What is the Cosmetology Licensure Compact?

The Cosmetology Licensure Compact is an interstate occupational licensure compact. Interstate compacts are constitutionally authorized, legislatively enacted, legally binding agreements among states. The Cosmetology Licensure Compact will enable cosmetologists to get a multistate license 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.

How does the Cosmetology Licensure Compact work?

A cosmetologist lives in a compact member state and wants to work in other compact member states.

1. Multistate License application
   - Home state verifies that cosmetologist meets the compact’s requirements and issues the multistate license.

2. Multistate License issued
   - They can now practice in any other member state.
   - A remote state may take action against the authorization to practice in that state.
   - Only the home state may take action against the multistate license.

3. All other compact member states

What’s Next?

The Cosmetology Licensure Compact model legislation must be passed by a state’s legislature and signed into law by the Governor for a state to become a member. The model legislation is available to states for consideration and enactment during 2023 state legislative sessions.

Who can use the Cosmetology Licensure Compact?

A cosmetologist must hold an active, unencumbered single-state cosmetology license in the compact member state in which they live to be eligible to apply for a multistate license. A cosmetologist using the Cosmetology Licensure Compact’s multistate license must abide by the laws, regulations and rules for the practice of cosmetology in the state in which they are located at the time they provide service.

For more information or to learn more about advocating for the Cosmetology Licensure Compact, please visit cosmetologycompact.org or email cosmetologycompact@csg.org.