



## ***States Handling Access to Reciprocity for Employment (SHARE) Act***

**Introduced in the U.S. Senate by:** Sens. Peter Welch (D-Vt.); Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.); Angus King (I-Maine)

**Introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by:** Reps. Tracey Mann (R-KS-01); Joe Neguse (D-CO-02)

**Background:** *The States Handling Access to Reciprocity for Employment (SHARE) Act* is bipartisan, bicameral legislation that adds a technical amendment to existing federal law to clearly authorize the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to conduct criminal background checks for state licensing agencies for the purpose of interstate licensure compacts.

Occupational licensure compacts are legislatively enacted agreements between states which establish uniform standards to facilitate multi-state medical practice and strengthen public protection. As of January 2025, 18 licensure compacts are available to states, territories and Washington, D.C., with states participating in six compacts on average. Implementation of interstate licensure compacts face an ongoing roadblock, as some state regulatory agencies have been denied, or had their authorization revoked, to obtain FBI criminal background checks for verification of a licensee's eligibility.

**Legislation:** Federal statutory language is needed to uniformly authorize Interstate Compact Commissions—instrumentalities of the state governments which enact a particular interstate compact law—to receive fingerprint-based FBI criminal history record information for the purposes of licensure. *The SHARE Act* accomplishes this by ensuring criminal history record information is maintained in the same manner as requests for all occupational licenses handled at the state level.

In accordance with how compact commissions already operate, the *SHARE Act* specifies that criminal history record information cannot be shared with any entity other than a state licensing agency which requests the criminal background check. The legislation permits a state licensing agency to only share with a compact commission that a criminal background check has been completed, including a binary determination of whether the criminal background check is satisfactory for the purposes of the compact.

**Supporting Organizations:** *The States Handling Access to Reciprocity for Employment (SHARE) Act* is supported by the Alliance for Connected Care; American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA); American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Tennessee; American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA); Council of State Governments (CSG); EMS Compact; Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB); Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (ICNLCA); Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission (IMLCC); National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN); Occupational Therapy Compact Commission; and the Vermont Board of Medical Practice.