

The International Association of Security and Investigative Regulators (IASIR) was founded in 1993 by a group of regulatory administrators who realized that together they could enhance their ability to regulate and promote professionalism of the private security, private investigative, alarm and related industries. Current IASIR members include more than 25 states, several Canadian provinces, and South Africa (with more international growth pending).

There are four industry seats on IASIR's Board of Directors, one each for private investigative, alarm, security officers and armored car. It has been my honor to represent the private investigative industry on the Board. In the late 1990s, the Association led an effort to develop PI reciprocity agreements between states that allowed limited opportunity for licensed investigators to follow a case into another jurisdiction. Ten states were successful in putting such agreements in place. The initiative ultimately stalled due to legislative roadblocks, although those first agreements still stand and have been continually in use. Recently, there has been renewed interest in IASIR working to expand reciprocity to more states. In 2022, a Reciprocity Committee was formed that includes both state regulatory and industry representatives.

IASIR has also been exploring the possibility of interstate compacts as another means of PI license portability. Interstate compacts are constitutionally authorized, legislatively enacted, legally binding agreements among states. Compacts enable licensed professionals to practice in all states that join the compact rather than getting an individual license in every state in which they want to practice (most common in the health care industry). Like the compact for a driver's license, each compact member state agrees to mutually recognize the practitioner licenses issued by every other member state.

Pursuing an interstate compact is an expensive endeavor and will take 18 to 24 months to establish. The U.S. Department of Defense is providing grant funding to The Council of State Governments (CSG) for the creation of new interstate compacts for occupational licensure portability.

With the support of several states, the IASIR Board has taken the lead in the process of applying for grant funding with CSG, which houses the National Center for Interstate Compacts. CSG will serve as an information clearinghouse, provider of training and primary facilitator in the consideration, creation and revision of interstate compacts.

Upon CSG's approval of grant funding, IASIR will lead a newly formed Interstate Compact Committee to develop technical assistance. This committee will be responsible for any other activities needed to complete the process of creating a successful interstate occupational licensure compact, including aiding the effort to enact the compact in the states, assisting with the formation of the Member State Commission to administer the compact and supporting the creation of a compact data system.

We know that there are numerous questions and details to work out – but supporting the compact grant application is the first step toward productive conversations to further clarify, understand and work through the specifics involved to benefit all parties. Additionally, by bringing in the guidance of the CSG, we leverage their experience and success from working with other occupational licensure groups.

If you have read this far, thank you! Please email jcrisci@infinityinvestigative.com if you are interested in joining the working group to support the IASIR grant application for an interstate compact for private investigations.

Best Regards,
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