

The APRN Compact: A Summary of the Key Provisions



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Article I Findings and Declaration of Purpose

- Facilitate the states' responsibilities to protect the public's health and safety;
- Ensure and encourage the cooperation of party states in the areas of APRN licensure and regulation, including promotion of uniform licensure requirements;
- Facilitate the exchange of information between party states in the areas of APRN regulation, investigation and adverse actions;
- Promote compliance with the laws governing APRN practice in each jurisdiction;
- Authorizes all party states to hold an APRN accountable for meeting all state practice laws in the state in which the patient is located at the time care is rendered through the mutual recognition of party state licenses;
- Decrease redundancies in the consideration and issuance of APRN licensure; and
- Provide opportunities for interstate practice by advanced practice registered nurses who meet uniform licensure requirements.

Article II Definitions

Reference model legislation at aprncompact.com.

Article III General Provisions and Jurisdiction

- A member state must implement procedures for considering the state and federal criminal history records of applicants for initial APRN licensure or APRN licensure by endorsement.
- The APRN Uniform Licensure Requirements (ULRs) adopted by the Commission provide the minimum requirements for APRN multistate licensure.
- To obtain/retain a multistate license, an APRN must meet the home state's qualifications, in addition to the ULRs.
- The Commission identifies in rule the approved APRN roles and population foci for licensure. An APRN shall be licensed in an approved APRN role and at least one approved population focus.
- An APRN multistate license is recognized as authorizing the APRN to practice in each party state, under a multistate licensure privilege, in the same role and population focus as in the home state.
- An APRN multistate license shall include prescriptive authority for non-controlled prescription drugs. An APRN shall satisfy all requirements imposed by the state for each state in which an APRN seeks authority to prescribe controlled substances.
- An APRN multistate license holder is authorized to practice independent of a supervisory or collaborative relationship with a physician.
- Authority to take adverse action against a multistate licensure privilege with application of state due process laws.
- APRN compliance with state practice laws.

Article IV Applications for APRN Licensure in a Party State

- Verification of licensure information via the coordinated licensure information system
- Limitation to one home state license
- Outlines process for change of primary residence/home state

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Article V Additional Authorities Invested in Party State Licensing Boards

- Provides authority to
 - Take adverse action against a multistate licensure privilege
 - Allow cease and desist orders to limit privileges
 - Issue subpoenas
 - Obtain and submit criminal background checks
- Requires deactivation of multistate licensure privileges when license encumbered

Article VI Coordinated Licensure Information System and Exchange of Information

- Requires participation in Coordinated Licensure Information System.
- Requires prompt reporting of adverse action, current significant investigative information and participation in alternative to discipline programs when known to the board of nursing.
- Provides for exchange of information with other party states.

Article VII Establishment of the Interstate Commission of APRN Compact Administrators

Establishes the governing body as a public agency known as an “Interstate Commission.” This term is commonly used by other interstate Compact governing bodies.

Article VIII Rulemaking

Allows for rules to be adopted directly by the Commission. Such rulemaking is legally binding in all party states. There is no requirement that rules be ratified or adopted by individual states. Such rulemaking authority has been permitted and exercised by other interstate Compacts. The procedural requirements are based on the national Model Administrative Procedures Act, which is similar to most state APAs and includes:

- Provision for notice to the public of proposed and adopted rules
- Opportunity for comment
- Opportunity for public hearing
- Consideration and voting upon proposed rules
- Responding to comments received

Article IX Oversight, Dispute Resolution and Enforcement

Ensures compliance with the Compact by member states. The procedures to be followed in the event of a failure by a party state to comply with the Compact include:

- A period of technical assistance in curing the default
- Improved dispute resolution processes; and
- Termination from the Compact in the event no other means of compliance has been successful.

Article X Effective Date, Withdrawal and Amendment

- Addresses the method for states to enter, withdraw from or amend the Compact.
- Compact is effective when Compact has been enacted into law in ten (10) party states.

Article XI Construction and Severability

Provides for the Compact to remain valid in a state when any provision is declared to be contrary to a party state’s constitution.