

§ 90-21.172. Definitions.

The following definitions apply in this Article:

- (1) Bylaws. – Bylaws established by the Interstate Commission pursuant to G.S. 90-21.181.
- (2) Commissioner. – The voting representative appointed by each member board pursuant to G.S. 90-21.181.
- (3) Conviction. – A finding by a court that an individual is guilty of a criminal offense through adjudication, or entry of a plea of guilty or no contest to the charge by the offender. Evidence of an entry of a conviction of a criminal offense by a court shall be considered final for purposes of disciplinary action by a member board.
- (4) Expedited license. – A full and unrestricted medical license granted by a member state to an eligible physician through the process set forth in the Compact.
- (5) Interstate Commission. – The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission created pursuant to G.S. 90-21.181.
- (6) License. – The authorization by a member state for a physician to engage in the practice of medicine, which would be unlawful without authorization.
- (7) Medical practice act. – Laws and regulations governing the practice of allopathic and osteopathic medicine within a member state.
- (8) Member board. – A state agency in a member state that acts in the sovereign interests of the state by protecting the public through licensure, regulation, and education of physicians as directed by the state government.
- (9) Member state. – A state that has enacted the Compact.
- (10) Offense. – A felony, gross misdemeanor, or crime of moral turpitude.
- (11) Physician. – Any person who meets all of the following qualifications:
 - a. Is a graduate of a medical school accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation, or a medical school listed in the International Medical Education Directory or its equivalent.
 - b. Has passed each component of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) or the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX-USA) within three attempts, or any of its predecessor examinations accepted by a state medical board as an equivalent examination for licensure purposes.
 - c. Has successfully completed graduate medical education approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association.
 - d. Holds specialty certification or a time-unlimited specialty certificate recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American Osteopathic Association's Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists.
 - e. Possesses a full and unrestricted license to engage in the practice of medicine issued by a member board.
 - f. Has never been convicted, received adjudication, deferred adjudication, community supervision, or deferred disposition for any offense by a court of appropriate jurisdiction.
 - g. Has never held a license authorizing the practice of medicine subjected to discipline by a licensing agency in any state, federal, or foreign

- jurisdiction, excluding any action related to nonpayment of fees related to a license.
- h. Has never had a controlled substance license or permit suspended or revoked by a state or the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.
 - i. Is not under active investigation by a licensing agency or law enforcement authority in any state, federal, or foreign jurisdiction.
- (12) Practice of medicine. – Clinical prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of human disease, injury, or condition requiring a physician to obtain and maintain a license in compliance with the medical practice act of a member state.
 - (13) Rule. – A written statement by the Interstate Commission promulgated pursuant to G.S. 90-21.182 that is of general applicability, implements, interprets, or prescribes a policy or provision of the Compact, or an organizational, procedural, or practice requirement of the Interstate Commission, and has the force and effect of statutory law in a member state, and includes the amendment, repeal, or suspension of an existing rule.
 - (14) State. – Any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States.
 - (15) State of principal license. – A member state where a physician holds a license to practice medicine and which has been designated as such by the physician for purposes of registration and participation in the Compact. (2025-37, s. 1(a).)