

Board of Medical Practice Executive Summary

S.253 – Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

What is this?

S.253 will add Vermont to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. Since 2015 when first proposed, 22 states & territories have passed the IMLC. It is pending in 8 more, including Vermont.

Why is this important?

- The IMLC makes the process of becoming licensed in multiple states easier for physicians.
- It does not supplant a member state's licensing process but provides an additional pathway by which a qualifying physician can obtain a license more quickly and with much less effort than the standard process.
- Telemedicine is one reason for physicians to be licensed in multiple states, and with the rise of telemedicine there is a rise in demand.

The key features and advantages of the IMLC are that:

1. It allows a physician who qualifies to use the IMLC to quickly obtain a license in other states by obtaining certification from the state of principal licensure that they meet all criteria.
2. It ensures that Vermont's interest in licensing only well qualified physicians of good moral character will be protected by the strict criteria that define who may use the IMLC process.
3. It relieves the applicant of the burden to request that "direct source verification" be provided to the Board from many different sources. The process of having all that documentation sent to the Board can be costly and, more importantly, it usually takes more time than any other aspect of the licensing process.
4. It helps to preserve the existing system of state-by-state licensure for physicians, which allows Vermont to enforce its own standards for practice. This includes the ability to create laws and regulations that control practice, such as requirements that apply to prescribing opioids and other controlled substances.

Becoming a member of the IMLC will benefit Vermont in several ways:

1. Allow Vermont physicians to obtain licenses in other states more easily. That may allow Vermont-based physicians to expand their practices to include remote patients. That option may help in the efforts to retain and recruit physicians for practice in Vermont.
2. Support Vermont hospitals and practices in their efforts to recruit by offering new arrivals a faster and easier path to licensure.
3. Support the continued availability to hospitals and practices of physicians for services such as remote radiology and pathology reads, which are commonly offered through national firms that have physicians licensed in many states.
4. Support hospitals and practices in covering unanticipated or difficult-to-fill positions; participation in the IMLC will promote access to those services and the ability to quickly obtain coverage on short notice.