

AT Compact FAQs

Updated Summer 2026

Compact Functionality

Q: While most states recognize the BOC exam for initial licensure, one state has its own state exam that is given to applicants as well. How would this be handled in the compact?

A: The compact has two eligibility pathways. The first pathway is having valid and current BOC certification. Alternatively, for individuals who are not currently BOC-certified, the compact allows for those individuals who hold at least a Bachelor's degree from a CAATE-accredited athletic training program AND have successfully completed the BOC Athletic Trainer exam to be eligible if all other compact eligibility requirements are met.

Q: Is it true that as long as ATs are working with their own team/athletes, they are only held to their own state practice act, regardless of which state they travel to practice?

A: Typically, ATs don't need a license if traveling with a team, but you would need to comply with the state's law in which you are traveling. Each state defines its own licensure requirements and exemptions, which vary state-to-state, on the amount of time a person may practice in a state without seeking licensure.

Q: Will the compact license ATs or just provide them with the privilege to practice, and who decides that?

A: It is important to remember that states issue licenses and compact authorizations to practice (i.e., privileges to practice). Compact authorizations to practice provide the same benefits as licensure. Compacts are simply agreements between states about how those licenses and privileges are issued and regulated.

Q: Each state varies with its scope of practice, so which state practice act is the AT required to follow with the compact?

A: By practicing in a state using compact privileges, ATs will be required to follow the scope of practice, laws and rules/regulations of the state where you are practicing.

Q: Is the compact mandatory for ATs who do not travel, or can they choose only to be licensed in a single state?

A: A regular state license is still required to practice in your home state. Obtaining compact privileges is optional, therefore, it is not required if an AT will not be practicing in other compact member states.

Q: What is the difference between a compact addressing ATs moving to a new state versus ATs traveling with their team/athletes/jobs?

A: ATs traveling with a team may be exempt from obtaining a license in a state in which their team is playing, as long as they are caring for their team's athletes. ATs who move to the state will need to obtain a permanent license either through a regular license and/or a compact license.

Q: Does the compact allow for different state licensing or registering different endorsements, such as the Orthopedic Specialty mentioned on BOC's website?

A: The compact does not address other licensing endorsements such as specialty certification because compact privileges are granted for the general certification requirement of being BOC-certified. For example, an individual holding a BOC Board Certified Specialist certification is simultaneously required to maintain their Athletic Trainer certification.

Q: Does an AT's physician supervision follow them across state lines, or will they need to establish physician oversight within each state?

A: ATs practicing in a remote state via their compact privilege are still required to comply with that state's requirements regarding physician oversight.

Q: Can an AT work on a temporary license within the states if they change jobs within the compact states while waiting to get their license?

A: Compacts generally remove the need for temporary or provisional licensure because a compact authorization is legally equivalent to a license. Additionally, some compacts contain provisions allowing licensees to "transfer" their home state license if moving between member states.

Q: Does obtaining a compact privilege grant an AT the privilege to practice in all states or just one state?

A: A compact privilege is granted on a state-by-state basis, meaning it's only good in the specific state that you apply for a privilege. During the application process, compact privileges can be selected for multiple states. To be granted a compact privilege, the remote state must be a compact member state.

Q: How often does the compact privilege have to be renewed?

A: The compact privilege has the same expiration dates as an AT's qualifying license. Once a qualifying license is renewed, a compact privilege can be renewed if all eligibility requirements are still met and no adverse actions are present. Specific details on compact renewal will be determined later.

Q: Will ATs be required to pay licensure fees within each state or is there a single fee for the compact?

A: All compacts authorize member states to charge initial licensure and license renewal fees. Details regarding compact fees (how much and how often) have not been determined as the compact is still in development.

Q: Are additional CEUs required for this compact?

A: No additional CEUs will be required for the compact privilege. ATs will be required to maintain compliance with CEU requirements in their state of qualifying licensure.

Q: Who monitors if an AT is practicing within the scope of practice and who can report it?

A: ATs will be required to follow the scope of practice, laws and rules/regulations of the state where you are practicing. The same complaint and discipline process applies.

Q: Have you established a fee for the compact and will the state board need to create an application process?

A: No. This has yet to be determined.

Compact Development

Q: Where can model legislation of the compact be found, along with a list of states that have passed, opposed or supported it?

A: Model legislation and updates can be found on [the AT compact website](#).

Q: How does the compact apply to states like California and Hawaii?

A: California and Hawaii do not have licensure and would not qualify to be part of the compact until the state enacts a state licensure law for ATs. To be a compact member state, each state must have an existing licensure law for ATs.

Q: How long will it take for the compact to be adopted by more than 50% of states after the initial phases are completed?

A: In May 2026, the 7-state activation threshold was met that begins the operationalization of the compact. This significant milestone came during the first legislative session in which compact model legislation was available for enactment. Several states are either currently pursuing legislation or have indicated their desire to introduce legislation soon.

Q: Are states obligated to pass compact legislation?

A: States are not obligated to join a compact. Compact member states must be willing to pass compact legislation and abide by the legislative requirements imposed by the compact.

Q: When is the legislation likely to become an option for ATs?

A: Model legislation was first introduced during the 2026 legislation session and the required 7-state compact threshold needed to begin operationalization of the compact was achieved in May 2026. Compact privileges are anticipated to begin being issued as early as late 2027 or early 2028 (it will take 18-24 months for the compact commission to adopt rules/regulations to implement the AT Compact).

Q: How can ATs find out if the compact is recognized by their state?

A: Licensees would be notified of the compact option. State updates can be found on the [AT Compact website](#).

Q: Will each state need to maintain the compact on an ongoing basis or is it a one-and-done effort?

A: It is typically one-and-done.

Q: Is there inter-professional opposition to many compacts, and how is resistance from other professions handled?

A: The compact development teams (comprised of AT state regulators, professionals, and other stakeholders) are responsible for creating the policies contained in the compact's model legislation. In nearly every interstate licensure compact, each member state retains authority over scope of practice. Further, states can't force other states to change their scope of practice through the compact, and states alone determine their respective practice acts. It is not a federal issue.

Because the compact is a piece of legislation, it is subject to public input. CSG will release the initial draft of the model legislation to the public as part of the stakeholder

review process. During this time, ATs and any member of the public can review the model legislation and provide feedback (including any potential inter-professional opposition). The compact development teams will review and incorporate feedback as appropriate. Further, as the legislation will be introduced in state legislatures, members of the public can voice their opinions about each individual bill.

Q: How many ATs are expected to utilize the compact, and how long is the wait for each state?

A: This is yet to be determined.

Q: Will the compact help ATs that are working internationally in the DHA/DoD?

A: The AT Compact is domestic only.

Supporter Engagement & Benefits

Q: Does this compact project solely focus on military spouses?

A: No.

Q: Will the compact also assist the professional licensing boards of each state in expediting and approving licensure?

A: Compacts reduce the application processing burden on licensing boards because member states can instantly verify through the shared compact data system that licensees and applicants for a compact authorization to practice have met uniform requirements.

Q: What can or should ATs do to help support the passing of the compact legislation?

A: In states where compact legislation has not been introduced, ATs are encouraged to contact their state associations and state legislators to discuss introducing the model legislation. Once a bill has been introduced in the state legislature, it's important to advocate to your state legislators on the importance of the AT Compact. A support letter template can be found on the [AT Compact](#) website.

Q: Will state organizations receive support from this group for how to get the compact enacted in individual states?

A: Yes, both the BOC and CSG have and will continue to provide technical guidance for compact legislation and provide letters of support and testimony aimed at enacting compact legislation.

Q: Some states, like Texas, have a clause that allows out-of-state ATs to practice for an approved period of time without additional licensing requirements. How does the compact improve on that?

A: This clause limits the AT to care for only their team. If the AT were to have a compact license and Texas was a compact member state, then the AT would be able to provide care to anyone as permitted by Texas statute.