

# ENACTING THE ASLP-IC IN ALABAMA

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## Alabama's Process and Timeline

**Fall 2018**

- Former ABESPA Chair Florence Cuneo appointed to ASLP-IC Writing Committee

**Spring 2019**

- ABESPA reviews proposed ASLP-IC and submits suggestions for changes in wording/composition

**Fall 2019**

- **September** - Alabama Governor Kay Ivey publicly states support of Interstate Compacts
- **October** - 5 ABESPA Board members attend NCSB San Antonio Conference, learning more about interstate compacts and the ASLP-IC *(a positive selling point!)*
- **November** - ABESPA Board begins reviewing ASLP-IC Model Bill from CSG, developing formal concerns and questions to be investigated
- **December** - Molt presents information about ASLP-IC to *Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama (SHAA)* at Fall Board of Directors Meeting - and a decision to vote on support for ASLP-IC at Spring 2020 SHAA BOD Meeting
- **December** - ABESPA Chair Molt attends Council of State Governments "Summit of the States", learning much more about interstate compacts

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## Alabama's Process and Timeline

**2020**

- **January** - ABESPA Board reviews existing ICs in state (Medicine, Nursing, EMTs)
- **February** - SHAA Board of Directors votes to support passage of ASLP-IC, and gave responsibility to Advocacy Committee
- **February** - ABESPA Board presentation about ASLP-IC to SHAA membership at Spring 2020 SHAA Convention yields significant interest/support from the membership
- **February** - at SHAA convention received information from Susan Adams (ASHA) that there was an ASLP-IC Bill (SB 245) in the current Alabama Legislative session! *Big questions: who sponsored bill and why; and how to assist in passage*
- **March** - *problems noted in SB 245* when reviewed by CSG/ASHA, attempts to revise faster, and COVID 19/SARS 2 pandemic shuts down legislative session
- **March** - ABESPA Board votes to support ASLP-IC
- **May** - Legislative session resumes - but only to pass Pandemic-related legislation. SB 245 is dead.
- **Fall 2020** - discussions begin with Lt. Governor's office about an ASLP-IC Bill for 2021 Legislative session and corrections to problematic section in SB 245.

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### Alabama's Process and Timeline

2021

- **January** - Bills filed for ASLP-IC (SB 130 - Sen. Linda Coleman-Madison as sponsor) as well as Psychology and Physical Therapy ICs - Lt. Governor's office is responsible for language of bill and sponsors. Molt sends copy of SB 130 to ASHA/CSG for review - who request changes in wording of the bill
- **February** - Bill moves to Senate Veteran's and Military Affairs committee. SHAA leadership asks members to contact VMAC members, indicating support. SB 130 passes VMAC and passes Senate. Bill moves to Health Committee of the House of Representatives with another SHAA led e-mail campaign
- **March** - With Rep. Wes Kitchens as House Sponsor, House votes approval of Bill with revisions/amendments requested by CSG on 3/4/21. Senate approves House amended version on 3/9/21. Governor Kay Ivey signed the Bill on 3/18/21, making Alabama the 7<sup>th</sup> state to pass the ASLP-IC, and the first state to pass it in 2021

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Governor Kay Ivey signs SB 130, the ASLP-IC, accompanied by Senator Linda Coleman-Madison (sponsor of SB 130) and Dr. Larry Molt, ABESPA Chair.

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### Key Aspects Assisting Alabama's Passage

- Governor Kay Ivey's stated support of interstate compacts
- Department of Defense letter to States encouraging passage of interstate compacts as fastest way to assist military spouses (Alabama has a large number of military installations)
- Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth spearheading the effort to pass Interstate Compacts (got the bills written and located key sponsors)
- Support of the state professional association (Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama/SHAA) in supporting the ASLP-IC, encouraging members to contact their legislative representatives and key committee members, and providing lobbyist support
- Efforts by the Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech Pathology and Audiology (ABESPA) to study and investigate implications of the ASLP-IC for Alabama, its consumers, and its practitioners/licensees and explain the implications to the above mentioned groups (*Education efforts by NCSB were pivotal here!*)
- Education efforts for practitioners, licensing boards, state associations, and state legislators provided by the Council of State Governments (CSG), American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), American Academy of Audiology (AAA), and the National Council of State Boards of Examiners for Speech Pathology and Audiology (NCSB).
- Finally, a special shout-out to Charles "CJ" Hincy, one of our Auburn University Lobbyists who spent way too much time educating me and assisting in the passage of the ASLP-IC. When the original bill was filed, he immediately contacted our department to get our position on it, and he quickly became an invaluable counsel, mentor, and friend.

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