

Development Process

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The Department of Defense has sought to support the development of interstate compacts as a mechanism for ensuring the professional licenses of military spouses are easily portable. In September 2020, the Department of Defense entered into a cooperative agreement with The Council of State Governments to fund the creation of new interstate compacts designed to strengthen occupational licensing portability. In collaboration with the Department of Defense, CSG developed and administered a competitive application process to select the professions for initial compact development. Eligible applicants included associations of professionals, associations or federations of state licensing boards, coalitions of state licensing boards and national credentialing bodies for professions licensed in at least 30 states.

In 2021, the Department of Defense and CSG announced that the American Dental Association (ADA) and the American Dental Hygienist Association (ADHA) were both successful applicants. CSG, ADA, and ADHA then transitioned into drafting the model compact legislation. To develop recommendations guiding the drafting of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact, CSG, ADHA and ADA brought together a Technical Assistance Group made up of state board members, board administrators, members of professional associations, licensed dentists and dental hygienists and other stakeholders. The group met over the course of several months to determine the needs of the profession and the compact model, dentist and dental hygienist mobility patterns, and current licensure systems. A separate drafting team transitioned the recommendations and model from the Technical Assistance Group into a full draft of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact model legislation.

To feedback on the draft legislation, CSG managed a public comment period during the fall of 2022. This included virtual educational presentations where CSG explained the draft legislation and answered questions. CSG, ADA and ADHA also attended several conferences and convenings to present the compact to interested stakeholder groups. Lastly, CSG hosted a website with the draft legislation, informational materials, and a survey for the public to submit feedback. After gathering responses, CSG reconvened the drafting team and Technical Assistance Group to discuss and make changes, leading to a final draft.