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## **Sponsor Testimony**

Senate Bill 6

Ohio House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee

May 13, 2021

Chair Manchester, Vice-Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston, and Members of the House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on S.B. 6, which upon enactment would join Ohio to the “Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.” This agreement between member states aims to provide an expedited pathway to licensure for qualified physicians who wish to practice in multiple states. This legislation is a reintroduction of S.B. 364 from the previous General Assembly.

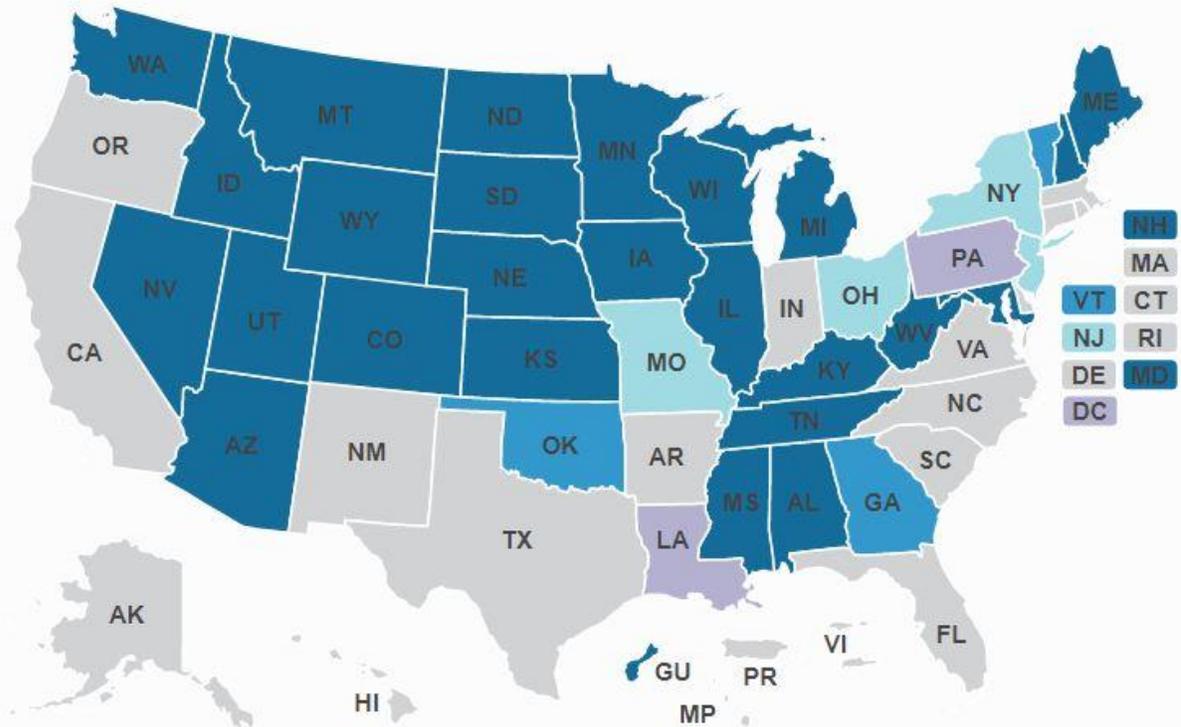
“The mission of the Compact is to increase access to health care – particularly for patients in underserved or rural areas. The Compact makes it possible to extend the reach of physicians, improve access to medical specialists, and leverage the use of new medical technologies, such as telemedicine. While making it easier for physicians to obtain licenses to practice in multiple states, the Compact also strengthens public protection by enhancing the ability of states to share investigative and disciplinary information”<sup>1</sup>

There are currently twenty-nine “member” states in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, including our neighbors: Michigan, Kentucky, West Virginia & Pennsylvania. An additional four more, including Ohio, have introduced legislation to join the compact

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.imlcc.org/information-for-states/>

## U.S. State Participation in the Compact



- = 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\*

\* Questions regarding the current status and extent of these states' and boards' participation in the IMLC should be directed to the [respective state boards](#).

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact is a different model than other licensure compacts. Most of the other compacts grant a single multistate license or “compact privilege” to practice in multiple states, whereas the IMLC offers an expedited pathway to licensure in the member states. An analogy would be the difference between a **driver’s license** issued by one state yet recognized by multiple states and **TSA Pre-check** that streamlines a prequalified traveler’s path to the plane. It is important to recognize that ALL medical licenses expedited *through* the IMLC are still *issued* by the individual states. However, since routed through the compact the process is significantly streamlined and can be summarized as follows:

Physicians apply (\$700 nonrefundable application fee) and must qualify to participate in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. To qualify for Compact participation, physicians must<sup>2</sup>:

- Hold a full, unrestricted medical license in a Compact member-state that can serve as a State of Principal License (SPL), and meet the SPL requirements.
- Have graduated from an accredited medical school, or a school listed in the International Medical Education Directory
- Have successfully completed ACGME- or AOA-accredited graduate medical education
- Passed each component of the USMLE, COMLEX-USA, or equivalent in no more than three attempts for each component
- Hold a current specialty certification or time-unlimited certification by an ABMS or AOABOS board

In addition, physicians must NOT have:

- any history of disciplinary actions toward their medical license
- any criminal history
- any history of controlled substance actions toward their medical license
- any current investigations pending

The State of Principal License (SPL) reviews the application, qualifications and conducts a criminal background check, and if approved the physician is granted the formal “Letter of Qualification” and the Physician may participate in the Compact.

Through the Compact, the Physician selects the states where he or she wishes to be licensed and upon receipt of the Letter of Qualification, the member states then issue a license for the physician. The Compact collects and remits fees to the Boards of the member states.

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact is governed by the Interstate Medical Licensure Commission comprised of two representatives from each member state.

To become a member state, the state’s legislature must pass a bill containing consistent language with the other member states authorizing the state to join.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.imlcc.org/information-for-states/>

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