



## National Center for Interstate Compacts

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

CSG Testimony on HB 2453 (To be presented in-person, in support)  
Matt Shafer, The Council of State Governments, mshafer@csg.org

Chair Landwehr, Vice-Chair Eplee and members of the committee, I would like to express my appreciation for your consideration of HB 2453, Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. My name is Matt Shafer with The Council of State Governments. My testimony is meant to provide background educational information on the compact.

There are approximately 425,000 licensed dentists and dental hygienists in the United States. Despite the high demand for oral health services, licensees are currently limited to providing services within state borders. The Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact seeks to provide licensees with opportunities for multistate practice, support relocating practitioners, and foster workforce development by reducing licensure burdens.

The compact was created through a cooperative agreement between the Department of Defense and The Council of State Governments. For the past 18 months, CSG has been developing the compact language with stakeholders within these professions including the American Dental Association, American Dental Hygienists Association, Association of Dental Support Organizations, state dental boards, the dental education community, and others.

The Compact enables dentists and dental hygienists to get a compact privilege to practice in other 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.

The Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact is similar in form and function to the eight occupational licensing compacts that Kansas is already a member of. A dentist or dental hygienist must hold an active, unencumbered license in a compact member state to be eligible to apply for a compact privilege. Practitioners must also pass a background check and meet other eligibility requirements related to education and examinations.

The Dentistry and Dental Hygiene Compact also benefits military families. If a military family gets assigned to a new duty station in a compact member state, the service member or their spouse can continue to work with their current compact privilege.



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From a regulatory perspective, the Compact preserves the authority of each compact member state to protect public health and safety through the existing state regulatory structure. A licensee practicing under a compact privilege must abide by the laws, regulations and rules for that govern the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene in the state in which they are located. The Kansas Dental Board has jurisdiction over anyone practicing in Kansas under a compact privilege.

Kansas will be able to charge a fee for the compact privilege.

Like all of the other occupational licensing compacts, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact will be governed by a commission made up of the member states. The delegate will be a representative from the Kansas Dental Board.

The compact will come into effect once it's enacted by seven states. The compact is brand new so there are currently only three states who have enacted the compact (IA, TN, WA). However, there are twelve states with introduced legislation this session including Kansas' neighboring states of Colorado, Nebraska, and Missouri. If enacted, Kansas would have a seat at the table with the compact commission has its first meeting to establish the compact's rules and bylaws.

We don't anticipate substantial additional costs for states participating in the compact. There may be a cost for additional software required to connect to the compact's interstate licensure data system as well as cost(s) associated with the attendance of your state's chosen commissioner to the annual Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact Commission meeting once the compact is enacted in seven state.

Overall, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact will increase license portability for dental professionals in Kansas, support military families, and improve access to oral health services for Kansas residents, while maintaining the current system of state licensure. Additionally, by ensuring the sharing of investigative and disciplinary information among participating states, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact will allow participating state regulatory entities to better protect the public. I understand that increasing access to healthcare is a key issue facing states, and we believe the compact provides one solution that help alleviate that problem. Thank you for your time and I'm happy to answer any questions from the committee.