

HB 542 -- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT

SPONSOR: Shields

This bill adopts the "Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact". The Compact allows an occupational therapist who meets the eligibility requirements to receive an expedited license.

To participate in the Compact, a member state must license both occupational therapists and occupational therapist assistances, participate in a data system, have a mechanism in place regarding complaints, consider criminal history records for applicants, utilize only recognized national examination as a requirement for licensure, and have continuing education requirements.

In order to utilize the provisions of the Compact to be licensed, an applicant must have no encumbrance on his or her license.

A person with an occupational therapist license from a state that has entered in to the Compact can practice in another state that has also entered in to the Compact, as long as the occupational therapist complies with any laws in the second state.

The Compact outlines how to update a home state designation and how adverse actions can be taken against a licensee.

The Compact outlines the establishment of an Occupational Therapy Compact Commission for the purpose of enforcing the Compact.

The Compact outlines the establishment of a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action, and investigative information on all licensed individuals in all member states.

The Compact will come in to effect once 10 states have entered into the Compact.