

# STATE-MENT

## MONTHLY STATE TRACKER UPDATE

MARCH 2020

### What is an Interstate Compact? ASLP-IC Arrives

- **An interstate compact** is defined as an agreement between two/more states that must be approved by the states' respective legislatures. As contracts between states, compacts affect the rights and responsibilities of the states party to them and their citizens (Source: Library of Congress). Compacts have become a popular tool to facilitate healthcare practices across state lines or in multiple states. A commission, formed by delegates from the party states, typically administers the terms of the compact.
- The Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (**ASLP-IC**), is a proposed "privilege to practice" compact that allows a home state licensee to practice in a remote member state under that state's laws and rules; practice occurs where the patient is located. The compact becomes effective after 10 states enact it.
- ASLP-IC legislation has been **introduced in 11 states** thus far. These include: AL: SB 245; GA: SB 306/HB 956; KS: HB 2670/SB 443; KY: HB 218/SB 240; LA: SB 98; MD: SB 416/HB 1112; NE: LB 753; OK: SB 1837/HB 2968; UT: HB 161; WV: HB 4375/SB 656; WY: SB 87
- The AAO-HNS, working in concert with the AMA and the State Medical Societies, has crafted amendment language to address the following **compact concerns**: (1) A powerful Commission that could override state laws and potentially modify scope of practice (2) Weak definition of telehealth and its function in the remote states (3) Lack of transparency by the Commission; and (4) Absence of physician representation as delegates to the Commission (AAO-HNS analysis shows that 24 states have physicians on the ASLP boards). The Academy remains opposed to these bills unless amended.
- **ASLP-IC Status**: Legislation in Georgia, Utah and West Virginia has been successfully amended and appear to be moving toward passage. Nebraska legislation is dead. Maryland legislation was halted by AAO-HNS advocates in collaboration with the MD Society of Otolaryngology and may die with adjournment. Bills in Alabama, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Wyoming are all active and in need of amendments. Currently, Oklahoma and Wyoming are on the verge of passage without the necessary amendments included. We are calling on all advocates, in each affected state, to reach out to their state legislators and share the aforementioned concerns. Inform them that adding proposed amendments, similar to those accepted in Georgia, Utah and West Virginia, could alleviate your concerns.

**Watch for April's Statement with status updates on the compact, hearing aids, CMV and LEAD-K legislation!**

### Tracker Monthly Calls:

Thank you to all our State Trackers who have been participating in our monthly conference calls. We invite all Trackers to participate in our remaining conference calls for the 2020 legislative sessions. As a reminder, calls are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month (December - June) at 8 PM ET. The call dates for the remainder of the season are:

- March 25
- April 22
- May 27
- June 24

### 2020 State Legislative Sessions

- Twenty-five states carried-over legislation from 2019.
- Four states do not meet in even years: Montana, Nevada, North Dakota and Texas.
- Currently, 46 states are in session with twelve due to adjourn by the end of March.
- Seven states are in cross-over during March: Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, and Utah.