



ATHLETIC TRAINER COMPACT

Section by Section Summary

SECTION 1: Title and Purpose

This statute shall be known and cited as the Athletic Trainer Compact. The purposes of this Compact are to expand mobility of athletic training practice and improve public access to services by providing Athletic Trainers licensed in a Member State the ability to practice in other Member States. This Compact preserves the regulatory authority of States to protect public health and safety through the current system of State licensure, while also providing for expanded interstate mobility through a Compact Privilege granted to qualifying professionals.

This Compact is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Increase public access and enhance continuity of care to Athletic Training through mutual recognition of state licenses.
- Enable interstate practice by Licensed Athletic Trainers with uniform licensure standards.
- Provide an additional streamlined opportunity for interstate practice by Licensed Athletic Trainers who meet compact uniform requirements.
- Promote workforce mobility by eliminating the need for multiple state licenses.
- Reduce administrative burden for both applicants and member states.
- Enhance public health and safety protection.
- Foster cooperation among states in regulating multi-state Athletic Trainer practices.
- Support active military personnel and their spouses.
- Improve exchange of licensure, investigative, and disciplinary information among states.
- Ensure uniformity in Athletic Trainer licensure requirements across states.
- Affirm each state's authority to enforce practice laws where care is provided, ensuring continuity of care.

SECTION 2: Definitions

This section establishes the definitions of key terms and concepts as used throughout the compact. Defined terms are capitalized throughout the document.

Key Definitions:

- "Compact Privilege" means the authorization granted by a Remote State to allow a Licensee from another Member State to provide Athletic Training Services in a Remote State.
- "Compact Qualifying License" means a License that is not an Encumbered License issued by a Member State to practice Athletic Training.
- "License" means current authorization by a Member State to engage in the practice of Athletic Training.
- "Licensee" or "Licensed Athletic Trainer" means an individual who currently holds an unrestricted License and who meets all of the requirements outlined in Section 4 of this Compact.
- "State of Qualifying Licensure" means the Member State who has issued a Compact Qualifying License to a Licensee pursuant to Section 5 of this Compact.

SECTION 3: State Participation in the Compact

This section establishes the requirements for states to be eligible to participate in the compact, and what is required of participating states to continue to maintain eligibility.

To join the compact, a state must currently:

- License and regulate the Practice of Athletic Training;
- Require that Licensees in that State maintain Continuing Competence standards as part of their State practice act or rules Competence; and
- Have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints about Licensees.

To maintain membership in the compact, a state must:

- Enact a compact that is not materially different from the model compact.
- Participate fully in the compact data system.
- Notify the compact commission of any adverse action or the availability of significant investigative information regarding a licensee or applicant.
- Implement procedures for requiring the background check of applicants for a privilege to practice.
- Comply with the rules of the commission, the governing body of the compact.
- Grant a compact privilege to a licensee who meets the requirements established by the compact.

SECTION 4: Compact Privilege

This section describes the requirements for an athletic trainer to obtain a compact privilege to practice in remote states, including:

- Hold a Compact Qualifying License in their State of Qualifying Licensure.
- Have not had any Encumbrance or restriction against any License or Compact Privilege to Practice within the previous two (2) years.

- Notify the commission that the applicant is seeking a compact privilege within a remote state.
- Pay any applicable fees.
- Meet any jurisprudence requirements established by the remote state in which the licensee is seeking a compact privilege.
- Report to the commission any adverse action taken by any non-participating state.
- Hold a certification through the Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer (BOC), or its successor organization or:
 - Alternatively, if a Licensed Athletic Trainer otherwise meets the requirements but does not hold certification through the BOC, they can complete all the following to be eligible to obtain and exercise a compact privilege:
 - Pass the examination administered by the BOC;
 - Graduate from an athletic training education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).

SECTION 5: Qualifying License

A licensee can only hold one Qualifying License at a time, with procedures for this designation defined by the Commission. This does not affect a licensee's ability to hold a Single State License in multiple states. Additionally, the Compact does not alter the requirements for issuing a Single State License in any member state.

SECTION 6: Active-Duty Military Personnel or their Spouses

Active military members and their spouses are exempt from paying any fees for a Compact Privilege. If a Member State charges a fee, it may offer a reduced fee or waive the fee for them.

SECTION 7: Adverse Actions

This section establishes a disciplinary framework between the compact participating states. Remote states may take adverse action against a licensee's compact privilege in that state and may issue enforceable subpoenas for witnesses and evidence from other participating states.

Participating states must report any adverse action and the existence of significant investigative information to the compact data system, which then promptly alerts the other participating states of this information. Any participating state may take adverse action based on the factual findings of a remote state. This section also enables the compact participating states to work together on joint investigative activities related to licensees using the compact.

SECTION 8: Establishment and Operation of the Commission

This section outlines the composition and powers of the compact commission.

- Each participating state is entitled to one commissioner.
- The commissioner will be a member or designee of the state's licensing authority.
- Each commissioner has one vote on commission rules and bylaws.
- The commission may establish a term of office, code of ethics, bylaws, rules, a budget and financial records in order to carry out the compact.
- The commission shall elect an executive committee composed of five (5) voting members.
- The executive committee shall include up to four ex-officio, nonvoting members from recognized national Athletic Trainer organizations.

SECTION 9: Data System

This section establishes the commission's shared information system. This data system will allow for the expedited sharing of disciplinary and investigative information. Participating states will submit a uniform dataset to the data system on all practitioners to whom this compact is applicable.

Adverse action information pertaining to a licensee in any participating state will only be available to other participating states. A participating state may designate information submitted to the data system that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of that participating state.

SECTION 10: Rulemaking

This section establishes the rulemaking authority of the commission to carry out the provisions of the compact.

- Rules carry the force of law in all participating states.
- A simple majority of participating state legislatures may veto a rule of the commission.
- Changes to the rules require a 30-day notice of proposed rulemaking, with an opportunity for a public hearing.
- If the commission takes an action that is beyond the scope of the compact, the action is invalid and has no force and effect.

SECTION 11: Oversight, Dispute Resolution and Enforcement

This section ensures compliance with the compact by member states and details the procedures to be followed in the event a participating state fails to comply with the compact, including:

- A period of technical assistance in remedying the situation.
- Dispute resolution, including mediation and binding processes.
- Termination from the compact if no other means of compliance is successful.

SECTION 12: Effective Date, Withdrawal and Amendment

This section establishes the effective date of the compact and includes provisions for states withdrawing from the compact and the member states collectively amending the compact.

- The compact takes effect on the effective date of enactment by the seventh state.
- States that join after this date are subject to the rules of the commission as they exist on the date when the compact becomes law in that state.
- Participating states may enact a law to repeal their membership in the compact. A state's withdrawal takes effect 180 days after enactment of such law.

SECTION 13: Construction and Severability

The compact is to be liberally construed to effectuate its purposes.

The compact's provisions are severable, meaning that:

- If a provision is declared to conflict with the United States Constitution, all other provisions remain valid for all participating states.
- If a provision is held contrary to a participating state's constitution, the compact retains its full force in all other states, and all other provisions remain valid in the affected state.

SECTION 14: Consistent Effect and Conflict with Other State Laws

Participating states retain sovereignty over all laws, and nothing shall inhibit or prohibit enforcement of laws that are not in conflict with the compact. Any laws, statutes, regulations or other legal requirements in a member state that conflict with the compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.