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State Senator

27th Senate District



Sponsor Testimony

Senate Bill 276

Ohio Senate Education Committee

October 7th, 2025

Chair Brenner, Vice-Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on S.B. 276, which upon enactment would join Ohio to the “Interstate Compact for School Psychologists.”

Before we begin, there was an amendment, AM0909, which is an LSC technical correction for a drafting error on line 6 that incorrectly refers to this compact as the interstate teacher mobility compact. The Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact is a separate compact for teachers and should not be misconstrued with Senate Bill 276 which is exclusively for school psychologists.

The Interstate Compact for School Psychologists is an interstate occupational licensure compact for licensed school psychologists. An interstate licensure compact is a legally binding, legislatively enacted contract among participating states. This formal agreement between member states aims to facilitate the interstate movement of licensed school psychologists, improving their career prospects and allowing schools to recruit the best school psychologists from across the country.¹

This compact is slightly different in form and function to the other compacts that this Committee, or any other committee, has considered. A school psychologist must hold an active, unencumbered license in a compact member state to be eligible to utilize the ICSP and be granted a license in another member state of this compact.² Applicants seeking a home state license are required to complete three educational criteria. The first requirement is to take and pass a national licensing examination endorsed by the National Association of School Psychologists or any

¹ <https://schoolpsychcompact.org/>

² <https://schoolpsychcompact.org/>

other exam that is approved by the Commission’s rules. Second, an applicant for a home license must have a minimum of 1,200 hours of supervised internship, with at least 600 hours completed in a school. Third, an applicant is required to graduate from an education program which awards a specialist or doctoral degree or equivalent that is approved by the Commission’s rules as meeting the necessary minimum educational standards.³ School psychologists are also required to satisfy any applicable state specific requirements established by the member state after an equivalent license is issued and must complete any administrative or application requirements which the Commission may establish by rule, and pay any associated fees. Applicants for a license in another state must also undergo a criminal background check in the member state which the equivalent license is sought.⁴ It is important to note that school psychologist seeking to renew an equivalent license must renew their home license, complete a background check and pay renewal fees as determined by the licensing authority.⁵

From a regulatory standpoint, there are no changes to each compact member state’s authority to protect the public through the existing state regulatory structure – as this compact does not limit the authority of state like Ohio to investigate or discipline licensees under our own laws.⁶ Member states are authorized and required to provide files and information regarding investigations and disciplinary measures of any licensees in other member states upon request. Member states to the compact are required to participate in information sharing as reasonably necessary⁷ and have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints about licensees, as well as notify the Compact Commission of any adverse action taken against a licensee, or the availability of investigational information which relates to a licensee or applicant.⁸

In 2022, the Council of State Governments and the Department of Defense began work on the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists by partnering with the National Association of School psychologists. The “Technical Assistance Group” that was formed included state legislators, state education department officials, school district representatives, members of professional associations, licensed

³ Lines 192-200 of SB276

⁴ Lines 216-228 of SB276

⁵ Lines 229-232 of SB276

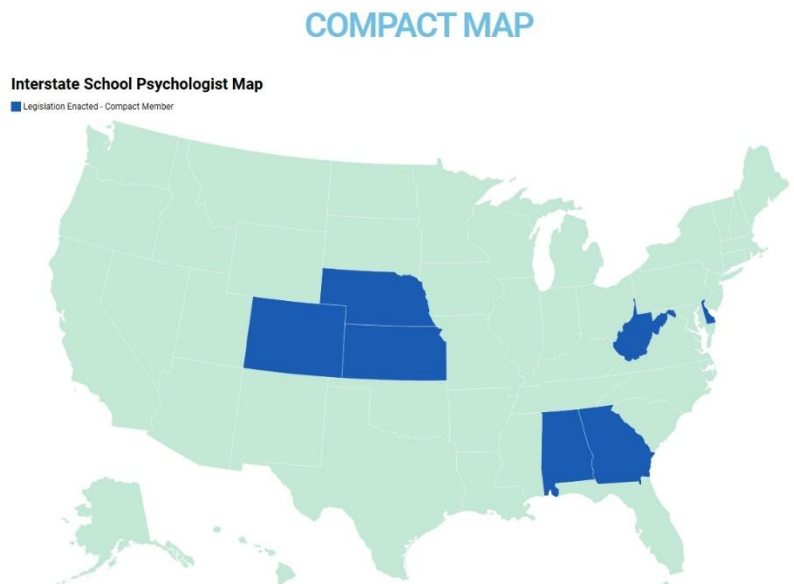
⁶ Lines 243-246 of SB276

⁷ Lines 179-181 of SB276

⁸ Lines 185-191 of SB276

school psychologists, preparation programs and many others who worked diligently over several months to create recommendations and a compact model. Public comment on draft legislation was conducted over the course of the summer of 2023, which included virtual presentations and a walkthrough of the draft legislation before the completion and release of the compact.⁹

As many licensure compacts for other professions have prescribed, this Compact language stipulates that a governing commission is to be formed after seven states have enacted enabling legislation.¹⁰ So far, West Virginia, Nebraska, Kansas, Georgia, Delaware, Colorado, and Alabama have passed enabling legislation already. With seven states having passed legislation already, Ohio will unfortunately not be apart of the governing commission. Passing this bill expeditiously would still signal that the Buckeye State will continue to be support license portability for school psychologists through occupational licensure reciprocity.



The lack of occupational licensure reciprocity is a real barrier for individuals seeking to move across state lines. Researchers at the University of Minnesota found that the interstate migration rate for individuals in occupations with state-specific licensing exam requirements is 36% lower relative to those in non-licensed occupations.¹¹

Maximizing mobility and ensuring license portability is even more important for our military families, and this Compact was written to expressly support military families¹² by easing their moves. If a military family gets assigned to a new duty station in a compact member state, the service member or their spouse can continue to work with their current compact privilege. This compact specifically states that

⁹ <https://schoolpsychcompact.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2024/01/ICSP-Development-Process.pdf>

¹⁰ Lines 712-714 of SB276

¹¹ <https://www.minneapolisfed.org/research/sr/sr561.pdf>

¹² Lines 49-51 of SB276

an active duty military member or their spouse are deemed to hold a ‘home state’ license in a state where the licensee’s permanent address is located, a member state that is the licensee’s primary state of practice, or a member state where the licensee has relocated pursuant to a Perman Change of Station (PCS).¹³

I’d like to share some statistics from Dr. Elizabeth Burgin, a military spouse and licensed mental health counselor, that highlight the importance of this for our military families¹⁴:

- Military families relocate every 2-3 years, which is 10x more often than civilians
- 34% of military spouses hold at least one professional license
- 22% of licensees are unemployed
- There is a 26% wage gap between military licensees and civilian licensees
- 1 in 5 military licensees has waited 10+ months for a license transfer¹⁵

This legislation is important not only for school psychologists, but for students as well. In 2023, The National Association of School Psychologists recommended that schools employ one school psychologist for every 500 students, but Ohio fell short with approximately 1,429 students for each school psychologist.¹⁶ Passing Senate Bill 276 would not only greatly improve outcomes for both our school psychologists by reducing barriers to occupation, but it would also greatly expand the access to care for Ohio’s school children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

¹³ Lines 234-241 of SB149

¹⁴ <https://counselingcompact.org/tool-kit/> (see video time marker 2:05)

¹⁵ <https://counselingcompact.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/CC-Summit-Slides-2021.pdf>

¹⁶ https://policymattersohio.org/research/state-of-ohio-schools-2023/#_edn90