

# One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

### LB554

---

**Chairperson: Senator John Arch**

**Committee: Health and Human Services**

**Date of Hearing: February 17, 2021**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB554 adopts the Licensed Professional Counselors Interstate Compact in order to create better access for patients, offer telehealth alternatives and remove hurdles for employment for professionals including military spouses and family members.

In Nebraska, a Licensed Counselor means any Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner with a license to practice in their home state could travel to a member state of the compact and practice their trade using what is known as a compact privilege without having to test or get a separate license in that remote state.

Someone licensed as an independent mental health practitioner and certified as a master social worker may use the title licensed independent clinical social worker and operate under the terms of this compact.

Someone licensed as an independent mental health practitioner and certified as a professional counselor may use the title licensed independent professional counselor and operate under the terms of this compact.

Someone licensed as an independent mental health practitioner and certified as a marriage and family therapist may use the title licensed independent marriage and family therapist and operate under the terms of this compact.

LB554 has to do with mobility and ease of practice. It also means additional benefits such as a reduction in paperwork, reduction in costs and streamlining requirements and the process. For Licensing boards, it means access to the Compact database, access to an online processing system, member state fee guidance and the member state requirements checklist.

LB554 also provides a method to make sure that those covered by the compact who are practicing with the compact privileges in the state of Nebraska are abiding by the laws of this state and the terms of their license using that database.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Carol Blood**