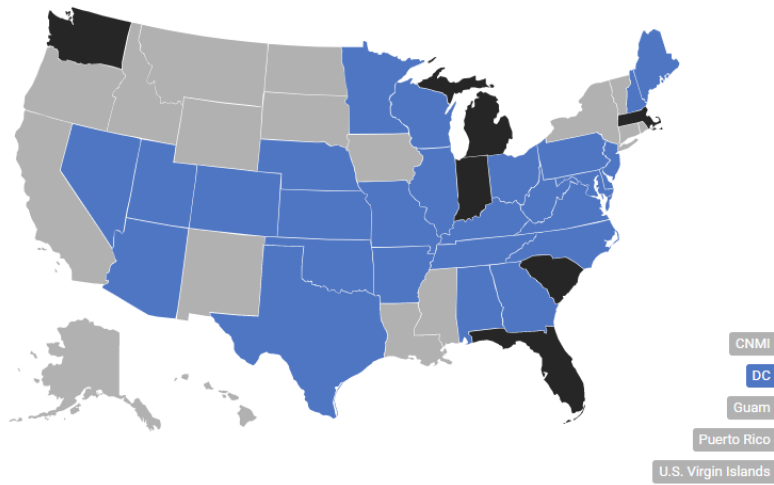
As the country continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, the mobility of the healthcare workforce is important to the ongoing response. Executive Orders and Commissioner's Orders allowing healthcare providers licensed in other states to practice in Connecticut during the public health emergency have operated in important respects as a trial period for Interstate Compact membership. The COVID-19 pandemic has also revealed the limitations of such emergency declarations at the federal, state, and local level, which can take time to enact, create a confusing patchwork of orders and directives, and may not cover all prospective needs. The ability to mobilize immediately across state lines as we tackle surges of the virus will benefit providers and patients alike and will make Connecticut's healthcare system stronger and more resilient during this challenging time.

#### *Facilitating Telehealth*

Even after the pandemic subsides, the rise of remote work will make it increasingly important for Connecticut residents traveling outside the state to be able to access continuous care, especially mental healthcare, from their Connecticut-based providers. The pandemic will have many lasting effects on the healthcare system in the United States, but the rapid adoption and acceptance of telehealth may be one of the most enduring. Interstate compacts are an effective way to facilitate telehealth by reducing the barriers to practicing, such as cumbersome applications, renewal processes, and fees. Governor Lamont's proposal aids the adoption of telehealth, which will give consumers more choices and easier access to care, while maintaining public safety through the careful oversight of the General Assembly and the Department of Public Health.



■ = Compact Legislation Introduced  
■ = IMLC Member State serving as SPL processing applications and issuing licenses\*  
■ = IMLC Member State non-SPL issuing licenses\*  
■ = IMLC Passed; Implementation In Process or Delayed\*



**Map Key**

- PSYPACT Participating State
- Enacted PSYPACT Legislation - practice under PSYPACT not permitted
- PSYPACT Legislation introduced