

**2025**

**STATE OF NEBRASKA**

**STATUTES RELATING TO  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE ACT  
AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE  
INTERSTATE COMPACT**



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### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE INTERSTATE COMPACT

38-4301.	Occupational Therapy Practice Interstate Compact.
71-6101.	Transferred to section 38-2501.
71-6102.	Transferred to section 38-2502.
71-6103.	Transferred to section 38-2503.
71-6104.	Transferred to section 38-2516.
71-6105.	Transferred to section 38-2517.
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71-6107.	Transferred to section 38-2519.
71-6108.	Transferred to section 38-2520.
71-6109.	Repealed. Laws 2007, LB 463, § 1319.
71-6110.	Repealed. Laws 2007, LB 463, § 1319.
71-6111.	Repealed. Laws 2007, LB 463, § 1319.
71-6112.	Repealed. Laws 2007, LB 463, § 1319.
71-6113.	Transferred to section 38-2521.
71-6114.	Transferred to section 38-2524.
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71-6116.	Repealed. Laws 2003, LB 242, §154.
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## STATUTES PERTAINING TO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE ACT

### **38-2501. Act, how cited.**

Sections 38-2501 to 38-2531 shall be known and may be cited as the Occupational Therapy Practice Act.

**Source:** Laws 1984, LB 761, § 29; Laws 2003, LB 242, § 138; Laws 2004, LB 1005, § 120; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-6101; Laws 2007, LB463, § 841; Laws 2025, LB257, § 3.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

### **38-2502. Purpose of act.**

In order to (1) safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare, (2) protect the public from being misled by incompetent, unscrupulous, and unauthorized persons, (3) assure the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, and (4) assure the availability of occupational therapy services of high quality to persons in need of such services, it is the purpose of the Occupational Therapy Practice Act to provide for the regulation of occupational therapists.

**Source:** Laws 1984, LB 761, § 30; R.S.1943, (2003) § 71-6102; Laws 2007, LB463, § 842.

### **38-2503. Definitions, where found.**

For purposes of the Occupational Therapy Practice Act and elsewhere in the Uniform Credentialing Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the definitions found in sections 38-2504 to 38-2514.01 apply.

**Source:** Laws 1984, LB 761, § 31; Laws 1993, LB 121, § 451; Laws 1996, LB 1044, § 757; Laws 2001, LB 346, § 1; Laws 2002, LB 1021, § 95; Laws 2004, LB 1005, § 121; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-6103; Laws 2007, LB296, § 651; Laws 2007, LB463, § 843; Laws 2025, LB257, § 4.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

### **38-2504. Association, defined.**

Association means a recognized national or state association for occupational therapy.

**Source:** Laws 2007, LB463, § 844.

### **38-2505. Board, defined.**

Board means the Board of Occupational Therapy Practice.

**Source:** Laws 2007, LB463, § 845.

### **38-2506. Deep thermal agent modalities, defined.**

Deep thermal agent modalities means therapeutic ultrasound, phonophoresis, and other commercially available technologies. Deep thermal agent modalities does not include the use of diathermy or lasers.

**Source:** Laws 2007, LB463, § 846; Laws 2025, LB257, § 5.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

### **38-2506.01. Electromagnetic modality, defined.**

Electromagnetic modality means the use of electromagnetic waves, including radio waves, microwaves, and light waves, to transport electrical and magnetic energy through space to effect changes in body structures.

**Source:** Laws 2025, LB257, § 20.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

### **38-2507. Electrotherapeutic agent modalities, defined.**

Electrotherapeutic agent modalities means the use of electrotherapeutic currents and waveforms to (1) facilitate physiologic changes in tissues to increase circulation, facilitate tissue healing, and modulate pain, including, but not limited to, high-voltage galvanic stimulation for tissue and wound repair and high-voltage pulsed current, and (2) facilitate neuromuscular or sensory activity to improve muscle strength, reeducate muscle function, or modulate pain response, including, but not limited to, neuromuscular electrical stimulation, functional electrical stimulation, transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation, and interferential current.

**Source:** Laws 2007, LB463, § 847; Laws 2025, LB257, § 6.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

### **38-2507.01. Instrument-assisted modality, defined.**

Instrument-assisted modality means the therapeutic use of an instrument or tool that is manually applied by a trained practitioner to target specific tissues including skin, fascia, and other connective tissues or muscle.

**Source:** Laws 2025, LB257, § 21.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

**38-2508. Mechanical devices, defined.**

Mechanical devices means intermittent compression devices. Mechanical devices does not include devices to perform spinal traction.

**Source:** Laws 2007, LB463, § 848.

**38-2508.01. Mechanical modality, defined.**

Mechanical modality means the therapeutic use of a mechanical device to apply force, such as compression, distraction, vibration, or controlled mobilization, to modify biomechanical properties and functions of tissues.

**Source:** Laws 2025, LB257, § 22.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

**38-2509. Occupational therapist, defined.**

Occupational therapist means a person holding a current license to practice occupational therapy.

**Source:** Laws 2007, LB463, § 849.

**38-2510. Practice of occupational therapy, defined.**

(1) Practice of occupational therapy means the therapeutic use of everyday life occupations with persons, groups, or populations to support occupational performance and participation. Occupational therapy practice includes clinical reasoning and professional judgment to evaluate, analyze, and diagnose occupational challenges and provide occupation-based interventions. Occupational therapy services include habilitation, rehabilitation, and the promotion of physical and mental health and wellness for clients with all levels of ability-related needs. These services are provided to a client who has, or is at risk for, developing an illness, injury, disease, disorder, condition, impairment, disability, activity limitation, or participation restriction. Through the provision of skilled services and engagement in everyday activities, occupational therapy promotes physical and mental health and well-being by supporting occupational performance in a person with, or at risk of experiencing, a range of developmental, physical, and mental health disorders.

(2) The practice of occupational therapy includes the following components:

(a) Evaluation of factors affecting activities of daily living, instrumental activities of daily living, health management, rest and sleep, education, work, play, leisure, and social participation, and includes environmental and personal factors and occupational and activity demands that affect performance

(b) Performance patterns, including habits, routines, roles, and rituals;

(c) Performance skills, including motor skills, process skills, and social interaction skills;

(d) Client factors, including body functions and structures, values, and spirituality;

(e) Methods or approaches to identify and select intervention, including (i) establishment, remediation, or restoration of a skill or ability that has not yet developed, is impaired, or is in decline, (ii) compensation, modification, or adaptation of occupations, activities, and contexts to improve or enhance performance, (iii) maintenance of capabilities to prevent decline in performance of everyday life occupations, (iv) health promotion and wellness to enable or enhance performance of everyday life activities and quality of life, and (v) prevention of occurrence or emergence of barriers to performance and participation, including injury and disability prevention; and

(f) Interventions and procedures to promote or enhance safety and performance in activities of daily living, independent activities of daily living, health management, rest and sleep, education, work, play, leisure, and social participation, and includes:

(i) Therapeutic use of occupations and activities;

(ii) Training in self-care, self-management, health management, home management, community and work integration, school activities, and work performance;

(iii) Identification, development, remediation, or compensation of physical, neuromusculoskeletal, sensory-perceptual, emotional regulation, visual, and mental and cognitive functions, pain tolerance and management, praxis, developmental skills, and behavioral skills;

(iv) Education and training of persons, including family members, caregivers, groups, and populations;

(v) Care coordination, case management, and transition services;

(vi) Consultation services to persons, groups, populations, programs, organizations, and communities;

(vii) Virtual interventions;

(viii) Modification of contexts and adaptation of processes, including the application of ergonomic principles;

(ix) Assessment, design, fabrication, application, fitting, and training in seating and positioning, assistive technology, adaptive devices, and orthotic devices, and training in the use of prosthetic devices;

(x) Assessment, recommendation, and training in techniques to enhance functional mobility, including fitting and management of wheelchairs and other mobility devices;

(xi) Exercises, including tasks and methods to increase motion, strength, and endurance for occupational participation;

- (xii) Remediation of, and compensation for, visual deficits, including low vision rehabilitation;
  - (xiii) Driver rehabilitation and community mobility;
  - (xiv) Management of feeding, eating, and swallowing to enable eating and feeding performance;
  - (xv) Application of physical agent, instrument-assisted, and mechanical modalities and the use of a range of specific therapeutic procedures and techniques to enhance sensory, motor, perceptual, and cognitive processing, and manual therapy techniques to enhance performance skills;
  - (xvi) Facilitating the occupational participation of persons, groups, or populations through modification of contexts and adaptation of processes;
  - (xvii) Efforts directed toward promoting occupational justice and empowering clients to seek and obtain resources to fully participate in everyday life occupations;
  - (xviii) Group interventions; and
  - (xix) Addressing wound care.
- (3) Occupational therapy does not include the use of joint manipulation, grade five mobilization or manipulation, thrust joint manipulation, high-velocity or low-amplitude thrust, or any other procedure intended to result in joint cavitation. Joint manipulation commences where grades one through four mobilization ends.

**Source:** Laws 2007, LB463, § 850; Laws 2025, LB257, § 7.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

**38-2511. Occupational therapy aide, defined.**

Occupational therapy aide means a person who is not licensed by the board and who provides supportive services to occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and functions only under the guidance, responsibility, and supervision of an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant. An aide shall not provide occupational therapy services and shall demonstrate competence before performing assigned and delegated client-related and non-client-related tasks. An aide includes a rehabilitation aide, a rehabilitation technician, and other designations of nonlicensed, supportive personnel.

**Source:** Laws 2007, LB463, § 851; Laws 2025, LB257, § 8.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

**38-2512. Occupational therapy assistant, defined.**

Occupational therapy assistant means a person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the Occupational Therapy Practice Act and who works under the appropriate supervision of, and in collaboration with, an occupational therapist.

**Source:** Laws 2007, LB463, § 852; Laws 2025, LB257, § 9.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

**38-2513. Physical agent and instrument-assisted modalities, defined.**

Physical agent and instrument-assisted modalities means modalities that produce a biophysiological response through the use of water, temperature, sound, electricity, or mechanical devices.

**Source:** Laws 2007, LB463, § 853; Laws 2025, LB257, § 10.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

**38-2514. Superficial thermal agent modalities, defined.**

Superficial thermal agent modalities means hydrotherapy, whirlpool, cryotherapy, fluidotherapy, hot packs, paraffin, water, infrared, and other commercially available superficial heating and cooling technologies.

**Source:** Laws 2007, LB463, § 854; Laws 2025, LB257, § 11.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

**38-2514.01. Supervision, defined.**

Supervision means a collaborative process for responsible, periodic review and inspection of all aspects of occupational therapy services where (1) the occupational therapist is responsible for occupational therapy services provided by an occupational therapy assistant or an occupational therapy aide, and (2) an occupational therapy assistant is responsible for the occupational therapy services provided by the assistant. The goal of supervision is to ensure the safe and effective delivery of occupational therapy services.

**Source:** Laws 2025, LB257, § 23.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

**38-2515. Board; members; qualifications.**

The board shall consist of at least four members appointed pursuant to section 38-158. Three of the persons appointed shall have been engaged in rendering services to the public, teaching, or research in occupational therapy for at least five years immediately preceding their appointments. Two of the persons appointed shall be occupational therapists and one shall be either an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant and all shall be holders of active licenses issued under the Occupational Therapy Practice Act during their terms. One of the persons appointed shall be a public member who meets the requirements of section 38-165.

**Source:** Laws 1984, LB 761, § 43; Laws 1987, LB 473, § 62; Laws 1988, LB 1100, § 178; Laws 2001, LB 346, § 3; Laws 2002, LB 1021, § 97; Laws 2004, LB 1005, § 131; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-6115; Laws 2007, LB463, § 855.

**38-2516. Occupational therapist; therapy assistant; licensure required; activities and services not prohibited.**

(1) No person may represent himself or herself to be a licensed occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant unless the person is licensed in accordance with the Occupational Therapy Practice Act or has a compact privilege to practice in accordance with the Occupational Therapy Practice Interstate Compact.

(2) Nothing in the Occupational Therapy Practice Act shall be construed to prevent:

(a) Any person licensed in this state pursuant to the Uniform Credentialing Act from engaging in the profession or occupation for which he or she is licensed;

(b) The activities and services of any person employed as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant who serves in the armed forces of the United States or the United States Public Health Service or who is employed by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or other federal agencies, if their practice is limited to that service or employment;

(c) The activities and services of any person pursuing an accredited course of study leading to a degree or certificate in occupational therapy if such activities and services constitute a part of a supervised course of study and if such a person is designated by a title which clearly indicates his or her status as a student or trainee;

(d) The activities and services of any person fulfilling the supervised fieldwork experience requirements of section 38-2519 if such activities and services constitute a part of the experience necessary to meet the requirements of such section; or

(e) A qualified member of another profession or occupation, including, but not limited to, a recreation specialist or therapist, a special education teacher, an independent living specialist, a work adjustment trainer, a caseworker, or a person pursuing a course of study leading to a degree or certification in such fields, from doing work similar to occupational therapy which is consistent with the member's training if such member does not represent himself or herself by any title or description to be an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant.

**Source:** Laws 1984, LB 761, § 32; Laws 1991, LB 2, § 14; Laws 2004, LB 1005, § 122; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-6104; Laws 2007, LB463, § 856; Laws 2022, LB752, § 22; Laws 2025, LB257, § 12.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

**Cross References**

- **Occupational Therapy Practice Interstate Compact**, see section 38-4301.

**38-2517. Occupational therapist; therapy assistant; temporary license; applicability of section.**

(1) A person who has applied to take the examination under section 38-2518 or 38-2519 and who has completed the education and experience requirements of the Occupational Therapy Practice Act may be granted a temporary license to practice as an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant. A temporary license shall allow the person to practice only in association with an occupational therapist.

(2) A temporary license expires the earlier of: (a) The date the person holding the temporary license is issued a permanent license; (b) the date the board denies a person's license application; (c) one hundred eighty days after the date the temporary license is issued; or (d) the date a person is notified of a failure of the licensure examination. The temporary license shall not be renewed if the applicant has failed the examination. The temporary license may be extended by the department, with the recommendation of the board.

(3) In no case may a temporary license be extended for a period greater than one year after the date of issuance.

(4) This section does not apply to a temporary license issued as provided in section 38-129.01.

**Source:** Laws 1984, LB 761, § 33; Laws 1988, LB 1100, § 175; R.S.1943, (2003), § 71-6105; Laws 2007, LB463, § 857; Laws 2017, LB88, § 82; Laws 2025, LB257, § 13.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

**38-2518. Occupational therapist; license; application; requirements.**

(1) An applicant applying for a license as an occupational therapist shall show to the satisfaction of the department that the applicant:

(a) Has successfully completed the academic requirements of an educational program in occupational therapy recognized by the department and accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting body; and

(b) Has passed an examination as provided in section 38-2520.

(2) If an applicant has been trained as an occupational therapist in a foreign country, the applicant shall:

(a) Present documentation of completion of an educational program in occupational therapy that is substantially equivalent to an approved program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education or by an equivalent accrediting body as determined by the board;

(b) Present proof of proficiency in the English language; and

(c) Pass an examination as provided in section 38-2520.

(3) Residency in this state shall not be a requirement of licensure. A corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or association shall not be licensed as an occupational therapist pursuant to the Occupational Therapy Practice Act.

**Source:** Laws 1984, LB 761, § 34; Laws 1989, LB 344, § 33; Laws 1993, LB 121, § 452; Laws 1997, LB 752, § 194; Laws 2003, LB 242, § 139; R.S.1943, (2003), § 71-6106; Laws 2007, LB463, § 858; Laws 2018, LB1034, § 40; Laws 2025, LB257, § 14.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

**Cross References**

- **Credentialing, general requirements and issuance procedures, see section 38-121 et seq.**

**38-2519. Occupational therapy assistant; license; application; requirements; term.**

(1) An applicant applying for a license as an occupational therapy assistant shall show to the satisfaction of the department that he or she:

(a) Has successfully completed the academic requirements of an educational program in occupational therapy recognized by the department and accredited by a nationally recognized medical association or nationally recognized occupational therapy association;

(b) Has successfully completed a period of supervised fieldwork experience at an educational institution approved by the department and where the applicant's academic work was completed or which is part of a training program approved by such educational institution. A minimum of two months of supervised fieldwork experience shall be required for an occupational therapy assistant; and

(c) Has passed an examination as provided in section 38-2520.

(2) In the case of an applicant who has been trained as an occupational therapy assistant in a foreign country, the applicant shall:

(a) Present documentation of completion of an educational program for occupational therapy assistants that is substantially equivalent to an approved program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education or by an equivalent accrediting agency as determined by the board;

(b) Present proof of proficiency in the English language; and

(c) Have passed an examination as provided in section 38-2520.

(3) Residency in this state shall not be a requirement of licensure as an occupational therapy assistant. A corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or association shall not be licensed as an occupational therapy assistant pursuant to the Occupational Therapy Practice Act.

**Source:** Laws 1984, LB 761, § 35; Laws 1989, LB 344, § 34; Laws 1993, LB 121, § 453; Laws 2003, LB 242, § 140; R.S.1943, (2003), § 71-6107; Laws 2007, LB463, § 859; Laws 2018, LB1034, § 41.

**Cross References**

**Credentialing, general requirements and issuance procedures, see section 38-121 et seq.**

**38-2520. Examination; requirements.**

Each applicant for licensure under the Occupational Therapy Practice Act shall take an examination which tests the applicant's knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences relating to occupational therapy and occupational therapy theory and practice including, but not limited to, professional skills and judgment in the utilization of occupational therapy techniques and methods and such other subjects as identified by the body administering the national licensure examination. Each applicant shall follow the rules as outlined by such body and meet the minimum requirements for the examination. Results of the examination shall be sent to the board for verification of entry-level competency.

**Source:** Laws 1984, LB 761, § 36; Laws 1985, LB 250, § 18; Laws 1987, LB 473, § 61; R.S.1943, (2003), § 71-6108; Laws 2007, LB463, § 860; Laws 2025, LB257, § 15.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**



**38-2521. Continuing competency requirements; waiver.**

The department, with the recommendation of the board, may waive continuing competency requirements, in part or in total, for any two-year licensing period when a licensee submits documentation that circumstances beyond his or her control prevented completion of such requirements as provided in section 38-146. In addition to circumstances determined by the department to be beyond the licensee's control pursuant to such section, such circumstances shall include situations in which:

- (1) The licensee holds a Nebraska license but does not reside or practice in Nebraska;
- (2) The licensee has submitted proof that he or she was suffering from a serious or disabling illness or physical disability which prevented completion of the required continuing competency activities during the twenty-four months preceding the license renewal date; and
- (3) The licensee has successfully completed two or more semester hours of formal credit instruction biennially offered by a school or college approved by the board which contributes to meeting the requirements of an advanced degree in a postgraduate program relating to occupational therapy.

**Source:** Laws 1984, LB 761, § 41; Laws 1994, LB 1223, § 77; Laws 2001, LB 346, § 2; Laws 2002, LB 1021, § 96; Laws 2003, LB 242, § 142; Laws 2004, LB 1005, § 129; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-6113; Laws 2007, LB463, § 861; Laws 2018, LB1034, § 42.

**38-2522. Applicant for licensure; continuing competency requirements.**

An applicant for licensure to practice as an occupational therapist who has met the education and examination requirements in section 38-2518 or to practice as an occupational therapy assistant who has met the education and examination requirements in section 38-2519, who passed the examination more than three years prior to the time of application for licensure, and who is not practicing at the time of application for licensure shall present proof satisfactory to the department that he or she has within the three years immediately preceding the application for licensure completed continuing competency requirements approved by the board pursuant to section 38-145.

**Source:** Laws 2007, LB463, § 862.

**38-2523. Applicant for licensure; reciprocity; continuing competency requirements; military spouse; temporary license.**

(1) An applicant for licensure to practice as an occupational therapist or to practice as an occupational therapy assistant who has met the standards set by the board pursuant to section 38-126 for a license based on licensure in another jurisdiction but is not practicing at the time of application for licensure shall present proof satisfactory to the department that he or she has within the three years immediately preceding the application for licensure completed continuing competency requirements approved by the board pursuant to section 38-145.

(2) An applicant who is a military spouse may apply for a temporary license as provided in section 38-129.01.

**Source:** Laws 2007, LB463, § 863; Laws 2017, LB88, § 83.

**38-2524. Fees.**

The department shall establish and collect fees for credentialing activities under the Occupational Therapy Practice Act as provided in sections 38-151 to 38-157.

**Source:** Laws 1984, LB 761, § 42; Laws 1986, LB 926, § 63; Laws 1988, LB 1100, § 177; Laws 1992, LB 1019, § 92; Laws 1994, LB 1223, § 78; Laws 2003, LB 242, § 143; R.S.1943, (2003), § 71-6114; Laws 2007, LB463, § 864.

**38-2525. Occupational therapy aide; supervision requirements.**

An occupational therapy aide shall function under the guidance and responsibility of an occupational therapist and may be supervised by an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant for specifically selected routine tasks for which the aide has been trained and has demonstrated competence. The aide shall comply with supervision requirements developed by the board. The board shall develop supervision requirements for aides which are consistent with prevailing professional standards.

**Source:** Laws 2004, LB 1005, § 123; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-6117; Laws 2007, LB463, § 865.

**38-2526. Occupational therapist; services authorized.**

(1) An occupational therapist may perform any services identified in section 38-2510 for which the occupational therapist is competent to perform based on the occupational therapist's entry-level training or continued professional development. An occupational therapist may pursue specialization, training, or professional development in a specific modality, procedure, or technique. It is the responsibility of the practitioner to be proficient and document proficiency in the specific modality of practice.

(2) An occupational therapist is qualified to apply physical agent and instrument-assisted modalities pursuant to subsection (1) of section 38-2530.

(3) An occupational therapist may complete insertion and removal of cannulas for oxygen and adjustment of the rate of flow based on a physician order.

(4) An occupational therapist shall not independently diagnose a medical condition or disease.

**Source:** Laws 2004, LB 1005, § 124; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-6118; Laws 2007, LB463, § 866; Laws 2025, LB257, § 16.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

**38-2527. Occupational therapy assistant; supervision required.**

An occupational therapy assistant may deliver occupational therapy services enumerated in section 38-2510 in collaboration with and under the supervision of an occupational therapist.

**Source:** Laws 2004, LB 1005, § 125; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-6119; Laws 2007, LB463, § 867; Laws 2025, LB257, § 17.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

**38-2528. Referrals.**

(1) An occupational therapist may accept a referral from a licensed health care professional for the purpose of evaluation and rehabilitative treatment which may include, but not be limited to, consultation, rehabilitation, screening, prevention, and patient education services.

(2) Referrals may be for an individual case or may be for an established treatment program that includes occupational therapy services. If programmatic, the individual shall meet the criteria for admission to the program and protocol for the treatment program shall be established by the treatment team members.

(3) Referrals shall be in writing, except that oral referrals may be accepted if they are followed by a written and signed request of the person making the referral within thirty days after the day on which the patient consults with the occupational therapist.

**Source:** Laws 2004, LB 1005, § 126; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-6120; Laws 2007, LB463, § 868.

**38-2529. Direct access to services.**

The public may have direct access to occupational therapy services.

**Source:** Laws 2004, LB 1005, § 127; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-6121; Laws 2007, LB463, § 869.

**38-2530. Physical agent and instrument-assisted modalities; certification required, when; restrictions.**

(1)(a) If an occupational therapist's occupational therapy educational program does not include education in superficial thermal, deep thermal, electrotherapeutic, and mechanical devices or the occupational therapist is not certified by the Hand Therapy Certification Commission or other equivalent body recognized by the board, the occupational therapist shall request approval from the board to practice physical agent and instrument-assisted modalities.

(b) An occupational therapist may perform dry needling only in accordance with the level of education and training successfully completed. Education and training shall be approved by the board and include clinical instruction and application on the performance of dry needling.

(c) An occupational therapist may not use diathermy.

(2) The department shall issue a certificate to an occupational therapist to administer a physical agent and instrument-assisted modality if the occupational therapist:

(a) Has successfully completed a training course approved by the board and passed an examination approved by the board on the physical agent and instrument-assisted modality;

(b) Is certified as a hand therapist by the Hand Therapy Certification Commission or other equivalent body recognized by the board;

(c) Has a minimum of five years of experience in the use of physical agent and instrument-assisted modalities and has passed an examination approved by the board on physical agent and instrument-assisted modalities; or

(d) Has completed education during a basic educational program which included demonstration of competencies for application of physical agent and instrument-assisted modalities.

(3) The department shall issue a certificate for an occupational therapist to utilize dry needling if the occupational therapist has successfully completed a board-approved training course to administer dry needling.

(4) An occupational therapist shall not delegate evaluation, reevaluation, treatment planning, and treatment goals for physical agent and instrument-assisted modalities to an occupational therapy assistant.

(5)(a) An occupational therapy assistant may administer a physical agent modality if the occupational therapy assistant (i) has successfully completed a training course approved by the board and passed an examination approved by the board on the physical agent modality and (ii) is appropriately supervised by an occupational therapist who is approved to administer physical agent modalities.

(b) An occupational therapy assistant shall not complete evaluation, reevaluation, treatment planning, or treatment goal setting related to physical agent modality use.

(c) An occupational therapy assistant may not use the instrument-assisted modality of dry needling or diathermy.

(6) The department shall issue a certificate to authorize an occupational therapy assistant to set up and implement treatment using superficial thermal agent modalities, deep thermal agent modalities, electrotherapeutic modalities, and mechanical devices if the occupational therapy assistant has successfully completed a training course approved by the board and passed an examination approved by the board. Such set up and implementation shall only be done under the onsite supervision of an occupational therapist certified to administer such modalities.

**Source:** Laws 2004, LB 1005, § 128; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-6122; Laws 2007, LB463, § 870; Laws 2025, LB257, § 18.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

### **38-2531. Rules and regulations.**

(1) The board shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations regarding role delineation for occupational therapy assistants and continuing competency requirements. Continuing education is sufficient to meet continuing competency requirements. Such requirements may also include, but not be limited to, one or more of the continuing competency activities listed in section 38-145 which a licensed person may select as an alternative to continuing education.

(2) The board may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations governing the training courses for an occupational therapist to be certified to administer physical agent and instrument-assisted modalities. The board may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations governing the training course for an occupational therapy assistant to be certified to set up and implement superficial thermal agent modalities. In adopting such rules and regulations, the board shall give consideration to the levels of training and experience which are required, in the opinion of the board, to protect the public health, safety, and welfare and to insure, to the greatest extent possible, the efficient, adequate, and safe practice of occupational therapy. Such rules and regulations shall include the approval of examinations and the passing score for such examinations for certification.

**Source:** Laws 2004, LB 1005, § 130; Laws 2005, LB 244, § 1; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-6123; Laws 2007, LB463, § 871; Laws 2025, LB257, § 19.

**Effective Date: September 3, 2025**

## **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE INTERSTATE COMPACT**

### **38-4301. Occupational Therapy Practice Interstate Compact.**

The State of Nebraska adopts the Occupational Therapy Practice Interstate Compact in the form substantially as follows:

#### **ARTICLE 1.**

##### **PURPOSE.**

The purpose of the Occupational Therapy Practice Interstate Compact is to facilitate interstate practice of occupational therapy with the goal of improving public access to occupational therapy services. The practice of occupational therapy occurs in the state where the patient or client is located at the time of the patient or client encounter. This Compact preserves the regulatory authority of states to protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure.

This Compact is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- A. Increase public access to occupational therapy services by providing for the mutual recognition of other Member State licenses;
- B. Enhance the states' ability to protect the public health and safety;
- C. Encourage the cooperation of Member States in regulating multistate occupational therapy practice;
- D. Support spouses of relocating military members;
- E. Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative, and disciplinary information between Member States;
- F. Allow a Remote State to hold a provider of services with a Compact Privilege in that state accountable to that state's practice standards; and
- G. Facilitate the use of telehealth technology in order to increase access to occupational therapy services.

#### **ARTICLE 2.**

##### **DEFINITIONS.**

As used in the Occupational Therapy Practice Interstate Compact, and except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply:

A. Active duty military means full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Chapters 1209 and 1211.

B. Adverse action means any administrative, civil, equitable, or criminal action permitted by a state's laws which is imposed by a licensing board or other authority against an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant, including actions against an individual's license or Compact Privilege such as revocation, suspension, probation, monitoring of the Licensee, or restriction on the Licensee's practice.

C. Alternative program means a nondisciplinary monitoring process approved by an occupational therapy licensing board to address Impaired Practitioners.

D. Compact Privilege means the authorization, which is equivalent to a license, granted by a Remote State to allow a Licensee from another Member State to practice as an occupational therapist or practice as an occupational therapy assistant in the Remote State under its laws and rules. The practice of occupational therapy occurs in the Member State where the patient or client is located at the time of the patient or client encounter.

E. Continuing Competence/Education means a requirement, as a condition of license renewal, to provide evidence of participation in, and completion of, educational and professional activities relevant to practice or area of work.

F. Current significant investigative information means investigative information that a licensing board, after an inquiry or investigation that includes notification and an opportunity for the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant to respond, if required by state law, has reason to believe is not groundless and, if proved true, would indicate more than a minor infraction.

G. Data system means a repository of information about Licensees, including, but not limited to, licensure, investigative information, Compact Privilege, and adverse action.

H. Encumbered License means a license in which an adverse action restricts the practice of occupational therapy by the Licensee and the adverse action has been reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

I. Executive Committee means a group of directors elected or appointed to act on behalf of, and within the powers granted to them by, the Commission.

J. Home State means the Member State that is the Licensee's primary state of residence.

K. Impaired Practitioner means an individual whose professional practice is adversely affected by substance abuse, addiction, or other health-related conditions.

L. Investigative information means information, records, or documents received or generated by an occupational therapy licensing board pursuant to an investigation.

M. Jurisprudence requirement means the assessment of an individual's knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of occupational therapy in a state.

N. Licensee means an individual who currently holds an authorization from the state to practice as an occupational therapist or as an occupational therapy assistant.

O. Member State means a state that has enacted this Compact.

P. Occupational therapist means an individual who is licensed by a state to practice occupational therapy.

Q. Occupational therapy assistant means an individual who is licensed by a state to assist in the practice of occupational therapy.

R. Occupational therapy, occupational therapy practice, and the practice of occupational therapy mean the care and services provided by an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant as set forth in the Member State's statutes and regulations.

S. Occupational Therapy Interstate Compact Commission or Commission means the national administrative body whose membership consists of all states that have enacted this Compact.

T. Occupational therapy licensing board or licensing board means the agency of a state that is responsible for the licensing and regulation of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

U. Primary state of residence means the state, also known as the Home State, in which an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant who is not active duty military declares a primary residence for legal purposes as verified by: Driver's license, federal income tax return, lease, deed, mortgage or voter registration or other verifying documentation as further defined by Commission Rules.

V. Remote State means a Member State other than the Home State, where a Licensee is exercising or seeking to exercise the Compact Privilege.

W. Rule means a regulation promulgated by the Commission that has the force of law.

X. State means any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States of America that regulates the practice of occupational therapy.

Y. Single-State License means an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant license issued by a Member State that authorizes practice only within the issuing state and does not include a Compact Privilege in any other Member State.

Z. Telehealth means the application of telecommunication technology to deliver occupational therapy services for assessment, intervention, or consultation.

### **ARTICLE 3.**

#### **STATE PARTICIPATION IN THIS COMPACT.**

A. To participate in this Compact, a Member State shall:

1. License occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants;
  2. Participate fully in the data system, including, but not limited to, using the Commission's unique identifier as defined in Rules of the Commission;
  3. Have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints about Licensees;
  4. Notify the Commission, in compliance with the terms of this Compact and Rules, of any adverse action or the availability of investigative information regarding a Licensee;
  5. Implement or utilize procedures for considering the criminal history records of applicants for an initial Compact Privilege. These procedures shall include the submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based information by applicants for the purpose of obtaining an applicant's criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the agency responsible for retaining that state's criminal records.
    - a. A Member State shall, within a timeframe established by the Commission, require a criminal background check for a Licensee seeking or applying for a Compact Privilege whose primary state of residence is that Member State, by receiving the results of the Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal record search, and shall use the results in making licensure decisions.
    - b. Communication between a Member State, the Commission, and among Member States regarding the verification of eligibility for licensure through this Compact shall not include any information received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation relating to a federal criminal records check performed by a Member State under Public Law 92-544.
  6. Comply with the Rules of the Commission;
  7. Utilize only a recognized national examination as a requirement for licensure pursuant to the Rules of the Commission; and
  8. Have Continuing Competence/Education requirements as a condition for license renewal.
- B. A Member State shall grant the Compact Privilege to a Licensee holding a valid unencumbered license in another Member State in accordance with the terms of this Compact and Rules.
- C. Member States may charge a fee for granting a Compact Privilege.
- D. A Member State shall provide for the state's delegate to attend all Commission meetings.
- E. Individuals not residing in a Member State shall continue to be able to apply for a Member State's Single-State License as provided under the laws of each Member State. However, the Single-State License granted to these individuals shall not be recognized as granting the Compact Privilege in any other Member State.
- F. Nothing in this Compact shall affect the requirements established by a Member State for the issuance of a Single-State License.

### **ARTICLE 4.**

#### **COMPACT PRIVILEGE.**

A. To exercise the Compact Privilege under the terms and provisions of this Compact, the Licensee shall:

1. Hold a license in the Home State;
  2. Have a valid United States social security number or national practitioner identification number;
  3. Have no encumbrance on any state license;
  4. Be eligible for a Compact Privilege in any Member State in accordance with sections D, F, G, and H of this Article 4;
  5. Have paid all fines and completed all requirements resulting from any adverse action against any license or Compact Privilege, and two years have elapsed from the date of such completion;
  6. Notify the Commission that the Licensee is seeking the Compact Privilege within a Remote State(s);
  7. Pay any applicable fees, including any state fee, for the Compact Privilege;
  8. Complete a criminal background check in accordance with subsection A5 of Article 3. The Licensee shall be responsible for the payment of any fee associated with the completion of such criminal background check;
  9. Meet any jurisprudence requirements established by the Remote State(s) in which the Licensee is seeking a Compact Privilege; and
  10. Report to the Commission adverse action taken by any non-Member State within thirty days from the date the adverse action is taken.
- B. The Compact Privilege is valid until the expiration date of the Home State license. The Licensee must comply with the requirements of section A of this Article 4 to maintain this Compact Privilege in the Remote State.

- C. A Licensee providing occupational therapy in a Remote State under the Compact Privilege shall function within the laws and regulations of the Remote State.
- D. Occupational therapy assistants practicing in a Remote State shall be supervised by an occupational therapist licensed or holding a Compact Privilege in that Remote State.
- E. A Licensee providing occupational therapy in a Remote State is subject to that state's regulatory authority. A Remote State may, in accordance with due process and that state's laws, remove a Licensee's Compact Privilege in the Remote State for a specific period of time, impose fines, or take any other necessary actions to protect the health and safety of its citizens. The Licensee may be ineligible for a Compact Privilege in any state until the specific time for removal has passed and all fines are paid.
- F. If a Home State license is encumbered, the Licensee shall lose the Compact Privilege in any Remote State until the following occur:
1. The Home State license is no longer encumbered; and
  2. Two years have elapsed from the date on which the Home State license is no longer encumbered in accordance with subsection F1 of this Article 4.
- G. Once an Encumbered License in the Home State is restored to good standing, the Licensee must meet the requirements of section A of this Article 4 to obtain a Compact Privilege in any Remote State.
- H. If a Licensee's Compact Privilege in any Remote State is removed, the individual may lose the Compact Privilege in any other Remote State until the following occur:
1. The specific period of time for which the Compact Privilege was removed has ended;
  2. All fines have been paid and all conditions have been met;
  3. Two years have elapsed from the date of completing requirements for subsections H1 and 2 of this Article 4; and
  4. The Compact Privileges are reinstated by the Commission, and the compact data system is updated to reflect reinstatement.
- I. If a Licensee's Compact Privilege in any Remote State is removed due to an erroneous charge, privileges shall be restored through the compact data system.
- J. Once the requirements of section H of this Article 4 have been met, the Licensee must meet the requirements in section A of this Article 4 to obtain a Compact Privilege in a Remote State.

## **ARTICLE 5.**

### **OBTAINING A NEW HOME STATE LICENSE BY VIRTUE OF COMPACT PRIVILEGE.**

- A. An occupational therapist and an occupational therapy assistant may hold a Home State license, issued by the Home State which allows for Compact Privileges, in only one Member State at a time.
- B. If an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant changes primary state of residence by moving between two Member States:
1. The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant shall file an application for obtaining a new Home State license by virtue of a Compact Privilege, pay all applicable fees, and notify the current and new Home State in accordance with applicable Rules adopted by the Commission.
  2. Upon receipt of an application for obtaining a new Home State license by virtue of compact privilege, the new Home State shall verify that the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant meets the pertinent criteria outlined in Article 4 via the data system, without need for primary source verification except for:
    - a. A Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint-based criminal background check if not previously performed or updated pursuant to applicable Rules adopted by the Commission in accordance with Public Law 92-544;
    - b. Other criminal background check as required by the new Home State; and
    - c. Submission of any requisite jurisprudence requirements of the new Home State.
  3. The former Home State shall convert the former Home State license into a Compact Privilege once the new Home State has activated the new Home State license in accordance with applicable Rules adopted by the Commission.
  4. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Compact, if the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant cannot meet the criteria in Article 4, the new Home State shall apply its requirements for issuing a new Single-State License.
  5. The occupational therapist or the occupational therapy assistant shall pay all applicable fees to the new Home State in order to be issued a new Home State license.
- C. If an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant changes primary state of residence by moving from a Member State to a non-Member State, or from a non-Member State to a Member State, the state criteria shall apply for issuance of a Single-State License in the new state.
- D. Nothing in this Compact shall interfere with a Licensee's ability to hold a Single-State License in multiple states, however, for the purposes of this Compact, a Licensee shall have only one Home State license.

E. Nothing in this Compact shall affect the requirements established by a Member State for the issuance of a Single-State License.

#### **ARTICLE 6.**

##### **ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL OR THEIR SPOUSES.**

Active duty military personnel, or their spouse, shall designate a Home State where the individual has a current license in good standing. The individual may retain the Home State designation during the period the service member is on active duty. Subsequent to designating a Home State, the individual shall only change their Home State through application for licensure in the new state or through the process described in Article 5.

#### **ARTICLE 7.**

##### **ADVERSE ACTIONS.**

A. A Home State shall have exclusive power to impose adverse action against a license issued by the Home State.

B. In addition to the other powers conferred by state law, a Remote State shall have the authority, in accordance with existing state due process law, to:

1. Take adverse action against an occupational therapist's or occupational therapy assistant's Compact Privilege within that Member State.

2. Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and testimony of witnesses as well as the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a licensing board in a Member State for the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of evidence from another Member State shall be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure of that court applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before it. The issuing authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other fees required by the service statutes of the state in which the witnesses or evidence are located.

C. For purposes of taking adverse action, the Home State shall give the same priority and effect to reported conduct received from a Member State as it would if the conduct had occurred within the Home State. In so doing, the Home State shall apply its own state laws to determine appropriate action.

D. The Home State shall complete any pending investigations of an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant who changes primary state of residence during the course of the investigations. The Home State, where the investigations were initiated, shall also have the authority to take appropriate action and shall promptly report the conclusions of the investigations to the Commission data system. The Commission data system administrator shall promptly notify the new Home State of any adverse actions.

E. A Member State, if otherwise permitted by state law, may recover from the affected occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant the costs of investigations and disposition of cases resulting from any adverse action taken against that occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant.

F. A Member State may take adverse action based on the factual findings of the Remote State, provided that the Member State follows its own procedures for taking the adverse action.

G. Joint Investigations.

1. In addition to the authority granted to a Member State by its respective state occupational therapy laws and regulations or other applicable State law, any Member State may participate with other Member States in joint investigations of Licensees.

2. Member States shall share any investigative, litigation, or compliance materials in furtherance of any joint or individual investigation initiated under this Compact.

H. If an adverse action is taken by the Home State against an occupational therapist's or occupational therapy assistant's license, the occupational therapist's or occupational therapy assistant's Compact Privilege in all other Member States shall be deactivated until all encumbrances have been removed from the state license. All Home State disciplinary orders that impose adverse action against an occupational therapist's or occupational therapy assistant's license shall include a statement that the occupational therapist's or occupational therapy assistant's Compact Privilege is deactivated in all Member States during the pendency of the order.

I. If a Member State takes adverse action, it shall promptly notify the administrator of the data system. The administrator of the data system shall promptly notify the Home State of any adverse actions by Remote States.

J. Nothing in this Compact shall override a Member State's decision that participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action.

#### **ARTICLE 8.**

##### **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COMPACT COMMISSION.**

A. The Member States hereby create and establish a joint public agency known as the Occupational Therapy Interstate Compact Commission:

1. The Commission is an instrumentality of the Compact States.  
2. Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the Commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the Commission is located. The Commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

3. Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity.

B. Membership, Voting, and Meetings.

1. Each Member State shall have and be limited to one delegate selected by that Member State's licensing board.

2. The delegate shall be either:

a. A current member of the licensing board, who is an occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant, or public member; or

b. An administrator of the licensing board.

3. Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office as provided by the law of the state from which the delegate is appointed.

4. The Member State board shall fill any vacancy occurring in the Commission within ninety days.

5. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote with regard to the promulgation of Rules and creation of bylaws and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the business and affairs of the Commission. A delegate shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates' participation in meetings by telephone or other means of communication.

6. The Commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. Additional meetings shall be held as set forth in the bylaws.

7. The Commission shall establish by Rule a term of office for delegates.

C. The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Establish a Code of Ethics for the Commission;

2. Establish the fiscal year of the Commission;

3. Establish bylaws;

4. Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws;

5. Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the provisions of this Compact and the bylaws;

6. Promulgate uniform Rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and administration of this Compact. The Rules shall have the force and effect of law and shall be binding in all Member States;

7. Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the Commission, provided that the standing of any state licensing board to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected;

8. Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

9. Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a Member State;

10. Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant such individuals appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of this Compact, and to establish the Commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel, and other related personnel matters;

11. Accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, and to receive, utilize, and dispose of the same; provided that at all times the Commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest;

12. Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve, or use, any property, real, personal, or mixed; provided that at all times the Commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety;

13. Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property real, personal, or mixed;

14. Establish a budget and make expenditures;

15. Borrow money;

16. Appoint committees, including standing committees composed of members, state regulators, state legislators or their representatives, and consumer representatives, and such other interested persons as may be designated in this Compact and the bylaws;

17. Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law enforcement agencies;

18. Establish and elect an executive committee; and

19. Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this Compact consistent with the state regulation of occupational therapy licensure and practice.

D. The Executive Committee.



The executive committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the Commission according to the terms of this Compact.

1. The executive committee shall be composed of nine members:

a. Seven voting members who are elected by the Commission from the current membership of the Commission;  
b. One ex officio, nonvoting member from a recognized national occupational therapy professional association;  
and

c. One ex officio, nonvoting member from a recognized national occupational therapy certification organization.

2. The ex officio members will be selected by their respective organizations.

3. The Commission may remove any member of the executive committee as provided in bylaws.

4. The executive committee shall meet at least annually.

5. The executive committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

a. Recommend to the entire Commission changes to the Rules or bylaws, changes to this Compact, fees paid by Member States such as annual dues, and any Commission Compact fee charged to Licensees for the Compact Privilege;

b. Ensure Compact administration services are appropriately provided, contractual or otherwise;

c. Prepare and recommend the budget;

d. Maintain financial records on behalf of the Commission;

e. Monitor Compact compliance of Member States and provide compliance reports to the Commission;

f. Establish additional committees as necessary; and

g. Other duties as provided in Rules or bylaws.

E. Meetings of the Commission.

1. All meetings shall be open to the public, and public notice of meetings shall be given in the same manner as required under the Rulemaking provisions in Article 10.

2. The Commission or the executive committee or other committees of the Commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting if the Commission or executive committee or other committees of the Commission must discuss:

a. Noncompliance of a Member State with its obligations under this Compact;

b. The employment, compensation, discipline, or other matters, practices, or procedures related to specific employees or other matters related to the Commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;

c. Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation;

d. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or sale of goods, services, or real estate;

e. Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;

f. Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential;

g. Disclosure of information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

h. Disclosure of investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes;

i. Disclosure of information related to any investigative reports prepared by or on behalf of or for use of the Commission or other committee charged with responsibility of investigation or determination of compliance issues pursuant to this Compact; or

j. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or Member State statute.

3. If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to this provision, the Commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and shall reference each relevant exempting provision.

4. The Commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the reasons therefor, including a description of the views expressed. All documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release by a majority vote of the Commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

F. Financing of the Commission.

1. The Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.

2. The Commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue sources, donations, and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services.

3. The Commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each Member State or impose fees on other parties to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the Commission and its staff, which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved by the Commission each year for which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the Commission, which shall promulgate a Rule binding upon all Member States.

4. The Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same; nor shall the Commission pledge the credit of any of the Member States, except by and with the authority of the Member State.

5. The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the Commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the Commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the Commission.

**G. Qualified Immunity, Defense, and Indemnification.**

1. The members, officers, executive director, employees, and representatives of the Commission shall have no greater liability than a state employee would have under the same or similar circumstances, either personally or in their official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred, within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities; provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to protect any such person from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

2. The Commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the Commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities; provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit that person from retaining his or her own counsel; and provided further, that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from that person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.

3. The Commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the Commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that such person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities; provided that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

**ARTICLE 9.**

**DATA SYSTEM.**

A. The Commission shall provide for the development, maintenance, and utilization of a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action, and investigative information on all licensed individuals in Member States.

B. A Member State shall submit a uniform data set to the data system on all individuals to whom this Compact is applicable utilizing a unique identifier as required by the Rules of the Commission, including:

1. Identifying information;
2. Licensure data;
3. Adverse actions against a license or Compact Privilege;
4. Nonconfidential information related to alternative program participation;
5. Any denial of application for licensure, and the reason for such denial;
6. Other information that may facilitate the administration of this Compact, as determined by the Rules of the Commission; and
7. Current significant investigative information.

C. Current significant investigative information and other investigative information pertaining to a Licensee in any Member State will only be available to other Member States.

D. The Commission shall promptly notify all Member States of any adverse action taken against a Licensee or an individual applying for a license. Adverse action information pertaining to a Licensee in any Member State will be available to any other Member State.

E. Member States contributing information to the data system may designate information that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of the contributing state.

F. Any information submitted to the data system that is subsequently required to be expunged by the laws of the Member State contributing the information shall be removed from the data system.

**ARTICLE 10.**  
**RULEMAKING.**

A. The Commission shall exercise its Rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this Article and the Rules adopted thereunder. Rules and amendments shall become binding as of the date specified in each Rule or amendment.

B. The Commission shall promulgate reasonable rules in order to effectively and efficiently achieve the purposes of the Compact. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event the Commission exercises its rulemaking authority in a manner that is beyond the scope of the purposes of the Compact, or the powers granted hereunder, then such an action by the Commission shall be invalid and have no force and effect.

C. If a majority of the legislatures of the Member States rejects a Rule, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt this Compact within four years of the date of adoption of the Rule, then such Rule shall have no further force and effect in any Member State.

D. Rules or amendments to the Rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the Commission.

E. Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final Rule or Rules by the Commission, and at least thirty days in advance of the meeting at which the Rule will be considered and voted upon, the Commission shall file a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:

1. On the website of the Commission or other publicly accessible platform; and
2. On the website of each Member State occupational therapy licensing board or other publicly accessible platform or the publication in which each State would otherwise publish proposed Rules.

F. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking shall include:

1. The proposed time, date, and location of the meeting in which the Rule will be considered and voted upon;
2. The text of the proposed Rule or amendment and the reason for the proposed Rule;
3. A request for comments on the proposed Rule from any interested person; and
4. The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the Commission of their intention to attend the public hearing and any written comments.

G. Prior to adoption of a proposed Rule, the Commission shall allow persons to submit written data, facts, opinions, and arguments, which shall be made available to the public.

H. The Commission shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing before it adopts a Rule or amendment if a hearing is requested by:

1. At least twenty-five persons;
2. A State or federal governmental subdivision or agency; or
3. An association or organization having at least twenty-five members.

I. If a hearing is held on the proposed Rule or amendment, the Commission shall publish the place, time, and date of the scheduled public hearing. If the hearing is held via electronic means, the Commission shall publish the mechanism for access to the electronic hearing.

1. All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing shall notify the executive director of the Commission or other designated member in writing of their desire to appear and testify at the hearing not less than five business days before the scheduled date of the hearing.
2. Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each person who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in writing.
3. All hearings will be recorded. A copy of the recording will be made available on request.
4. Nothing in this Article shall be construed as requiring a separate hearing on each Rule.

Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the Commission at hearings required by this Article.

J. Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close of business on the scheduled hearing date if the hearing was not held, the Commission shall consider all written and oral comments received.

K. If no written notice of intent to attend the public hearing by interested parties is received, the Commission may proceed with promulgation of the proposed Rule without a public hearing.

L. The Commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take final action on the proposed Rule and shall determine the effective date of the Rule, if any, based on the Rulemaking record and the full text of the Rule.

M. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the Commission may consider and adopt an emergency Rule without prior notice, opportunity for comment, or hearing; provided that the usual Rulemaking procedures provided in this Compact and in this Article shall be retroactively applied to the Rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than ninety days after the effective date of the Rule. For the purposes of this provision, an emergency Rule is one that must be adopted immediately in order to:

1. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;
2. Prevent a loss of Commission or Member State funds;
3. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative Rule that is established by federal law or Rule; or
4. Protect public health and safety.

N. The Commission or an authorized committee of the Commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted Rule or amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format, errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be posted on the website of the Commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any person for a period of thirty days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the revision results in a material change to a Rule. A challenge shall be made in writing and delivered to the chair of the Commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision will take effect without further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision may not take effect without the approval of the Commission.

## **ARTICLE 11.**

### **OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AND ENFORCEMENT.**

#### **A. Oversight.**

1. The executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government in each Member State shall enforce this Compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate this Compact's purposes and intent. The provisions of this Compact and the Rules promulgated hereunder shall have standing as statutory law.
2. All courts shall take judicial notice of this Compact and the Rules in any judicial or administrative proceeding in a Member State pertaining to the subject matter of this Compact which may affect the powers, responsibilities, or actions of the Commission.
3. The Commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any such proceeding and shall have standing to intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide service of process to the Commission shall render a judgment or order void as to the Commission, this Compact, or promulgated Rules.

#### **B. Default, Technical Assistance, and Termination.**

1. If the Commission determines that a Member State has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this Compact or the promulgated Rules, the Commission shall:
  - a. Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other Member States of the nature of the default, the proposed means of curing the default, and any other action to be taken by the Commission; and
  - b. Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance regarding the default.
2. If a state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting state may be terminated from this Compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the Member States, and all rights, privileges, and benefits conferred by this Compact may be terminated on the effective date of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of default.
3. Termination of membership in this Compact shall be imposed only after all other means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be given by the Commission to the governor, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting State's legislature, and each of the Member States.
4. A state that has been terminated is responsible for all assessments, obligations, and liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination, including obligations that extend beyond the effective date of termination.
5. The Commission shall not bear any costs related to a state that is found to be in default or that has been terminated from this Compact, unless agreed upon in writing between the Commission and the defaulting state.
6. The defaulting state may appeal the action of the Commission by petitioning the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has its principal offices. The prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.

#### **C. Dispute Resolution.**

1. Upon request by a Member State, the Commission shall attempt to resolve disputes related to this Compact that arise among Member States and between Member and non-Member States.
2. The Commission shall promulgate a Rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.

#### **D. Enforcement.**

1. The Commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the provisions and Rules of this Compact.
2. By majority vote, the Commission may initiate legal action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has its principal offices against a Member State in default to enforce compliance with the provisions of this Compact and its promulgated Rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.
3. The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the Commission. The Commission may pursue any other remedies available under federal or State law.

## **ARTICLE 12.**

### **DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE AND ASSOCIATED RULES, WITHDRAWAL, AND AMENDMENT.**

- A. This Compact shall come into effect on the date on which this Compact statute is enacted into law in the tenth Member State. The provisions, which become effective at that time, shall be limited to the powers granted to the Commission relating to assembly and the promulgation of Rules. Thereafter, the Commission shall meet and exercise Rulemaking powers necessary to the implementation and administration of this Compact.
- B. Any state that joins this Compact subsequent to the Commission's initial adoption of the Rules shall be subject to the Rules as they exist on the date on which this Compact becomes law in that state. Any Rule that has been previously adopted by the Commission shall have the full force and effect of law on the day this Compact becomes law in that State.
- C. Any Member State may withdraw from this Compact by enacting a statute repealing the same.
1. A Member State's withdrawal shall not take effect until six months after enactment of the repealing statute.
  2. Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing state's occupational therapy licensing board to comply with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of this Compact prior to the effective date of withdrawal.
- D. Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any occupational therapy licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a Member State and a non-Member State that does not conflict with the provisions of this Compact.
- E. This Compact may be amended by the Member States. No amendment to this Compact shall become effective and binding upon any Member State until it is enacted into the laws of all Member States.

## **ARTICLE 13.**

### **CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY.**

This Compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this Compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this Compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any Member State or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this Compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this Compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any Member State, this Compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining Member States and in full force and effect as to the Member State affected as to all severable matters.

## **ARTICLE 14.**

### **BINDING EFFECT OF COMPACT AND OTHER LAWS.**

- A. A Licensee providing occupational therapy in a Remote State under the Compact Privilege shall function within the laws and regulations of the Remote State.
- B. Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other law of a Member State that is not inconsistent with this Compact.
- C. Any laws in a Member State in conflict with this Compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.
- D. Any lawful actions of the Commission, including all Rules and bylaws promulgated by the Commission, are binding upon the Member States.
- E. All agreements between the Commission and the Member States are binding in accordance with their terms.
- F. In the event any provision of this Compact exceeds the constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of any Member State, the provision shall be ineffective to the extent of the conflict with the constitutional provision in question in that Member State.

**Source:** Laws 2022, LB752, § 2.

**Effective Date:** July 21, 2022

**71-6101. Transferred to section 38-2501.**

**71-6102. Transferred to section 38-2502.**

**71-6103. Transferred to section 38-2503.**

**71-6104. Transferred to section 38-2516.**

**71-6105. Transferred to section 38-2517.**

**71-6106. Transferred to section 38-2518.**

**71-6107. Transferred to section 38-2519.**

**71-6108. Transferred to section 38-2520.**

**71-6109. Repealed. Laws 2007, LB 463, § 1319.**

**71-6110. Repealed. Laws 2007, LB 463, § 1319.**

71-6111. Repealed. Laws 2007, LB 463, § 1319.  
71-6112. Repealed. Laws 2007, LB 463, § 1319.  
71-6113. Transferred to section 38-2521.  
71-6114. Transferred to section 38-2524.  
71-6115. Transferred to section 38-2515.  
71-6116. Repealed. Laws 2003, LB 242, §154.  
71-6117. Transferred to section 38-2525.  
71-6118. Transferred to section 38-2526.  
71-6119. Transferred to section 38-2527.  
71-6120. Transferred to section 38-2528.  
71-6121. Transferred to section 38-2529.  
71-6122. Transferred to section 38-2530.  
71-6123. Transferred to section 38-2531.