

INTERSTATE COMPACTS

The Benefits of Interstate Compacts

- ▶ Interstate compacts are contracts between two or more states creating an agreement on a variety of issues, including, but not limited to, specific policy issues, regulatory matters and boundary settlements.
- ▶ There are many reasons for creating an interstate compact:
 - Establishing a legal relationship to resolve a specific dispute, such as rights to use water resources;
 - Creating independent, multistate agencies that can more effectively address specific policy problems, such as the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; and
 - Establishing uniform guidelines and standards for member states to follow.
- ▶ In addition, compacts allow states to maintain their sovereignty by allowing them to act collectively outside the confines of federal legislation or regulation. ¹
 - When effectively used, compacts provide regional or national policy solutions without interference from the federal government.
- ▶ Compacts also allow states to develop a dynamic, self regulatory system that remains flexible enough to address changing needs.



Prevalence of and Trends in Interstate Compacts

- ▶ Between 1783 and 1920, there were only 36 compacts enacted between states, and most of them resolved boundary disputes. In the last 75 years, however, more than 150 compacts have been created.
 - Each state belongs to an average of 25 different compacts.
 - In 2005 alone, state legislatures introduced 49 compact bills and the 109th Congress considered 30 compact-related bills. ²
- ▶ Though compacts can be developed by as few as two states, many modern compacts are regional or national in scope.
 - 22 compacts are national in scope; several have 35 or more member states.
 - More than 30 compacts are regional, with at least eight member states. ³
- ▶ Modern compacts have focused on a wide range of policy areas, including;
 - Education;
 - Insurance regulation;
 - Maintenance of natural resources;
 - Criminal justice; and
 - Emergency planning.

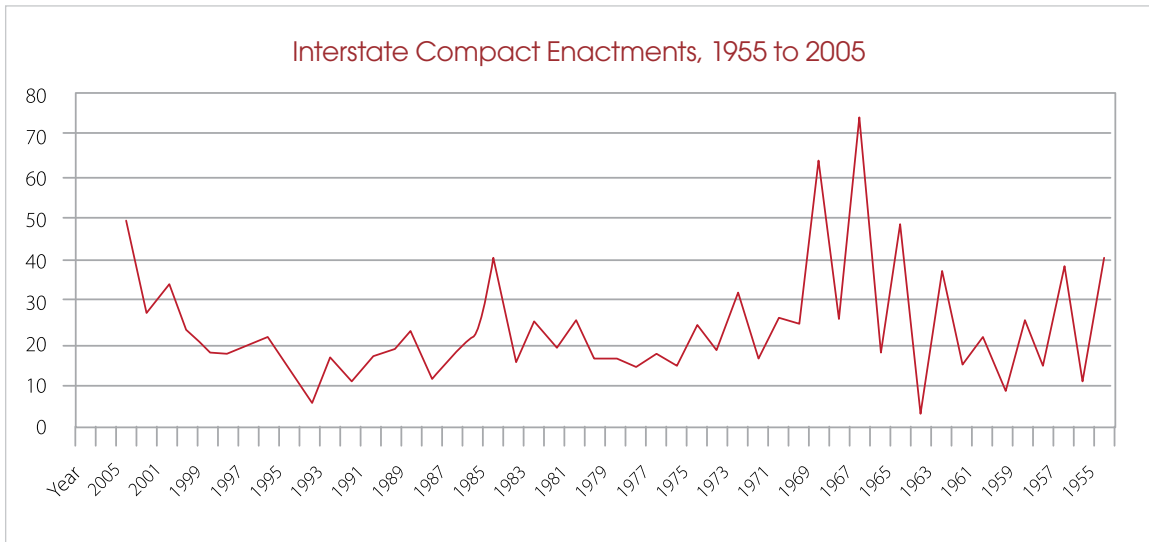
¹ "10 Frequently Asked Questions". The National Center for Interstate Compacts. Accessed from <http://www.csg.org/programs/ncic/documents/CompactFAQ.pdf> on November 14, 2008

² "Recent State Activity". The National Center for Interstate Compacts. Accessed from <http://www.csg.org/programs/ncic/documents/FactSheet.pdf> on November 14, 2008

³ "Interstate Compact Fact Sheet". The National Center for Interstate Compacts. Accessed from <http://www.csg.org/programs/ncic/documents/FactSheet.pdf> on November 14, 2008



TRENDS IN INTERSTATE COMPACTS SINCE 1955



Interstate Compact Enactments, 1955 to 2005

Year*	Compacts Enacted	Year*	Compacts Enacted	Year*	Compacts Enacted
2005	49	1986	21	1970	24
2002	27	1985	40	1969	64
2001	34	1984	15	1968	26
2000	22	1983	25	1967	74
1999	18	1982	19	1966	18
1998	17	1981	26	1965	48
1997	20	1980	16	1964	3
1996	21	1979	16	1963	37
1995	12	1978	14	1962	14
1994	5	1977	17	1961	21
1993	16	1976	14	1960	8
1992	10	1975	24	1959	25
1991	16	1974	18	1958	14
1990	18	1973	32	1957	38
1989	22	1972	16	1956	10
1988	11	1971	26	1955	40
1987	17				

* No data for 2003, 2004