



**SB 0238 Informational Testimony  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
February 16, 2026**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

My name is Karuna Lakhiani, and I am a policy associate from the National Center for Interstate Compacts at The Council of State Governments (CSG). CSG is a nonpartisan membership association for elected and appointed state government officials from all three branches. CSG, through its National Center for Interstate Compacts, has facilitated the development process for all eighteen of the active occupational licensing compacts, including the nine that Maryland is a member of.

CSG facilitated the development of the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists (ICSP) as part of a project with the National Association for School Psychologists (NASP) and the United States Department of War.

The ICSP was created to streamline the systems of licensure mobility in members states while upholding a high standard of school psychology practice and would benefit states, state education agencies, school psychologists, and the students and families that school psychologists service.

Through the ICSP, a school psychologist who lives in a compact member state and meets the requirements of the compact may obtain a compact privilege to practice and be issued an equivalent license in another member state. Distribution of compact privileges is expedited by the compact's data system, which is shared solely between the member state licensing authorities. The data system also enhances public protection by offering a mechanism for states to share disciplinary history of licensees.

The primary requirement for school psychologists wanting to voluntarily participate in the compact is to hold an active, unencumbered (i.e., full, unrestricted ability to practice) home state license. For a member state to be eligible to join the compact, a state must require that applicants for a home state active license must have 1) taken and passed a qualifying national exam, 2) graduated from a qualifying school psychologist education program, and 3) complete the minimum-required hours of supervised internship specified in the compact.

School psychologists holding a compact eligible license can apply for licensure in another member state and receive an equivalent license without initially submitting additional materials, taking state-specific exams, or completing additional coursework; nevertheless, state-specific requirements need to be satisfied after receiving the equivalent license.



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Given that Maryland has multiple pathways toward licensure and at least one of those pathways meet the exact requirements of the compact, Maryland would not need to change licensing requirements to be a participatory member of the compact.

The ICSP was first made available for enactment in December of 2023. As of February 16, 2025, the compact has been enacted in seven states. There is also legislation currently filed in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky. The compact commission has officially been convened and recently began the development process in late January.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide informational testimony on SB 0238. CSG is available to assist with any questions regarding the ICSP or interstate compact policy.

Respectfully,

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The Council of State Governments