What is IMpact?

IMpact is an interstate occupational licensure compact. Interstate compacts are constitutionally authorized, legislatively enacted, legally binding agreements among states. IMpact will enable licensed massage therapists to practice in all states that join the compact, rather than get an individual license in every state in which they want to practice. Like the compact for a driver’s license, each compact member state agrees to mutually recognize the practitioner licenses issued by every other member state.

What other professions have an interstate compact?

- Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC)
- Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) and Advanced Practice Nurse Compact (APRN Compact)
- Emergency Medical Service Officials Licensure Compact (EMS Compact)
- Physical Therapists Licensure Compact (PT Compact)
- Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT)
- Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC)
- Occupational Therapy Interstate Licensure Compact (OT Compact)
- Counseling Interstate Licensure Compact
Who can use IMpact?

A massage therapist is eligible for a multistate license if they have:

- An active, unencumbered license in the compact member state in which they reside;
- Completed at least 625 clock hours of massage therapy education;
- Passed the national licensing examination; and
- No disqualifying criminal history.

A massage therapist who meets these requirements may be granted a multistate license which authorizes them to practice in all compact member states with no additional action needed. Massage therapists must observe the laws and rules of the state in which they practice.

BENEFITS OF IMpact FOR LICENSEES

- Facilitates mobility for licensees
- Expands employment opportunities into new markets
- Improves continuity of care when massage therapists or clients relocate
- Supports relocating military spouses and families
- Reduces financial burden of applying for and maintaining multiple licenses

BENEFITS OF IMpact FOR REGULATORS

- Reduces administrative burden
- Facilitates mobility of practitioners during public health emergencies
- Allows regulators to retain jurisdiction over licensees practicing in their state
- Expands cooperation among state licensure boards on investigations and disputes
- Enhances public safety through a shared interstate data system of licensure and disciplinary information

BENEFITS OF IMpact FOR STATES

- Promotes workforce development and strengthens labor markets
- Expands consumer access to highly qualified practitioners
- Preserves state sovereignty
- Improves access to massage therapy services

What’s Next?

The Council of State Governments (CSG) has facilitated the development of the IMpact model legislation. This legislation has been finalized for introduction during 2023 legislative sessions.

Each state must enact the IMpact model legislation to join the compact. Supporters of the compact can contact the state chapter or national office of their professional membership association and state legislature to advocate for the interstate compact.

To get involved or learn about advocating for the interstate compact, please visit massagecompact.org.