

# Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-6835

**Title:** AN ACT ADOPTING THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSURE COMPACT.

**Vote Date:** 2/10/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/3/2025

**File No.:**

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## SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Public Health Committee.

## REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill allows Connecticut to join the Physician's Assistant (PA) Licensure Compact along with 13 other states. The compact creates a process allowing PAs who are licensed in one participating state to practice across state boundaries, including by telehealth, without requiring additional licensure. Any PA who wishes to be part of the compact must meet the eligibility requirements as set forth by the PA Licensure Compact Commission. This process also requires the PA to submit to a fingerprint-based criminal history records check. Among the provisions set forth in the compact are the eligibility criteria for states to enter the compact and for PAs to practice under it. The commission is allowed to charge an annual assessment and fees to cover operation costs. In addition, any amendments to the compact will only take effect if all participating states adopt them into law.

## RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

### **Melissa Willette, New England Region Liaison for the US Department of Defense- State Office (DoD):**

Supporting military families is a top priority of the Department. For military spouses in particular, professional licensing requirements remain a challenge. Frequent moves and burdensome requirements limit career options for military spouses. By creating reciprocity, the PA Compact will allow health care professionals to transcend these boundaries.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **Jason Prevelige, Chair Legislative Committee, CT Academy of Physicians Associates (ConnAPA):**

Mr. Prevelige pointed out that thousands of positions go unfilled each year in our state across various categories. The PA Compact will increase access to care for patients by removing the administrative burden and wait times that come with licensing applications. It will also enhance staffing coverage since often the issues that come with additional licensing cause healthcare providers to forgo multiple licenses. It is important to note that the compact protects the sovereignty of our state, which among other areas will ensure that HAVEN can continue to be funded. It is worthy to note that 13 states have passed the compact into law with at least 17 states poised to introduce the compact to their legislative bodies.

### **Meghan Pudeler, Director, State Advocacy and Outreach, American Academy of PAs (AAPA):**

Ms. Pudeler explained that the compact will not affect scope of practice as PAs using compact privileges to practice must abide by the laws and regulations of the state in which they are practicing at the time. The PA Compact simply streamlines the process for eligible PAs to practice in other compact states without the need to apply for licensure in each state.

### **Jayme Clark, Medical Director, Telehealth Hartford HealthCare:**

Mr. Clark points out that as a practicing PA, the current limitation of licensing restrictions has impacted access and patient care. We live in an increasingly mobile society for both patients and providers. Through the compact our state will be able to offer providers a multi-state license increasing the attractiveness to practice in our state as well as improve access and quality care for patients.

### **Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA):**

The current system is not attracting or training enough individuals for the various health careers that are in demand. Joining the PA Compact is an important part of maintaining the progress Connecticut has advanced to grow and support the healthcare workforce.

### **Timothy Anop, External Affairs Director, Yankee Institute:**

Mr. Anop points out that this bill does not compromise patient safety or the high standards that are expected of our healthcare providers. It simply removes the red tape that discourages skilled workers from practicing in Connecticut. Through this compact Connecticut will be in a stronger position to compete with other states for talent and investment as well as provide our residents the best care possible.

### **The following submitted testimony similar to the above in support of this bill:**

- Grace Brangwynne, Public Policy Associate, CBIA
- Sarah Ann Adams, practicing neurosurgery PA:

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**MADDIE COELLA:**

Ms. Coella believes that as a society we are sicker and unhealthier than ever before. She thinks it is time to reflect on trying something different.

**Reported by: Kathleen Panazza**

**Date: February 11, 2025**