

Licensure of Out-of-State Health Professionals

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Issue

Provide a brief overview of how Connecticut licenses out-of-state health professionals.

Summary

State law generally allows health professionals licensed in other states to practice in Connecticut through either (1) licensure by endorsement or reciprocity, which allows eligible applicants to waive certain licensure requirements (e.g., examination, training, or experience requirements) when obtaining a Connecticut license or (2) interstate compacts, which typically allow health professionals to practice in participating states without having to be licensed in each state. Connecticut currently participates in interstate compacts for physical therapists, physicians, professional counselors, and psychologists.

Licensure by Endorsement or Reciprocity

Several out-of-state health professionals can obtain a Connecticut license by endorsement, which requires the health professional to still obtain a Connecticut license to practice in the state and pay the associated initial and renewal license fees. But the state waives certain licensure requirements if the professional is licensed or certified in another state whose requirements are substantially similar to Connecticut's. Table 1 below provides examples of licensure by endorsement laws for select health professionals.

Table 1: Examples of Health Professional Licensure by Endorsement Laws

<i>Health Profession</i>	<i>Citation</i>	<i>Licensure Requirements Waived</i>
Advanced practice registered nurses (APRN)	20-94a & 20-87a , as amended by PA 23-97 , §§ 19 & 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires applicants to have practiced for at least three years in another state with requirements substantially similar to or greater than Connecticut's applicant cannot have any pending professional disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints allows these APRNs to count their out-of-state practice toward the existing requirement of three years' practice (with at least 2,000 hours) in collaboration with a physician before practicing independently
Chiropractors	20-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires applicants to meet certain education and training requirements and be licensed in a state with requirements substantially similar to or greater than Connecticut's waives written examination requirement but still requires practical examination waives both written and practical examination requirements for those practicing in academic or clinical settings for at least five years prior to applying for licensure applicants cannot have any pending professional disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints
Clinical social workers	20-195n	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> licensure requirements must be substantially similar to or greater than Connecticut's must have successfully completed the master level examination of the Association of Social Work Boards, or another Department of Public Health (DPH)-prescribed examination applicant cannot have any pending professional disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints
Dentists	20-110	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> waives licensure examination requirement licensure requirements must be commensurate with Connecticut's applicant must have practiced in the other jurisdiction in a clinical or academic setting for at least a year immediately before applying in Connecticut applicant cannot have any pending professional disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints
Specified emergency medical services personnel (emergency medical technicians (EMT), advanced EMTs, and emergency medical responders)	20-206mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> licensure or certification requirements must be at least equal to Connecticut's or the applicant must hold a national certification in that profession applicant cannot have any pending professional disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints

Table 1 (continued)

<i>Health Profession</i>	<i>Citation</i>	<i>Licensure Requirements Waived</i>
Licensed practical nurses	20-97	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • waives licensure examination requirement • allows certain applicants to substitute licensed clinical experience for education requirements • licensure requirements must meet or exceed Connecticut's • applicant cannot have any pending professional disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints
Licensed professional counselors	20-195dd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • licensure requirements must be substantially similar to or greater than Connecticut's • applicant may substitute three years of licensed or certified work experience for Connecticut's experience requirement • applicant cannot have any pending professional disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints
Naturopaths	20-37b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • licensure requirements must be substantially similar to or greater than Connecticut's • applicant cannot have any pending professional disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints
Paramedics	20-206mm , as amended by PA 23-31 , § 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must be licensed in a state or territory with licensure requirements at least equal to Connecticut's • must successfully complete a specified Mental First Aid training • applicant cannot have any pending professional disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints
Registered nurses	20-94	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • waives licensure examination requirement • licensure requirements must be substantially similar to or greater than Connecticut's • applicant cannot have any pending professional disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints

In addition to licensure by endorsement, legislation enacted in 2021 (and amended in 2022) also allows health care professionals licensed in other states to obtain a Connecticut credential through licensure reciprocity. The law specifies that it applies to at least active-duty military members and their spouses, but it is not limited to them.

This law generally requires DPH to issue the appropriate license or other credential if the person meets specified experience and background requirements (e.g., has practiced under the other state's license for at least four years, and has no disciplinary history).

Under this expedited licensure process; (1) applicants must pay any credentialing fees required of other applicants; (2) DPH has the discretion to require them to pass licensure

exams (or part of them) required of other applicants, and (3) a credential may be denied if the DPH commissioner finds it to be in the state's best interest ([PA 21-152](#), § 1, as amended by [PA 22-47](#), § 2; codified at [CGS § 19a-14d](#)). (The law also contains generally similar provisions for Department of Consumer Protection-credentialed professionals; see [CGS § 21a-11b](#).)

Interstate Compacts

In addition to licensure by endorsement, legislation enacted in 2022 and 2023 entered Connecticut into the following four health care-related interstate compacts:

1. [Counseling Compact](#): In 2023, Connecticut became the thirtieth state to join this compact, which authorizes professional counselors licensed in one member state to practice across state boundaries, without requiring licensure in each state. Member states must grant the “privilege to practice” (i.e., the authority to practice in the state) to professional counselors holding a valid, unencumbered license who otherwise meet the compact's eligibility requirements ([PA 23-195](#), §§ 12 & 13).
2. [Interstate Medical Licensure Compact](#): In 2022, Connecticut joined this compact, which provides an expedited licensure process for physicians seeking to practice in multiple states (including by telehealth). Eligible physicians can complete one application within the compact but receive separate licenses from the states where they will practice. There are currently 39 member states ([PA 22-81](#), § 43, codified at [CGS § 20-10d](#)).
3. [Physical Therapy Licensure Compact](#): Connecticut, along with 36 other states, belong to the compact, which authorizes physical therapists and physical therapy assistants properly credentialed in one member state to practice across state boundaries, without requiring licensure in each state. Member states must grant the “compact privilege” (i.e., the authority to practice in the state) to people holding a valid, unencumbered license who otherwise meet the compact's eligibility requirements ([PA 23-97](#), §§ 16 & 17).
4. [Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact](#): In 2022, Connecticut joined this compact, which provides a process authorizing psychologists to practice by (1) telehealth (unlimited) and (2) temporary in-person, face-to-face services (30 days per year per state) across state boundaries, without the psychologist having to be licensed in each of the states. There are currently 40 participating states ([PA 22-81](#), § 42, codified at [CGS § 20-187b](#)).

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