

Please Support House Bill 21-1279

Reps. Young & Holtorf - Sen. Fields

The **Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact** (OT Compact) will allow licensed Occupational Therapists (OTs) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs) to practice *in all states that join the compact*. This will remove the need for practitioners to get an individual license in each state where they want to practice. Also, this legislation provides the issuance of provisional licenses under DORA. HB21-1279 passed the House on a 60 to 4 vote.

Overview:

- The OT Compact is an interstate compact, which is a constitutionally authorized, legally binding contract between states.
- The OT Compact is the same in form and function as other occupational licensure compacts like the Nurse Licensure Compact, the Physical Therapy Compact, and the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.
- The OT Compact authorizes in person practice and telemedicine based on a valid, unrestricted home state license in other compact member states for both Occupational Therapists (OTs) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs).
- The OT Compact will take effect when 10 states have enacted authorizing legislation.
- The American Occupational Therapy Association is leading the initiative in collaboration with the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT®). The National Center for Interstate Compacts at the Council of State Governments (CSG) facilitated the development of the OT Compact and is providing technical assistance.

Benefits:

- Preserve and strengthen state licensure systems;
- Enhance public safety;
- Improve access to Occupational Therapy services;
- Increase market opportunities for OTs and OTAs by authorizing practice in member states, including via telehealth;
- Enhance mobility for OT practitioners;
- Support relocating military spouses;
- Improve continuity of care when clients travel or relocate;
- Encourage cooperation among compact member states in regulating OT practice;
- Has no impact on a Colorado's scope of practice;
- Leaves Colorado specific licensure requirements in place; and
- Enhances states' authority to protect the public and regulate the OT profession.

Conclusion:

Interstate compacts have proven to improve patient access in many other medical professions.. We respectfully ask for your support of HB21-1279.

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