

Over the past couple of years, model language for a Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact was developed by The Council for State Governments and is now available for state legislators to introduce. In fact, compact legislation has already been introduced in 7 states, (WA, OH, TN, IA, TX, KS, MN), has passed in Washington and Tennessee with Iowa becoming the first state to join the compact after Gov. Kim Reynolds (R) signed the legislation on April 27th!

Once enacted by at least seven states, the compact makes it possible for licensees who live in states that are members of the compact to be able to apply for a “compact privilege” that allows them to practice in another member state. Under the current version of the model compact, license holders will be granted the opportunity to apply for compact privilege if they:

- Hold a license as a dentist or dental hygienist;
- Have graduated from a Commission on Dental Accreditation-accredited program;
- Have successfully completed a clinical assessment for licensure, with “clinical assessment” currently defined as an examination or process required for licensure as a dentist or dental hygienist, as applicable, that provides evidence of clinical competence in dentistry or dental hygiene;
- Have passed a National Board Examination of the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations or another examination accepted by rule as a requirement for licensure;
- Meet any jurisprudence requirements;
- Complete a criminal background check;
- Submit an application and pay applicable fees; and
- Comply with requirements to submit specified information for administrative purposes.

The AzDHA has supported various licensure portability efforts over the years, and this is the next big step. It is worth noting that the American Dental Hygienists’ Association, the American Dental Association, and the Association of Dental Support Organizations (ADSO) are all in support. We hope to see legislation introduced in 2024 that will allow AZ to join the compact. Stay tuned!

You can find further details on the Compact at [www.ddhcompact.org](http://www.ddhcompact.org).