



The Council  
of State  
Governments

# UNIVERSAL LICENSURE RECOGNITION

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# The Council of State Governments

Founded in 1933, CSG is...

## Scope

- The only organization in the U.S. serving all three branches of state government.

## Membership

- A region-based membership organization that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy.

## Mission

- A champion of excellence in state government in order to advance the common good.

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# Universal Licensure Recognition

Streamlines licensure recognition policy among professions.

Builds on existing out-of-state licensure recognition laws.

May apply to multiple licensed professions.

Usually not limited to specific population groups.

Provides a level of policy consistency across licensing authorities.

# Universal Licensure Recognition

Does not provide for true reciprocity.

May not apply to every profession.

Is not uniform across states.

Does not prevent the need for other licensure recognition policies.

# Complementary Policies

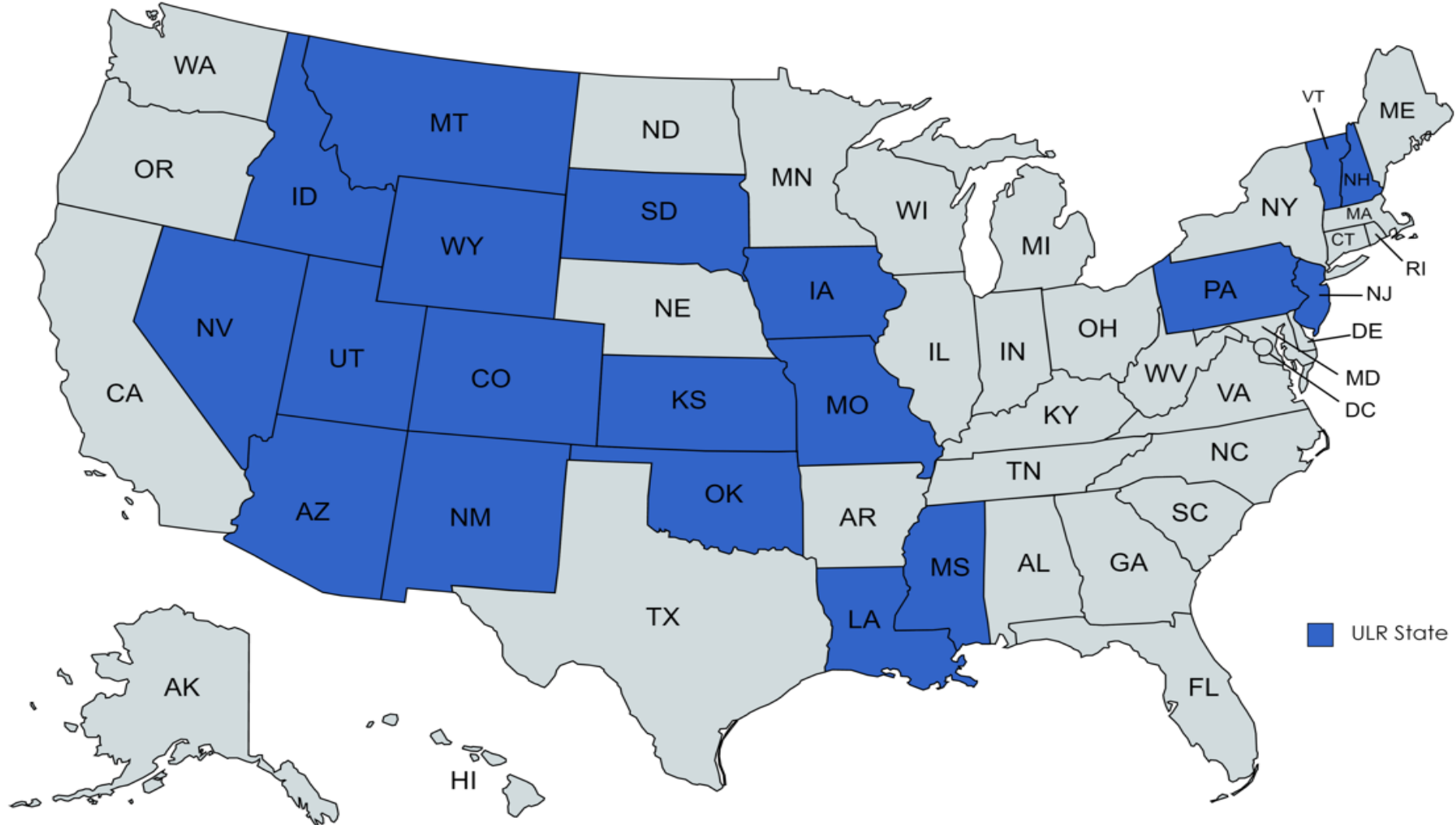
**Universal licensure laws can be used in conjunction with other policies:**

Interstate  
compacts.

Reciprocity laws  
for military  
families.

Bilateral  
reciprocity  
agreements.

# States with Universal Licensure Recognition



# Common Policy Features

Shall Clause

Scope of Practice and  
Practice Levels

Equal/Substantially  
Equal Requirement

Additional Required  
Examinations

Applicable  
Occupations/Professions

Residency Requirement

# Shall Clause

**Determines if the licensing board/authority “shall” issue a license under the Universal Licensure Recognition policy.**

## Conditional Examples:

- Recent experience
- Minimum experience requirements



# Scope of Practice

**Specifies that the license held by an out-of-state applicant be equivalent in the level of practice and/or scope of practice.**

## Conditional Example

- Limited licenses

# Equal/Substantially Equal Requirement

**Stipulates that the requirements for licensure in the applicant's originating state must be equal/substantially equal to the "destination" state's requirements.**

Discretion for what constitutes "equal or substantially equal" may be left to the licensing board/authority.

# Additional Required Examinations

**Allows licensing authorities to require additional examination before a license is granted (ex. jurisprudence exam).**

# Applicable Occupations/Professions

**ULR policies may be specific to certain occupations/professions.**

## Conditional Example

- Existing reciprocity agreements
- Interstate compacts

# Residency Requirement

**Requirement that an out-of-state licensee establish residency in the new state to receive licensure.**

# Survey of Universal Licensure Recognition Laws



In 2021, CSG surveyed licensing boards and departments in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Missouri, Montana and Pennsylvania.

[https://compacts.csg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2021\\_ULR\\_Report.pdf](https://compacts.csg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2021_ULR_Report.pdf)

# Survey Results – Identified Benefits

Majority of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that Universal Licensure Recognition positively contributed to the state's workforce.

Respondents cited improved efficiency and time to licensure.

Universal Licensure Recognition policies may achieve greater success for professions with a higher degree of standardization.

# Survey Results – Identified Concerns

Conflict/confusion with existing licensure recognition laws.

Substantially Similar Requirement/Scope of Practice.

Implementation challenges.



# Contact Information

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# Questions?

