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## Dental Compacts

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# Dental Compacts



By Bill Sullivan  
MDA Vice President of Advocacy and  
Professional Affairs

**Editor's Note:** The following Advocacy Avenue article is adapted from an interview with Bill Sullivan, MDA Vice President of Advocacy and Professional Affairs. For more information on dental compacts or other MDA advocacy efforts, you can contact Bill at [bsullivan@michigandental.org](mailto:bsullivan@michigandental.org).

## DM: What is an interstate compact?

**BS:** This is an agreement between the states that belong to the compact to address a policy issue in a certain way.

## DM: What are the currently proposed dental compacts?

**BS:** Currently, there are two proposed dental compacts. One proposal is known as the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact (this is the proposal supported by the ADA), and the other proposal is called the Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact (this is the one supported by the American Association of Dental Boards). Ten states have joined the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact, while no state has enacted the Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact.

## DM: Which states have joined the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact?

**BS:** The following states, including our neighbors Ohio and Wisconsin, have joined: Washington, Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Tennessee, Virginia, and Maine.

## DM: Is there currently any legislation moving forward in Michigan regarding dental compacts?

**BS:** No. Not at this time.

## DM: Does the state of Michigan participate in any compacts for any profession?

**BS:** Yes, in medicine with the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

## DM: How many states participate in the medical compact with Michigan?

**BS:** Over 25 states have joined, including all of Michigan's neighbors (Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio).

## DM: How does a state join a dental compact, and what role does the MDA have?

**BS:** The only way a state can join a compact is for the legislature to pass a bill and the governor to sign it. The only role the MDA would have is to advocate for or against (or stay neutral toward) a compact proposal.

## DM: Would a compact have an effect on a provider's current license or renewal?

**BS:** No. The compact only impacts someone if they are applying for licensure in another compact state and choose to use the compact process.

## DM: Is there anything else you think the membership should know regarding dental compacts?

**BS:** If members want more information on the dental compacts, they can scan the QR codes to visit the compacts' respective websites.

