



VOLUME 2: ISSUE #1

# Newsletter

February 4, 2026

## Leading Perspective: Thoughts from the Chair



**Claire Covert-ByBee**  
Chair  
Nebraska

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were filled with laughter, good food, and great company. As is common this time of year, our thoughts often turn to new beginnings and new goals; an opportunity to stretch and grow. That is certainly true with the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact Commission.

More and more member States continue to achieve the steps necessary to implement compact privilege issuance and recognition. And, as a Commission, the stretch goal for the year is to have all member states onboard with the ability to issue compact privileges. As the proverb states – if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.

Growth also occurs through transition. As you may be aware, Dr. Lesley Edwards-Gaither tendered her resignation as the Executive Director of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact. Her last day was January 8<sup>th</sup>. Best wishes to her in her future endeavors. The Executive Committee has voted to begin the search for a new Executive Director and an RFP seeking applicants will be posted soon. Visit the [aslpcapact.com](http://aslpcapact.com) website for the latest updates. In the interim, please continue to send e-mails to [director@aslpcapact.com](mailto:director@aslpcapact.com) for any questions or comments regarding the Compact or Commission business.

As always, it's been a pleasure to work alongside all of you as Chair of this Commission and I thank you all for your dedication and hard work.

*Claire Covert-ByBee*

### In this Issue

Leading Perspective

CompactConnect

Updates from the States

Legal Corner

Committee Updates

Save the Date



# CompactConnect

Isabel Eliassen, Project Manager

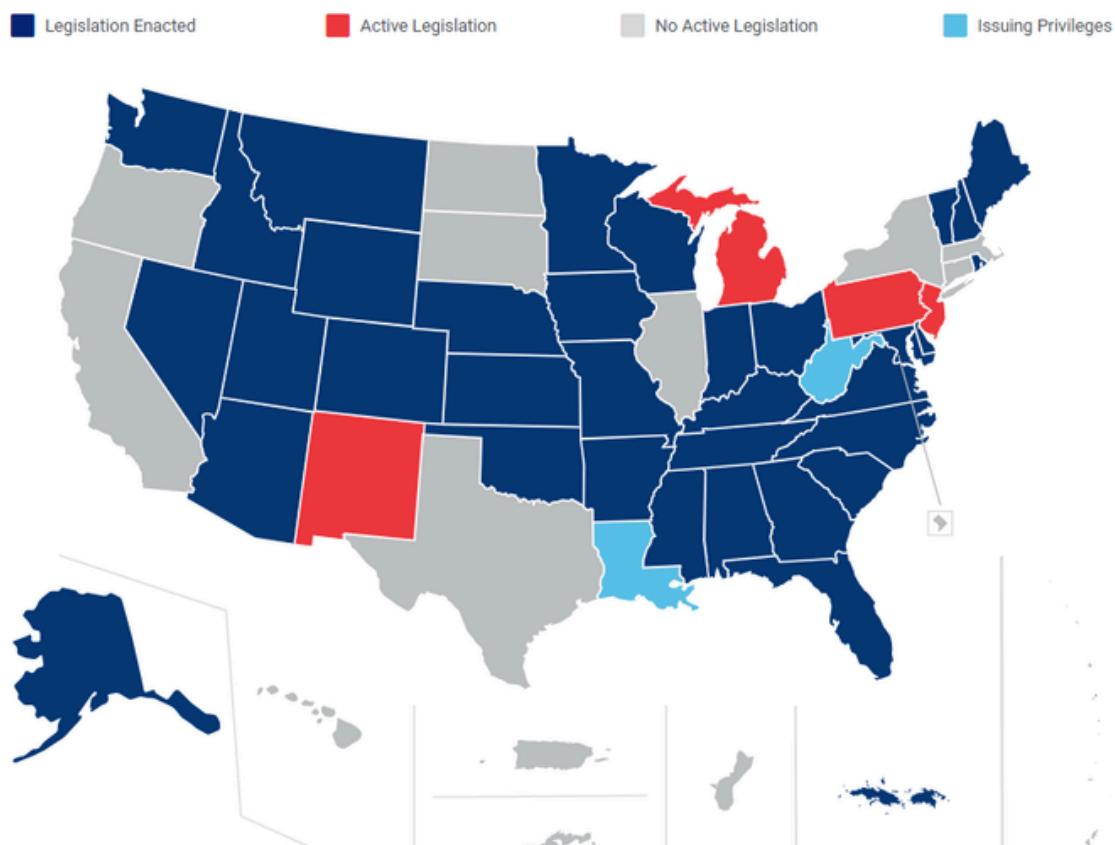
This fall, the data system used to issue compact privileges for the ASLP Compact launched with Louisiana and West Virginia as its first states. This was an incredible step for the ASLP Compact, which has been working towards this moment for over half a decade. Practitioners who live in and are licensed in one of those states can buy compact privileges in the other state. We look forward to many more states becoming active participants in issuing privileges in the next several months. The data system was developed with regular input from state board staff, compact commission staff, and licensees. Our goal is for the compact data system (called CompactConnect) to be simple and quick to use. We will continue to make improvements to it over time.



## Updates from the States

Susan Adams, Legislative Liaison

We are continuing to work with states to adopt the ASLP-IC legislation in 2026. Legislation has carried over in Michigan and Pennsylvania, while legislation has been reintroduced in New Jersey and New Mexico. We await additional bill introductions this year while we continue outreach to non-member states. You can always view the most current list of member states at: <https://aslpcompact.com/compact-map/>.



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## Legal Corner

Nahale Kalfas, General Counsel

Active participation by compact delegates is the cornerstone of interstate compact governance, ensuring that the ASLP-IC remains a truly state-governed entity rather than an independent bureaucracy. As the primary link between the commission and their home state's government, delegates act as guardians of state sovereignty and democratic accountability. In this framework, representation is paramount; since each member state holds two seats and two votes, an inactive delegate effectively silences their state's voice in national policy and binding rules. By staying engaged, delegates ensure that the commission's collective authority reflects the will of its member states.

Beyond representation, delegates shoulder the critical responsibility of rulemaking and oversight. Because the commission has the power to promulgate rules with the force and effect of statutory law, active involvement is essential to ensure new rules align with the purpose of the compact. This oversight extends to fiscal health, where delegates must approve budgets and monitor compliance with bylaws. Furthermore, delegates facilitate interstate coordination, including the management of the compact database, ensuring the compact operates smoothly and transparently to ensure public protection and provide greater access to competent care.

## News from the Rules Committee

Gregg Thornton, Chair

It was a productive year for the Rules Committee. The Commission strengthened its operational framework through several key rules, beginning with the adoption of a \$50.00 administrative fee per Privilege to Practice and an amendment on the requirement for Home States to conduct FBI criminal background checks for initial applicants. These updates also included revised implementation timelines and "legal impossibility" exceptions for background check compliance. Following these changes, the September 20th Annual Business Meeting saw the amendment of dataset reporting rules to allow for National Practitioner Identifier (NPI) integration via CompactConnect. To support these transitions, the Commission expanded its public FAQ resources to provide greater transparency regarding fee structures and administrative decisions.

The Committee is focusing on the following rules, bylaws, and policies for 2026:

- Proposed bylaw amendment addressing:
  - Staggered terms for Executive Committee officers;
- Proposed rules addressing:
  - Adverse Action Reporting
  - Mediation and Dispute Requirements/Procedures
  - Joint Investigations
- Proposed policies addressing:
  - Military identification and submission verification/auditing process
  - Monthly payment of State Fee to member states and payment transaction reconciliation process

Chair: Gregg Thornton (OH)  
ex-officio: Claire Covert-ByBee (NE)  
Tamara Cranfill (KY)  
Michael Zagarella (WV)



## News from the Finance Committee

Felicia Wang, Chair

Since the last newsletter, the Finance Committee met and addressed the following items:

- Reviewed and approved the Fiscal Policy on Reimbursement to Member States to be sent to the Executive Committee
- Certified Funds Available for a Request for Proposal for an Executive Director
- Reviewed and approved a contract for part-time CompactConnect Project Manager to be sent to the Executive Committee.

We look forward to meeting, and thank the members of the Finance Committee.

Chair: Felicia Wang (MS)  
ex-officio: Vickie Pullins (WV)  
Jolie Jones (LA)  
Denise Brown (NC)  
Carrie Mills (TN)

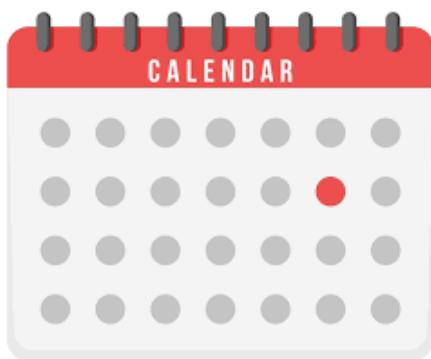
## News from the Compliance Committee

Jeanne Copeland, Interim Chair

The Compliance Committee has not met since the last newsletter. The group's second meeting, planned for November 17, 2025, was cancelled. To date, the group has not rescheduled or resumed its proceedings.

We look forward to our next meeting, and thank the members of the Compliance Committee for their service.

Interim Chair Jeanne Copeland (KS)  
Alice Cellino (GA)  
Carol Hofbauer (OH)  
Elizabeth Maynor (NC)



## Save the Date

### Executive Committee Meetings

4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 4:00 PM ET  
Next meeting: February 23, 2026

### Rules Committee Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 3:00 PM ET  
Next meeting: February 12, 2026

### Finance Committee Meetings

As needed

### Compliance Committee Meetings

As needed



Find meeting information at: <https://aslcompact.com/meetings/>