

Physical Therapy Licensure Compact

Current Status
As of 4/18/2016

Advisory Task Force (April-July 2014): Complete

Composed of state board members, board administrators, state senator, physical therapists, lawyers, APTA representatives, and with representatives from the Council of State Governments (CSG) providing technical assistance, the advisory task force assembled by FSBPT examined the concept of a compact for physical therapy broadly. The task force's work culminated in a set of proposals about what the final compact product should look like and recommended moving forward with the drafting of a Physical Therapy Licensure Compact (PTLC).

Drafting Team (January-April 2015): Complete

The drafting team assembled by FSBPT was tasked with actually drafting the statutory language of the PTLC. CSG again provided technical assistance and support with the drafting of the statutory language. The drafting team crafted the language based on the recommendations of the advisory group, as well as concepts and issues that came up during their own discussions. The PTLC draft document was released to a broad audience for a public comment period in May 2015. After receiving comments, the drafting team debated suggested changes and developed the final product on October 6, 2015.

Education: (October 2015-ongoing)

Education of physical therapy licensing boards, licensees, and legislators is paramount to the success of the PTLC. Once the PTLC language was completed, FSBPT began an enthusiastic campaign to educate the membership regarding the Compact.

Presentations focusing on the PTLC were given at the FSBPT 2015 Leadership Issues Forum and Annual Meeting and jointly with APTA at other meetings. Since October 2015, FSBPT staff has presented to multiple physical therapy licensing boards interested in the PTLC. Additionally, FSBPT staff testified in support of the Compact in front of the Oregon (November 2015) and Missouri legislatures (February 2016). FSBPT entered into an official partnership with CSG to provide state-by-state technical assistance and education before and during state legislative sessions; educational efforts will be continue after enactment to maximize membership in the PTLC.

FSBPT has also partnered with APTA as they begin an educational campaign reaching out to their leadership and membership regarding the PTLC.

Legislation: (January 2016-ongoing)

Jan/Feb 2016	PTLC bills introduced in AZ, MO, OR, and TN
Feb 2016	Oregon bill passes both chamber of legislature Tennessee bill passes the Senate Arizona bill passes the House
Mar 2016	Oregon Governor signs the PTLC into law making Oregon the first state to be a member of the PTLC
Apr 2016	Tennessee Governor signs the PTLC into law

Enactment: (Projected mid-2017)

The PTLC will activate when ten states pass legislation to join the Compact. Based on the interest communicated by a number of states, by the conclusion of the 2017 legislative session, the PTLC should pass in ten states and be enacted.

Transition: (12-18 month post-Enactment)

The PTLC shall come into effect on the date on which the statute is enacted into law in the tenth member state. However, the PTLC will not be operational for licensees until the Compact Commission finalizes some standard start-up activities, including the first Commission meetings where the member states meet to discuss development of rules, regulations, bylaws, etc. by which the PTLC will be governed.

Finally, when the compact body is able to run independently, licensees will be able to take advantage of the benefits of the PTLC. This is when licensees will begin to work in states other than their home-license state with a Compact Privilege rather than a license.