

**From:** [Evan Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Courtney Owen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB 352 Commentary  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 11, 2026 10:20:32 AM

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**From:** Kyle Stangl [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 3:47 PM  
**To:** Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 352 Commentary

Representative Fields,

Unfortunately I will be unable to attend the public testimony on Wednesday regarding HB 352. However, I wish to share my personal experiences with the Alaska licensure system for paramedics and how I think the EMS Compact will address them.

Despite being raised in Alaska, I chose to go to paramedic school out of state. A combination of my work schedule and the available options for paramedic education in the state at the time made this the preferred option for me and the two other Alaskans in my program cohort. As part of my paramedic program, I became licensed as a paramedic in the state that I attended school, while still retaining certification and practicing as an Alaskan EMT-III. When I applied for Alaska licensure, as part of the licensure process I had to send paperwork to the Office of EMS in that state, as well as the previous medical director, that then needed to be returned to Alaska OEMS, creating significant delay in attaining Alaska licensure.

While the process has changed slightly, with the shift from paramedic licensure from the medical board to OEMS, I believe the requirement still exists for new applicants to submit the paperwork to each state that they have had previous licensure in. For those that have worked in multiple states, this may take some time. This can create a barrier for paramedics and other EMS providers new to Alaska licensure to start working.

It is worth noting that Alaska's population has been in decline for several years, taking with it skilled workers. During testimony for prior bills (HB22, SB 35) to modify the Public Employee Retirement System, several public safety leaders noted that the current retirement system does not incentivize public employees, including EMS providers, to stay within the Alaska PERS system. This can create staffing shortages as people move out of state and difficult to fill vacancies. While I apologize for not having reference to the actual testimony readily available, some news articles and press releases summarizing this sentiment can be found here: <https://www.iaff.org/news/the-reality-is-the-states-pension-system-is-broken-alaska-fire->

[fighters-push-for-pension-reform-amid-recruitment-retention-crisis/](#)

I feel the EMS Compact may help to alleviate some of these systems by helping to streamline the process for out of state EMT and paramedic applicants to start working before attaining Alaska licensure.

Another consideration is that Alaska is large and many of our communities are off of the road system. This results in a significant reliance on aeromedical assets for the transfer of patients from remote communities to an appropriate medical facility. The flight nurses and paramedics that staff these flights often have a scope of practice that greatly exceeds that of the typical EMS clinician, and comes with a certain degree of education and experience required to properly prepare people for these positions. For paramedics specifically, many aeromedical services typically requires an applicant for a flight paramedic position to have three to five years of experience in a busy-911 system.

This is mirrored by the position statement of the International College of Advanced Practice Paramedics, previously the IAFP, that states a minimum of three years experience as a paramedic should be the minimum standard.

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/i-capp.org/resource/resmgr/docs/critical\\_care\\_paramedic\\_posi.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/i-capp.org/resource/resmgr/docs/critical_care_paramedic_posi.pdf)

And also by industry standards such as the Commission of Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems, 12th edition that requires a minimum of 4000 hours or three years of advanced life support clinical experience for paramedics acting as the primary caregiver in a critical care flight service. The current version of this standard can be found at the following link: [https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/65de10e0a5df356d60f6b987/68793613ef5467e9754953c3\\_CAMTS%2012th%20Edition%20free%20download.pdf](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/65de10e0a5df356d60f6b987/68793613ef5467e9754953c3_CAMTS%2012th%20Edition%20free%20download.pdf)

Outside of a few larger communities with busy, advanced life support 911 systems, such as Anchorage, it may be difficult to gain this experience within the state of Alaska. Becoming a flight paramedic represents one of the few pathways available for advancement within the paramedic and EMS professions. In this sense, the EMS Compact offers an easier path to relocation for Alaskans seeking the necessary experience to become a flight paramedic and helping to provide an avenue for EMS providers to remain within the profession long term and return to the state as flight paramedics.

I know there are likely to be concerns about the compact and state autonomy, quality and disciplinary controls of out of state transfers etc. I have had the opportunity to attend several

presentations on the compact, and I feel that the process has been well thought out and adjudicated by other states, and that significant guard rails exist to alleviate any concern. The compact follows the national registry, which has long been the standard, and paramedics are still required to have a physician sponsor within the state. For the specific issue of the Alaska process to determine if there were previous disciplinary or license actions on paramedics in other states, its my understanding the compact has a system in place to address this that is more streamlined, and in my opinion likely offers more protection.

As both a professional and private citizen with a family and children in this state, I have no concerns about Alaska joining the EMS Compact.

Respectfully,  
Kyle Stangl, BS, FP-C

**From:** [Evan Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Courtney Owen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) H. B. 352  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 11, 2026 10:21:18 AM

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**From:** Janet Orwig <[janet.orwig@psypact.gov](mailto:janet.orwig@psypact.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2026 8:45 AM  
**To:** Rep. Zack Fields <[Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) H. B. 352

Good morning, Representative Fields,

My name is Janet Orwig, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT). Thank you for your sponsorship of H.B. 352; we are very grateful to be included in your bill. I am writing to introduce myself and offer any support I can as you continue your work on H.B. 352 Healthcare Licensing Compacts.

PSYPACT is an interstate compact that enables telepsychology practice and temporary in-person psychological services across participating states while upholding strong licensure and public protection standards. In my role, I collaborate closely with state officials, licensing boards, and professional stakeholders to support implementation and provide accurate, current information about the compact and its operations.

I would be happy to provide any additional materials, data, or technical assistance that may be helpful. I am also available to testify or answer questions if that would be of value. I wanted to note that the most recent information was not presented at the previous hearing of the House Labor and Commerce Committee, and I welcome the opportunity to clarify the educational requirements for PSYPACT. There are now six pathways to meet the educational requirements, and I believe one of them will enable most graduates of Alaska doctoral programs to qualify. I have shared this information with the Alaska Psychological Association as well.

Thank you for your time and for your support of PSYPACT. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance in any way.

Thank you,

Janet

Janet P. Orwig, MBA, CAE  
PSYPACT Executive Director

[Redacted signature block]

**Web:** [www.psypact.gov](http://www.psypact.gov)

**From:** [Evan Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Courtney Owen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony in Support of HB 352 (EMS Interstate Compact) – Justin Perkins  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 11, 2026 10:20:20 AM

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**From:** Justin Perkins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026 9:51 AM  
**To:** Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 352 (EMS Interstate Compact) – Justin Perkins

Rep. Fields

I am writing to you at the suggestion of Donnie Woodyard regarding the upcoming hearing for the EMS Interstate Compact. As an Alaska-licensed paramedic and the Executive Director of the Interior Region EMS Council, I would like to offer my strong support for HB 352.

While I am currently traveling in Wyoming, I would welcome the opportunity to provide brief testimony remotely during tomorrow's hearing. This legislation is a vital step in making it easier for qualified providers to serve in Alaska and ensuring our local EMS personnel have the mobility they need.

Please let me know if there is a specific time tomorrow that would work best for me to join the call. You may also reach me directly on my cell at [REDACTED]

Respectfully,

Justin Perkins | Executive Director  
Interior Region EMS Council, Inc.

[REDACTED]  
[iremsc.org](http://iremsc.org)



[REDACTED]

From:

Eugene Wiseman/Paramedic



March 9, 2026

To:

Representative Zach Fields

Alaska House of Representatives

Dear Representative Fields,

I am writing as a practicing paramedic and as the former Section Chief of Rural & Community Health Systems within the Alaska Department of Health, to express my strong support for HB 352, adopting the Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (REPLICA) for EMTs, Advanced EMTs, and paramedics.

My experience in both frontline emergency medical care and statewide EMS system leadership has shown me how deeply Alaska needs the improvements this bill provides. HB 352 will bring tangible benefits to patient care, EMS agencies, and the overall resilience of our emergency response capacity.

#### **Improved Recruitment and Retention**

Alaska faces long-standing challenges attracting and retaining EMTs, AEMTs, and paramedics. Participation in REPLICA makes our state more appealing by:

- Streamlining the process for qualified EMS professionals from other compact states to practice here.
- Removing duplicative licensure barriers.
- Offering a modern, standardized interstate pathway.

Improving provider mobility is a practical and meaningful way to strengthen Alaska's EMS workforce.

#### **Enhanced Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and Mutual Aid Response**

HB 352 will allow EMS personnel from participating states to respond immediately under a recognized "privilege to practice." This is a substantial benefit during:

- EMAC activations

- Significant incidents that exceed local and state EMS capacity.
- Multi-State or regional emergencies.

Faster deployment means stronger statewide surge capability and improved readiness during disasters. Under the current system, Alaska's already understaffed EMS credentialing office must individually validate and license every EMT, AEMT, or paramedic who enters the state as part of an EMAC response. Historically, the Alaska EMS office has had only one staff member responsible for vetting all EMS licenses. They do excellent work; however, the existing manual processes would quickly overwhelm the office during a major incident or disaster when additional EMS personnel are urgently needed.

### **Experience During COVID-19**

I witnessed these challenges firsthand during the COVID-19 response. In my role as Section Chief of Rural & Community Health Systems, I was responsible for bringing more than **500 emergency healthcare workers** into Alaska to support overwhelmed hospitals, prison clinics, school nurses, and remote clinics.

The credentialing requirements created significant bottlenecks and overwhelmed our antiquated licensure systems. This resulted in delayed deployments at a time when staffing needs were critical. The immense pressure contributed to burnout among licensure personnel and demonstrated the urgent need for a more efficient, modernized process.

HB 352 directly addresses these vulnerabilities by streamlining interstate credentialing and preventing similar overload during future large-scale emergencies.

*I also encourage the Legislature to consider future licensure compacts for nursing, pharmacy, and other essential healthcare professions.*

### **Reducing Credentialing Burden on the Alaska EMS Office**

As the FORMER Section Chief of Rural & Community Health Systems I had the privilege of working with and overseeing Alaska's state Office of EMS as one of five agencies in the Section. I can personally attest to the heavy administrative burden placed on the Alaska Office of EMS, which operates with limited staff and resources.

HB 352 directly helps to alleviate this pressure by:

- Standardizing interstate credentialing verification.
- Reducing redundant licensure processing.
- Leveraging a centralized national database for licensure and disciplinary tracking.

This allows our EMS Office to focus time on higher-value activities.

### **Improved Access to Care for Alaskans**

With HB352 communities, especially in rural areas can benefit.

- Increased EMS workforce flexibility
- Faster availability of trained clinicians

- Stronger continuity during staffing shortages.

This translates into safer, more reliable emergency medical care statewide.

### **Maintaining Accountability and Safety**

HB 352 preserves or strengthens all existing safety requirements:

- Providers must hold an unrestricted home-state license.
- They must operate under a Medical Director.
- Their scope of practice defaults to their home-state level unless the receiving state restricts it.
- Disciplinary actions in one state automatically apply across all compact states.

Mobility does not compromise patient protection, it enhances it!

Representative Fields, Alaska's EMS system is a lifeline for communities across the state. HB 352 supports that system by improving workforce stability, strengthening emergency response capability, reducing administrative strain, and ultimately improving patient care.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the House of Representatives to support HB352.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Eugene Wiseman, Paramedic

March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
House Labor and Commerce Committee

Dear Chair Fields, Chair Hall, and all distinguished members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on AK HB 352, regarding participation in several compacts. My name is Alicia Plemmons, PhD, and I am an assistant professor and director of health in the Knee Regulatory Research Center at West Virginia University. This comment is not submitted on behalf of any party or interest group.

My research studies patient outcomes in terms of safety, quality, cost, and access under different practice agreements. Compacts are a unique solution to workforce mobility problems, and in fact my team has found evidence of beneficial outcomes for compacts, such as the interstate medical licensure compact for the physicians<sup>1</sup> and the enhanced nurse licensure compact for nurses<sup>2</sup>.

While beneficial, piecemeal solutions through compacts have led to several logistical problems when attempting to modernize healthcare legislation, develop continuing education programs, and while developing differential licensure management systems for each profession.

An alternative, which has found great success in attracting skilled workers, is **universal licensing recognition**<sup>3</sup>, where all licenses in good standing within other states are recognized. The states which have chosen to address all professions at once, instead of through piecemeal legislation, have been more flexible and responsive, bolstering their state workforce and access to safe, high quality, cost effective medical care.

In summary, while this compact does have potential benefits, the research suggests there is a more efficient pathway to beneficial economic outcomes through universal licensing recognition. Instead of continually extending separate compacts repeatedly, Alaska may wish to explore this alternative option used by over half of states.

Best regards,



Director, Knee Regulatory Research Center  
Assistant Professor, West Virginia University

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<sup>1</sup> [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=4755497](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4755497)

<sup>2</sup> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12122-022-09333-2>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0165176522002920>