

DDH Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact

Effect and Benefits

This project is funded by the Department of Defense

Effect

There are approximately 200,000 licensed dentists and approximately 215,000 licensed dental hygienists in the United States. Licensees are limited to providing care within state borders. The Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact seeks to provide licensees with opportunities for multistate practice and increase mobility for individuals who are relocating, improve public safety and promote workforce development by reducing unnecessary licensure burdens.

Benefits for Practitioners

- Facilitates mobility for licensees.
- Expands employment opportunities into new markets.
- Eases the burden of applying for and maintaining multiple licenses.
- Supports relocating military spouses and families.
- Improves continuity of care.

Benefits for State Dentistry Licensing Authorities

- Reduces administrative burden.
- Creates a compact information system that supports the facilitation of licensure and discipline information for dentists and dental hygienists.
- Expands cooperation among state licensure boards on investigations and disputes.
- Allows regulators to retain jurisdiction over licensees practicing in their state.

Benefits for the State

- Promotes workforce development and strengthens labor markets.
- Expands consumer access to highly qualified practitioners.
- Enhances public safety through a shared interstate data system of licensure and disciplinary information, allowing for rapid verification of licensure status and cooperation among states.
- Preserves state sovereignty.