



When it comes to solving problems, states increasingly are turning to a mechanism that dates back to America's colonial past—the interstate compact. Compacts are one of the few tools specifically granted to states by the U.S. Constitution. They provide states a sophisticated administrative mechanism, allowing interstate collaboration to resolve complex policy challenges.

Compacts, which are governed by the tenets of contract law, provide states an enforceable, sustainable and durable tool capable of ensuring permanent change without federal intervention. Each state belongs to an average of 25 compacts, of more than 215 interstate compacts in existence.

Legislatures will have the opportunity to consider several CSG-facilitated projects in the coming year.

» **Interstate Compact for the Siting of Electricity Transmission Lines**

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 granted states advance congressional consent to create regional interstate compacts governing the siting of interstate transmission lines. At the request of its membership, CSG began exploring—and ultimately developing—an electric transmission line siting compact to help move energy from where it is produced to where it is needed. Compact drafting is finalized and the language is now ready for legislative consideration.

» **State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement**

Many of today's colleges and universities employ online learning with varied degrees of onsite support for students on a national, and even international, scale. Regulatory requirements and evaluative measures, however, vary considerably from state to state, making interstate reciprocity difficult to achieve. This problem is costing states and institutions significant amounts of money.

CSG, The Presidents' Forum, regional higher education compacts and The Commission on the Regulation of Postsecondary Distance Education have collaborated to advance an effective, practical framework to achieve interstate reciprocity in the regulation of distance education. This voluntary State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement is intended to broaden the availability of and access to accredited online degree programs by reducing state regulatory barriers, while also ensuring strong consumer safeguards.

In addition, CSG's National Center for Interstate Compacts is working with stakeholders on the development of other compacts.

» **Medical Licensing Compact**

CSG is working with the Federation of State Medical Boards to assess the feasibility of a medical licensing compact. Several factors—including changing demographics, the need for better and faster access to medical care in rural and underserved areas, the passage of the Affordable Care Act and the rise of telemedicine—have created unprecedented demand for health care services. Former Wyoming Gov. Jim Geringer proposed the concept, which memberships of CSG and the Federation of State Medical Boards have supported through resolutions. Compact drafting is underway.

» **EMS Licensing Compact**

States have had the authority to license emergency medical services personnel since the 1970s. States issue licenses based on individual state practices procedures. While there is overlap between the licensing requirements, there is also considerable variation among the states. It is becoming more common for EMS emergency services personnel to cross state lines to provide services in non-declared states of emergency, which is making interstate cooperation for EMS licensing all the more urgent.

One possible way to solve this problem is the formation of an interstate compact that would allow member states to work cooperatively to address interstate licensing challenges. CSG and the National Association of State EMS Officials have been working with a group of subject matter experts to develop an EMS Licensing Compact. Drafting is well underway and compact language should be ready for legislative consideration by 2015.

» **Physical Therapy and Telepsychology Licensing Compacts**

The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy and the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards will begin exploring license portability compacts for their respective organizations in 2014. Both groups will convene initial advisory committee meetings in early 2014. Staff from CSG's National Center for Interstate Compacts will participate and assist with both projects.

**For more information on these topics and for additional resources on interstate compacts, see » [www.csg.org/top5in2014](http://www.csg.org/top5in2014)**

# YOUR CSG INTERSTATE COMPACTS RESOURCE »

## CRADY DEGOLIAN



THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

**Crady deGolian**, the director of the National Center for Interstate Compacts at The Council of State Governments, manages each of the center's compact projects from development to implementation. He worked extensively on The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and The Interstate Compact for Juveniles. He has also helped lead the development of several new compact efforts, including the EMS Licensing Compact, the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement, and the Electric Transmission Line Siting Compact. In addition to managing all of CSG's compact activities, deGolian has written extensively about interstate compacts, delivered national presentations on the topic and provided oral testimony before Congress about interstate compacts.

The Louisville, Ky., native holds a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Furman University in Greenville, S.C., and a master's degree in diplomacy and international relations from the University of Kentucky.

### GET INVOLVED »

CSG's National Center for Interstate Compacts strives to be a member-driven organization. Policymakers that have an idea that might be appropriate for an interstate compact are encouraged to contact Crady deGolian. We will research the issue in greater detail to determine the feasibility of such a compact.

### CSG RESOURCES»



#### ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

» [www.csg.org/energy](http://www.csg.org/energy)  
[www.csg.org/environment](http://www.csg.org/environment)

**Brydon Ross**  
Director of Energy and Environmental Policy  
(859) 244-8030  
[bross@csg.org](mailto:bross@csg.org)



#### HEALTH

» [www.csg.org/health](http://www.csg.org/health)

**Debra Miller**  
Director of Health Policy  
(859) 244-8241  
[dmiller@csg.org](mailto:dmiller@csg.org)



#### FISCAL/ECONOMIC

» [www.csg.org/fiscal](http://www.csg.org/fiscal)  
[www.statesperform.org](http://www.statesperform.org)

**Jennifer Burnett**  
Program Manager, Fiscal and Economic Development Policy  
(859) 244-8114  
[jburnett@csg.org](mailto:jburnett@csg.org)



#### TRANSPORTATION

» [www.csg.org/transportation](http://www.csg.org/transportation)

**Sean Slone**  
Program Manager, Transportation Policy  
(859) 244-8234  
[sslone@csg.org](mailto:sslone@csg.org)



#### EDUCATION

» [www.csg.org/education](http://www.csg.org/education)

**Pam Goins**  
Director of Education Policy  
(859) 244-8142  
[pgoins@csg.org](mailto:pgoins@csg.org)



#### KNOWLEDGE CENTER

» [www.csg.org/knowledgecenter](http://www.csg.org/knowledgecenter)

**Jennifer Horne**  
Associate Director of Policy and Special Libraries  
(859) 244-8198  
[jhorne@csg.org](mailto:jhorne@csg.org)

### Regional Contacts »

**CSG East»** Wendell Hannaford, Director | (212) 482-2320 | [whannaford@csg.org](mailto:whannaford@csg.org)  
**CSG South»** Colleen Cousineau, Director | (404) 633-1866 | [ccousineau@csg.org](mailto:ccousineau@csg.org)

**CSG Midwest»** Mike McCabe, Director | (630) 925-1922 | [mmccabe@csg.org](mailto:mmccabe@csg.org)  
**CSG West»** Edgar Ruiz, Director | (916) 553-4423 | [er Ruiz@csg.org](mailto:er Ruiz@csg.org)