



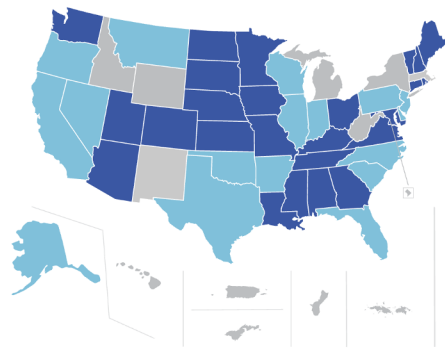
Why Do We Need the Social Work Compact in Pennsylvania?

Jamie M. Ware, JD, LSW

April 25, 2025

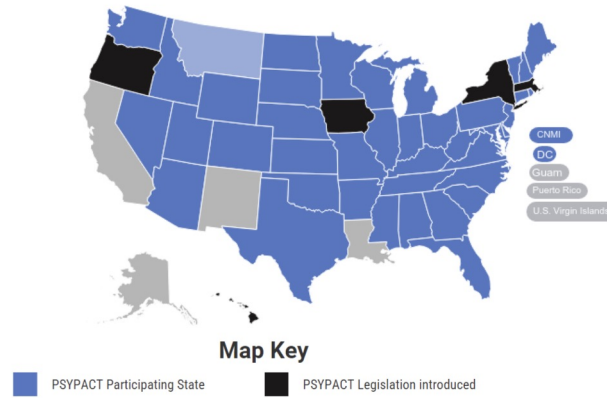


- No Active Legislation
- Legislation Pending
- Legislation Enacted



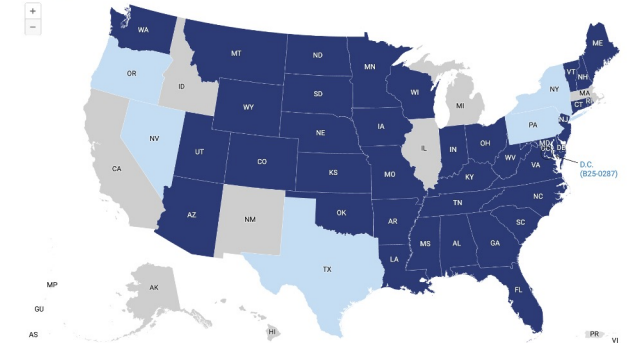
PSYPACTMap

About » PSYPACT Map/States



Counseling Compact Map

Enacted Legislation Filed No Active Legislation



Please use the map's zoom functions to view the compact status of Washington, D.C. Get the data - Enacted - Download image - Contact with Sales Representative

What happens if Pennsylvania doesn't Join the SW Compact?

A contract between two or more states, allowing states to perform a certain action, observe certain standards, and cooperate to solve problems.

There are over 200 interstate compact laws

22 compact laws have national scope

Allowed for by the Compact Clause in the Constitution

In 1990 the National Council of State Boards of Nursing took an interest and the nursing compact was created in 2000

**What is an
Interstate
Compact
Law?**

Other provider groups started their own compacts in 2010s, and today (estimates):

Registered Nurses: 43 jurisdictions

Doctors: 42 jurisdictions

Psychologists: 42 jurisdictions

Counselors (incl. MFTs in some cases):
38 jurisdictions

Social Workers: 27 jurisdictions

Emergency Medical Staff: 24
jurisdictions

Physician Assistants: 16 jurisdiction



Compact
Laws for
Licensed
Professions

Compact Benefits for Providers:

To increase access to health care, particularly in underserved areas

To enhance continuity of care for clients

Strengthen public protection by enhancing the ability of states to share investigative and disciplinary action

To increase workforce mobility

To address staffing shortages

To reduce the cost of licensing, saving time and money, allowing more focus on patient care

To expand employment opportunities



Why Implement a Licensure Compact Law

Arguments Against:

Lower Licensing Standards?

All states have incredibly similar licensing rules, the difference at this point is negligible

This will bring standards up in the lower standard states

State specific knowledge of rules is reduced

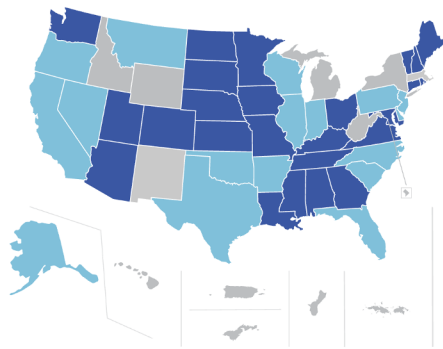
There are rules in place that if you do practice across state lines, you have to know the local rules

Increased compliance burden?

Maybe...but you don't have to do it!

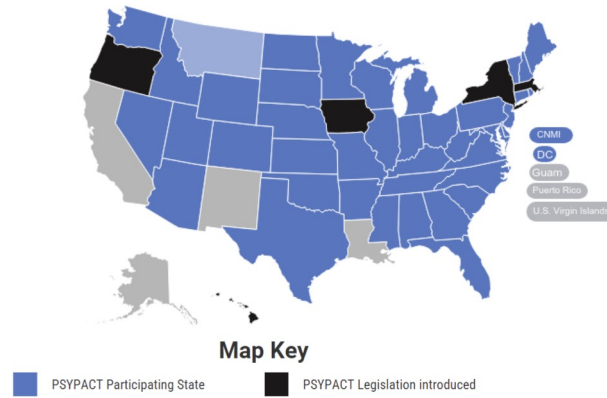
Are There
Drawbacks
to
Licensure
Compact
Laws?

● No Active Legislation ● Legislation Pending ● Legislation Enacted



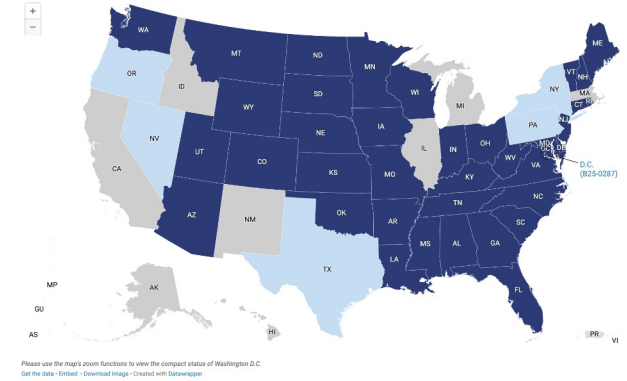
PSYPACTMap

About » PSYPACT Map/States



Counseling Compact Map

■ Enacted ■ Legislation Filed ■ No Active Legislation



What happens if Pennsylvania doesn't Join the SW Compact?



What's Needed to
Get the PA SW
Compact over the
Finish Line?

The Department of State is advocating for this and other compact laws to go into effect at the same time that they update the PALS system

Intend to launch in January 2026

Legislature and key leadership on committees understand the importance of this and want to get it done.

HB 554 – sponsored by Rep. Abney,
assigned to Protection & Professional
Licensure Committee

SB 583 – sponsored by Sen. Pennycuick,
assigned to Consumer Protection &
Professional Licensure Committee



Next Steps

Plan is for all compacts to run at same time...

Occupational Therapists

Cosmetology

Dentists

LPCs

Audiology

Social Workers

And others



Next Steps

**NOTHING HAPPENS BY ITSELF
IN HARRISBURG!!**

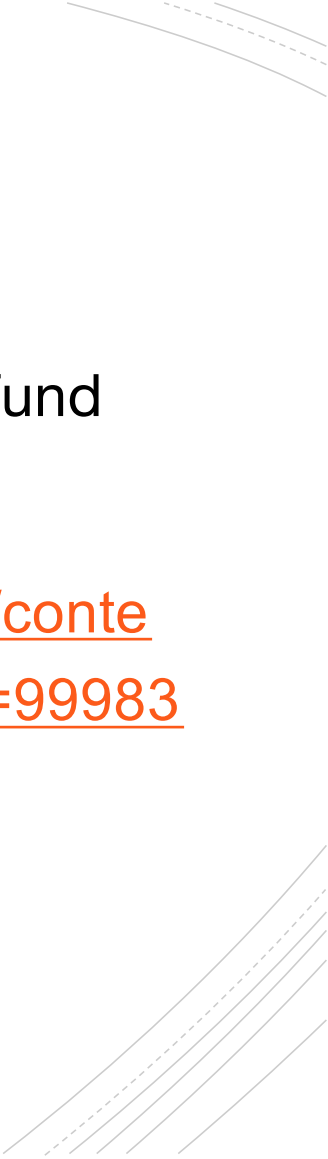
Next Steps



Call to Action

1. Donate \$75 to the lobbying fund

https://pscsw.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=305&club_id=999835&item_id=12700



A decorative background featuring several sets of curved lines in the corners, some solid and some dashed. A prominent red call-to-action box is positioned on the left side of the slide.

Call to Action

2. Join the PSCSW legislative committee

Contact Samantha Ruiz to sign up

sruiz5090@gmail.com

The background features several sets of curved, parallel lines in the corners, some solid and some dashed, creating a sense of motion or a modern design aesthetic.

Call to Action

3. Reach out to your legislators

Reaching out to Legislators

Ask your elected officials to co-sponsor the compact legislation!

Script: Hi my name is x and I am a clinical social worker in your district. I'm calling to ask Rep/Sen. x to support social workers by co-sponsoring HB 554 / SB 583.

OR

Thank your elected official for co-sponsoring the compact legislation!

Script: Hi my name is x and I am a clinical social worker in your district. I'm calling to thank Rep/Sen. x for support social workers by co-sponsoring HB 554 / SB 583.

<https://www.palegis.us/find-my-legislator>



Current Co- sponsors

- Rep. Tim Brennan (D)
- Rep. Dan Frankel (D)
- Rep. Robert Freeman (D)
- Rep. Jose Giral (D)
- Rep. Carol Hill-Evans (D)
- Rep. Joseph C. Hohenstein (D)
- Rep. Kristine C. Howard (D)
- Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta (D)
- Rep. Tarik Khan (D)
- Rep. Ed Neilson (D)
- Rep. Jennifer O'Mara (D)
- Rep. Ben V. Sanchez (D)
- Rep. Mike H. Schlossberg (D)
- Rep. Melissa L. Shusterman (D)
- Rep. Arvind Venkat (D)
- Rep. Ben Waxman (D)



Current Co- sponsors

- Sen. David G. Argall (R)
- Sen. Jarrett Coleman (R)
- Sen. Carolyn T. Comitta (D)
- Sen. Wayne D. Fontana (D)
- Sen. Patty Kim (D)
- Rep. Brett R. Miller (R)
- Sen. Nick Pisciotano (D)
- Sen. Greg Rothman (R)
- Sen. Nikil Saval (D)
- Sen. Judy L. Schwank (D)
- Sen. Elder A. Vogel (R)



Any
questions?



HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN PA

Slides developed by and provided to us
courtesy of our lobbyists at
Greenlee Partners LLC

STEP 1

The idea for a bill is conceived and developed by one or more legislators. In many circumstances, legislators will circulate **co-sponsorship memos** to their colleagues before introducing a bill. The co-sponsorship memo will often outline the intentions of upcoming legislation and sometimes include a draft of the legislation.

STEP 2

At the request of the sponsoring legislator(s), the **Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB)** drafts the text of the bill. The LRB prepares bills and resolutions for introduction and advises legislators and committees. They review the bill for consistency with existing statutes, insert appropriate references, and ensure adherence to Pennsylvania's rules.

STEP 3

The Chief Clerk of House (or Senate) assigns a bill number to the bill, and the bill receives a **printer number**. Each time the bill is amended, it receives a new printer number.

In the House, the Speaker of House and in the Senate, the President Pro Tempore of Senate, assigns the bill to a standing committee.



Senate Pres.
Pro Temp. Kim
Ward



Speaker of the
House Joanna
McClinton

STEP 5

The Committee considers the bill, holds **hearings**, takes evidence, and decides whether to **support the bill**.

“Reported as Amended” (RAA)

“Reported as Committed” (RAC)

**“Reported as Committed Unanimously”
(RACU)**



STEP 6

If the Committee supports the bill, it is presented to the entire chamber (House or Senate) on three separate days for **consideration**.

STEP 7

Most bills are required to go through the **Appropriations Committee** (which usually happens between the **second and third consideration** day), and if the bill (1) requires an expenditure of funds or (2) results in a loss of revenue for the Commonwealth, the bill will receive a detailed **fiscal note**, indicating how much the law would cost the Commonwealth if enacted. (Fiscal notes will occasionally include helpful bill summaries).

The background features decorative curved lines in the top-left and bottom-right corners. A large red speech bubble is positioned on the left side of the page.

STEP 8

During its days of consideration, legislators may debate or comment on the bill. These debates and comments are recorded in the House and Senate Journals. Amendments can be proposed during the second consideration of bills in the House. Amendments can be proposed during second and third consideration of bills in the Senate.

STEP 9

On the third day of consideration, the entire chamber votes on the bill. It is very unlikely that a bill will be amended on third consideration (the third day).

First Consideration **N/A**

Second Consideration **Agreed to**

Third Consideration **Final Passage**

On Concurrence **Concurred**

STEP 10

If the chamber approves the bill, it is sent to the other chamber for approval – Steps 4 through 8 are repeated.

If it is amended in the other Chamber, those changes are considered in its originating Chamber. The amended bill is typically referred to the Chamber's **Rules Committee** before coming up for a vote. The Rules Committee can report the changed bill out as Committed—accepting the other Chamber's amendments—before it goes to the Floor for a vote.

Or, the originating Chamber can choose to revert back to the original language of the bill. In that case, the bill will be referred to the **Conference Committee** to reconcile the differences in the two bills. Conference Committee members are selected from both chambers by the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The Chambers must then vote on the Conference Committee's report before it goes to the Governor.



STEP 11

Once both chambers have passed identical versions of the bill, it is sent to the Governor.

STEP 12

If the Governor signs the bill, it becomes law and is given at **“Act”** number. It can also lapse into law if the Governor fails to **veto** the bill. If he does veto the bill, the General Assembly can attempt a **veto override**. Overriding a veto requires a **two-thirds majority** vote in both Chambers (33 votes in the Senate and 136 votes in the House).