



Audiology and Speech Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) HF2738 (Carroll)/SF 2656 (Boldon)

What does this legislation do?

This legislation establishes an occupational licensure compact for speech-language pathologists and audiologists to allow licensed speech-language pathologists and audiologists to practice face-to-face or through telehealth across state lines without having to become licensed in additional Compact states. Licensees receive a privilege to practice equivalent to a license and must meet minimum standards of practice required in the state they are seeking to practice.

What is a speech language pathologist and an audiologist?

A speech language pathologist provides services to remediate communication issues related to articulation, language, or voice impairment. An audiologist provides services to remediate hearing, balance, or ear problems.

Speech language pathologists and audiologists provide care in acute care and rehabilitation hospitals, outpatient clinics, schools, nursing homes, private pediatric practices, private practice, autism programs and other medical facilities.

Why is an Interstate Compact necessary?

By allowing speech language pathologists and audiologists to practice in person or through telepractice across state lines, the Compact will increase access to client, patient, and student care and will facilitate continuity of care when clients, patients, and students relocate or travel. It will increase access to services for populations currently underserved or geographically isolated and will allow military personnel and spouses to maintain their profession when relocating more easily.

The ASLP-IC will certify that audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) have met acceptable standards of practice, promote cooperation between compact states in the areas of licensure and regulation, and offer a higher degree of consumer protection across state lines.

What is the need for an Interstate Compact?

There continues to be a severe shortage of speech language pathologists (SLPs) and audiologists in Minnesota, which is causing an emergency shortage of professionals with expertise in providing care to those with communication disorders. To help address this shortage and to ensure that Minnesotans of all ages require trained services provided by SLPs, we need to engage in an interstate compact with other states to expand access to qualified SLPs.

How many states are part of the ASLP-IC?

Since 2020, thirty states, including Iowa, Wisconsin, and Nebraska. The current member states are Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio,

Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

What changes to Audiologist and Speech Language Pathologist licensure does this make?

This does not change licensure requirements in Minnesota. New entrants would still have to meet the requirements for licensure in their state. This proposal only allows licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to practice face to face or through telehealth across state lines without having to become licensed in compact member states.

The proposal would still require SLPs and Audiologists to be licensed and meet the licensure requirements to obtain a privilege to practice in the states participating in the Interstate Compact, meaning ALSPs applying to work in Minnesota would have to meet Minnesota licensure requirements. Most SLP licenses are consistent from state to state in their requirements, which is why we are pursuing a compact in health care settings only.

Who oversees licensed Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists?

Licensed speech language pathologists and Audiologists are overseen by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Health and are required to renew their licenses every two years. Nothing in this proposal would change that requirement.

The Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist Advisory Council, appointed by the commissioner of health, is charged with advising the commissioner on licensure standards, enforcement, and whether to accept or deny licensure applications or renewal. See the next section for more information about the Council.