



Day at the Capitol February 7, 2023



**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY:
A HEALTH CARE SOLUTION FOR TEXANS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN**

SUPPORT HB 1683 The Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact (OT Compact)

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. As of 2022, twenty-one states have passed the compact act.

The Basics

- 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 Medical Licensure Compact.
- The OT Compact authorizes in person practice and telepractice 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.

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

Dispelling the Myths

- As with the existing licensure compacts, the OT Compact has no impact on a state's scope of practice – this is not a takeover of state regulatory authority
- As with existing licensure compacts, the OT Compact leaves state-specific licensure requirements in place – this is not a takeover of state licensing systems.
- The OT Compact enhances states' authority to protect the public and regulate the OT profession.
- OTs and OTAs are licensed in all 50 states, consistent with licensure requirements.
- The OT Compact will have no foreseeable fiscal implications for states.

Support HB 1683

The Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact is a joint initiative by AOTA and NBCOT®

This information has been modified from Fact sheet retrieved from https://otcompact.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Final_OT-Compact-Legislators-Fact-Sheet_1.pdf on 1/29/2023 and is authored by the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact

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