

HOUSE BILL 34

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(PRE-FILED)

4lr1244
CF SB 204

By: ~~Delegate Kerr~~ Delegates Kerr, Alston, Bagnall, Bhandari, Chisholm, Cullison, Guzzone, Hill, Hutchinson, S. Johnson, Kaiser, Kipke, R. Lewis, Lopez, Martinez, M. Morgan, Pena-Melnyk, Reilly, Rosenberg, Taveras, White Holland, and Woods

Requested: October 30, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 20, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact**

3 FOR the purpose of entering into the Social Work Licensure Compact for the purpose of
4 authorizing regulated social workers who hold multistate licenses to practice social
5 work in member states; establishing requirements for multistate licensure;
6 establishing the Social Work Licensure Compact Commission; providing for
7 withdrawal from the Compact; and generally relating to the Social Work Licensure
8 Compact.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Health Occupations

11 Section 19–3A–01 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 3A. Interstate Social Work
12 Licensure Compact”

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Health Occupations**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



SUBTITLE 3A. INTERSTATE SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT.

19-3A-01.

THE SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT IS ENACTED INTO LAW AND ENTERED INTO WITH ALL OTHER STATES LEGALLY JOINING IN IT IN THE FORM SUBSTANTIALLY AS IT APPEARS IN THIS SECTION AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS COMPACT IS TO FACILITATE INTERSTATE PRACTICE OF REGULATED SOCIAL WORKERS BY IMPROVING PUBLIC ACCESS TO COMPETENT SOCIAL WORK SERVICES. THE COMPACT PRESERVES THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF STATES TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY THROUGH THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF STATE LICENSURE. THIS COMPACT IS DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

(1) INCREASE PUBLIC ACCESS TO SOCIAL WORKERS;

(2) REDUCE OVERLY BURDENSOME AND DUPLICATIVE REQUIREMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH HOLDING MULTIPLE LICENSES;

(3) ENHANCE THE MEMBER STATES' ABILITY TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH AND SAFETY;

(4) ENCOURAGE THE COOPERATION OF MEMBER STATES IN REGULATING MULTISTATE PRACTICE;

(5) PROMOTE MOBILITY AND ADDRESS WORKFORCE SHORTAGES BY ELIMINATING THE NECESSITY FOR LICENSES IN MULTIPLE STATES BY PROVIDING FOR THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF OTHER MEMBER STATE LICENSES;

(6) SUPPORT MILITARY FAMILIES;

(7) FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF LICENSURE AND DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION AMONG MEMBER STATES;

(8) AUTHORIZE ALL MEMBER STATES TO HOLD A REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER ACCOUNTABLE FOR ABIDING BY A MEMBER STATE'S LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND APPLICABLE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN THE MEMBER STATE IN WHICH THE CLIENT IS LOCATED AT THE TIME CARE IS RENDERED; AND

(9) ALLOW THE USE OF TELEHEALTH TO FACILITATE INCREASED ACCESS TO REGULATED SOCIAL WORK SERVICES.

1 **SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 **AS USED IN THIS COMPACT, AND EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED, THE**
3 **FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS SHALL APPLY:**

4 **(1) “ACTIVE MILITARY MEMBER” MEANS ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH**
5 **FULL-TIME DUTY STATUS IN THE ACTIVE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES,**
6 **INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE.**

7 **(2) “ADVERSE ACTION” MEANS ANY ADMINISTRATIVE, CIVIL,**
8 **EQUITABLE, OR CRIMINAL ACTION PERMITTED BY A STATE’S LAWS WHICH IS**
9 **IMPOSED BY A LICENSING AUTHORITY OR OTHER AUTHORITY AGAINST A**
10 **REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER, INCLUDING ACTIONS AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL’S**
11 **LICENSE OR MULTISTATE AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE SUCH AS REVOCATION,**
12 **SUSPENSION, PROBATION, MONITORING OF THE LICENSEE, LIMITATION ON THE**
13 **LICENSEE’S PRACTICE, OR ANY OTHER ENCUMBRANCE ON LICENSURE AFFECTING A**
14 **REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER’S AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE, INCLUDING**
15 **ISSUANCE OF A CEASE AND DESIST ACTION.**

16 **(3) “ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM” MEANS A NON-DISCIPLINARY**
17 **MONITORING OR PRACTICE REMEDIATION PROCESS APPROVED BY A LICENSING**
18 **AUTHORITY TO ADDRESS PRACTITIONERS WITH AN IMPAIRMENT.**

19 **(4) “CHARTER MEMBER STATES” MEANS MEMBER STATES WHO HAVE**
20 **ENACTED LEGISLATION TO ADOPT THIS COMPACT WHERE SUCH LEGISLATION**
21 **PREDATES THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS COMPACT AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 14.**

22 **(5) “COMPACT COMMISSION” OR “COMMISSION” MEANS THE**
23 **GOVERNMENT AGENCY WHOSE MEMBERSHIP CONSISTS OF ALL STATES THAT HAVE**
24 **ENACTED THIS COMPACT, WHICH IS KNOWN AS THE SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE**
25 **COMPACT COMMISSION, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 10, AND WHICH SHALL**
26 **OPERATE AS AN INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE MEMBER STATES.**

27 **(6) “CURRENT SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION” MEANS:**

28 **(I) INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION THAT A LICENSING**
29 **AUTHORITY, AFTER A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY THAT INCLUDES NOTIFICATION AND**
30 **AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER TO RESPOND HAS REASON**
31 **TO BELIEVE IS NOT GROUNDLESS AND, IF PROVED TRUE, WOULD INDICATE MORE**
32 **THAN A MINOR INFRACTION AS MAY BE DEFINED BY THE COMMISSION; OR**

33 **(II) INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION THAT INDICATES THAT THE**
34 **REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER REPRESENTS AN IMMEDIATE THREAT TO PUBLIC**

1 HEALTH AND SAFETY, AS MAY BE DEFINED BY THE COMMISSION, REGARDLESS OF
2 WHETHER THE REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER HAS BEEN NOTIFIED AND HAS HAD AN
3 OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND.

4 (7) "DATA SYSTEM" MEANS A REPOSITORY OF INFORMATION ABOUT
5 LICENSEES, INCLUDING CONTINUING EDUCATION, EXAMINATION, LICENSURE,
6 CURRENT SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION, DISQUALIFYING EVENT,
7 MULTISTATE LICENSE, AND ADVERSE ACTION INFORMATION OR OTHER
8 INFORMATION AS REQUIRED BY THE COMMISSION.

9 (8) "DISQUALIFYING EVENT" MEANS ANY ADVERSE ACTION OR
10 INCIDENT WHICH RESULTS IN AN ENCUMBRANCE THAT DISQUALIFIES OR MAKES
11 THE LICENSEE INELIGIBLE TO OBTAIN, RETAIN, OR RENEW A MULTISTATE LICENSE.

12 (9) "DOMICILE" MEANS THE JURISDICTION IN WHICH THE LICENSEE
13 RESIDES AND INTENDS TO REMAIN INDEFINITELY.

14 (10) "ENCUMBRANCE" MEANS A REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF, OR
15 ANY LIMITATION ON, THE FULL AND UNRESTRICTED PRACTICE OF SOCIAL WORK
16 LICENSED AND REGULATED BY A LICENSING AUTHORITY.

17 (11) "EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE" MEANS A GROUP OF DELEGATES
18 ELECTED OR APPOINTED TO ACT ON BEHALF OF, AND WITHIN THE POWERS
19 GRANTED TO THEM BY, THE COMPACT AND COMMISSION.

20 (12) "HOME STATE" MEANS THE MEMBER STATE THAT IS THE
21 LICENSEE'S PRIMARY DOMICILE.

22 (13) "IMPAIRMENT" MEANS A CONDITION THAT MAY IMPAIR A
23 PRACTITIONER'S ABILITY TO ENGAGE IN FULL AND UNRESTRICTED PRACTICE AS A
24 REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER WITHOUT SOME TYPE OF INTERVENTION AND MAY
25 INCLUDE ALCOHOL AND DRUG DEPENDENCE, MENTAL HEALTH IMPAIRMENT, AND
26 NEUROLOGICAL OR PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS.

27 (14) "LICENSEE" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO CURRENTLY HOLDS A
28 LICENSE FROM A STATE TO PRACTICE AS A REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER.

29 (15) "LICENSING AUTHORITY" MEANS THE BOARD OR AGENCY OF A
30 MEMBER STATE, OR EQUIVALENT, THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LICENSING AND
31 REGULATION OF REGULATED SOCIAL WORKERS.

32 (16) "MEMBER STATE" MEANS A STATE, COMMONWEALTH, DISTRICT,
33 OR TERRITORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THAT HAS ENACTED THIS
34 COMPACT.

1 (17) “MULTISTATE AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE” MEANS A LEGALLY
2 AUTHORIZED PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE, WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO A LICENSE,
3 ASSOCIATED WITH A MULTISTATE LICENSE PERMITTING THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL
4 WORK IN A REMOTE STATE.

5 (18) “MULTISTATE LICENSE” MEANS A LICENSE TO PRACTICE AS A
6 REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER ISSUED BY A HOME STATE LICENSING AUTHORITY
7 THAT AUTHORIZES THE REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER TO PRACTICE IN ALL MEMBER
8 STATES UNDER MULTISTATE AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE.

9 (19) “QUALIFYING NATIONAL EXAM” MEANS A NATIONAL LICENSING
10 EXAMINATION APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION.

11 (20) “REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER” MEANS ANY CLINICAL, MASTER’S,
12 OR BACHELOR’S SOCIAL WORKER LICENSED BY A MEMBER STATE REGARDLESS OF
13 THE TITLE USED BY THAT MEMBER STATE.

14 (21) “REMOTE STATE” MEANS A MEMBER STATE OTHER THAN THE
15 HOME STATE.

16 (22) “RULE” OR “RULE OF THE COMMISSION” MEANS A REGULATION
17 DULY PROMULGATED BY THE COMMISSION, AS AUTHORIZED BY THIS COMPACT,
18 THAT HAS THE FORCE OF LAW.

19 (23) “SINGLE STATE LICENSE” MEANS A SOCIAL WORK LICENSE
20 ISSUED BY ANY STATE THAT AUTHORIZES PRACTICE ONLY WITHIN THE ISSUING
21 STATE AND DOES NOT INCLUDE MULTISTATE AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE IN ANY
22 MEMBER STATE.

23 (24) “SOCIAL WORK” OR “SOCIAL WORK SERVICES” MEANS THE
24 APPLICATION OF SOCIAL WORK THEORY, KNOWLEDGE, METHODS, ETHICS, AND THE
25 PROFESSIONAL USE OF SELF TO RESTORE OR ENHANCE SOCIAL, PSYCHOSOCIAL, OR
26 BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL FUNCTIONING OF INDIVIDUALS, COUPLES, FAMILIES, GROUPS,
27 ORGANIZATIONS, AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE CARE AND SERVICES PROVIDED
28 BY A REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER AS SET FORTH IN THE MEMBER STATE’S
29 STATUTES AND REGULATIONS IN THE STATE WHERE THE SERVICES ARE BEING
30 PROVIDED.

31 (25) “STATE” MEANS ANY STATE, COMMONWEALTH, DISTRICT, OR
32 TERRITORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THAT REGULATES THE PRACTICE
33 OF SOCIAL WORK.

(26) “UNENCUMBERED LICENSE” MEANS A LICENSE THAT AUTHORIZES A REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER TO ENGAGE IN THE FULL AND UNRESTRICTED PRACTICE OF SOCIAL WORK.

SECTION 3. STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT.

(A) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMPACT, A POTENTIAL MEMBER STATE MUST CURRENTLY MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

(1) LICENSE AND REGULATE SOCIAL WORK AT EITHER THE CLINICAL, MASTER’S OR BACHELOR’S CATEGORY;

(2) REQUIRE APPLICANTS FOR LICENSURE TO GRADUATE FROM A PROGRAM THAT:

(i) IS OPERATED BY A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZED BY THE LICENSING AUTHORITY;

(ii) IS ACCREDITED, OR IN CANDIDACY BY AN INSTITUTION THAT SUBSEQUENTLY BECOMES ACCREDITED, BY AN ACCREDITING AGENCY RECOGNIZED BY EITHER:

1. THE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION OR ITS SUCCESSOR; OR

2. THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;
AND

(iii) CORRESPONDS TO THE LICENSURE SOUGHT AS OUTLINED IN SECTION 4;

(3) REQUIRE APPLICANTS FOR CLINICAL LICENSURE TO COMPLETE A PERIOD OF SUPERVISED PRACTICE; AND

(4) HAVE A MECHANISM IN PLACE FOR RECEIVING, INVESTIGATING, AND ADJUDICATING COMPLAINTS ABOUT LICENSEES.

(B) TO MAINTAIN MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMPACT A MEMBER STATE SHALL:

(1) REQUIRE THAT APPLICANTS FOR A MULTISTATE LICENSE PASS A QUALIFYING NATIONAL EXAM FOR THE CORRESPONDING CATEGORY OF MULTISTATE LICENSE SOUGHT AS OUTLINED IN SECTION 4;

1 (2) PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE COMMISSION'S DATA SYSTEM,
2 INCLUDING USING THE COMMISSION'S UNIQUE IDENTIFIER AS DEFINED IN RULES;

3 (3) NOTIFY THE COMMISSION, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF
4 THE COMPACT AND RULES, OF ANY ADVERSE ACTION OR THE AVAILABILITY OF
5 CURRENT SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION REGARDING A LICENSEE;

6 (4) IMPLEMENT PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERING THE CRIMINAL
7 HISTORY RECORDS OF APPLICANTS FOR A MULTISTATE LICENSE. SUCH
8 PROCEDURES SHALL INCLUDE THE SUBMISSION OF FINGERPRINTS OR OTHER
9 BIOMETRIC-BASED INFORMATION BY APPLICANTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
10 OBTAINING AN APPLICANT'S CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION FROM THE
11 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR
12 RETAINING THAT STATE'S CRIMINAL RECORDS;

13 (5) COMPLY WITH THE RULES OF THE COMMISSION;

14 (6) REQUIRE AN APPLICANT TO OBTAIN OR RETAIN A LICENSE IN THE
15 HOME STATE AND MEET THE HOME STATE'S QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE OR
16 RENEWAL OF LICENSURE, AS WELL AS ALL OTHER APPLICABLE HOME STATE LAWS;

17 (7) AUTHORIZE A LICENSEE HOLDING A MULTISTATE LICENSE IN ANY
18 MEMBER STATE TO PRACTICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE COMPACT
19 AND RULES OF THE COMMISSION; AND

20 (8) DESIGNATE A DELEGATE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMISSION
21 MEETINGS.

22 (C) A MEMBER STATE MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTIONS 3(A) AND
23 3(B) OF THIS COMPACT SHALL DESIGNATE THE CATEGORIES OF SOCIAL WORK
24 LICENSURE THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ISSUANCE OF A MULTISTATE LICENSE FOR
25 APPLICANTS IN SUCH MEMBER STATE. TO THE EXTENT THAT ANY MEMBER STATE
26 DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT AT ANY
27 PARTICULAR CATEGORY OF SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE, SUCH MEMBER STATE MAY
28 CHOOSE, BUT IS NOT OBLIGATED TO, ISSUE A MULTISTATE LICENSE TO APPLICANTS
29 THAT OTHERWISE MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 4 FOR ISSUANCE OF A
30 MULTISTATE LICENSE IN SUCH CATEGORY OR CATEGORIES OF LICENSURE.

31 (D) THE HOME STATES MAY CHARGE A FEE FOR GRANTING THE
32 MULTISTATE LICENSE.

33 SECTION 4. REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER PARTICIPATION IN THE
34 COMPACT.

1 **(A) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A MULTISTATE LICENSE UNDER THE TERMS AND**
2 **PROVISIONS OF THE COMPACT, AN APPLICANT, REGARDLESS OF CATEGORY MUST:**

3 **(1) HOLD OR BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN ACTIVE, UNENCUMBERED LICENSE**
4 **IN THE HOME STATE;**

5 **(2) PAY ANY APPLICABLE FEES, INCLUDING ANY STATE FEE, FOR THE**
6 **MULTISTATE LICENSE;**

7 **(3) SUBMIT, IN CONNECTION WITH AN APPLICATION FOR A**
8 **MULTISTATE LICENSE, FINGERPRINTS OR OTHER BIOMETRIC DATA FOR THE**
9 **PURPOSE OF OBTAINING CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION FROM THE**
10 **FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR**
11 **RETAINING THAT STATE'S CRIMINAL RECORDS;**

12 **(4) NOTIFY THE HOME STATE OF ANY ADVERSE ACTION,**
13 **ENCUMBRANCE, OR RESTRICTION ON ANY PROFESSIONAL LICENSE TAKEN BY ANY**
14 **MEMBER STATE OR NON-MEMBER STATE WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE THE**
15 **ACTION IS TAKEN;**

16 **(5) MEET ANY CONTINUING COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS**
17 **ESTABLISHED BY THE HOME STATE; AND**

18 **(6) ABIDE BY THE LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND APPLICABLE**
19 **STANDARDS IN THE MEMBER STATE WHERE THE CLIENT IS LOCATED AT THE TIME**
20 **CARE IS RENDERED.**

21 **(B) AN APPLICANT FOR A CLINICAL-CATEGORY MULTISTATE LICENSE MUST**
22 **MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:**

23 **(1) FULFILL A COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT, WHICH SHALL BE**
24 **SATISFIED BY EITHER:**

25 **(I) PASSAGE OF A CLINICAL-CATEGORY QUALIFYING**
26 **NATIONAL EXAM;**

27 **(II) LICENSURE OF THE APPLICANT IN THEIR HOME STATE AT**
28 **THE CLINICAL CATEGORY, BEGINNING PRIOR TO SUCH TIME AS A QUALIFYING**
29 **NATIONAL EXAM WAS REQUIRED BY THE HOME STATE AND ACCOMPANIED BY A**
30 **PERIOD OF CONTINUOUS SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE THEREAFTER, ALL OF WHICH**
31 **MAY BE FURTHER GOVERNED BY THE RULE OF THE COMMISSION; OR**

32 **(III) THE SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCY OF THE FOREGOING**
33 **COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS WHICH THE COMMISSION MAY DETERMINE BY RULE.**

1 **(2) ATTAIN AT LEAST A MASTER’S DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK FROM A**
2 **PROGRAM THAT IS:**

3 **(I) OPERATED BY A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZED BY**
4 **THE LICENSING AUTHORITY; AND**

5 **(II) ACCREDITED, OR IN CANDIDACY THAT SUBSEQUENTLY**
6 **BECOMES ACCREDITED, BY AN ACCREDITING AGENCY RECOGNIZED BY EITHER:**

7 **1. THE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**
8 **ACCREDITATION OR ITS SUCCESSOR; OR**

9 **2. THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;**

10 **(3) FULFILL A PRACTICE REQUIREMENT, WHICH SHALL BE SATISFIED**
11 **BY DEMONSTRATING COMPLETION OF EITHER:**

12 **(I) A PERIOD OF POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISED CLINICAL**
13 **PRACTICE EQUAL TO A MINIMUM OF THREE THOUSAND HOURS;**

14 **(II) A MINIMUM OF TWO YEARS OF FULL-TIME POSTGRADUATE**
15 **SUPERVISED CLINICAL PRACTICE; OR**

16 **(III) THE SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCY OF THE FOREGOING**
17 **PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS WHICH THE COMMISSION MAY DETERMINE BY RULE.**

18 **(C) AN APPLICANT FOR A MASTER’S-CATEGORY MULTISTATE LICENSE**
19 **MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:**

20 **(1) FULFILL A COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT, WHICH SHALL BE**
21 **SATISFIED BY EITHER:**

22 **(I) PASSAGE OF A MASTER’S-CATEGORY QUALIFYING**
23 **NATIONAL EXAM;**

24 **(II) LICENSURE OF THE APPLICANT IN THEIR HOME STATE AT**
25 **THE MASTER’S CATEGORY, BEGINNING PRIOR TO SUCH TIME AS A QUALIFYING**
26 **NATIONAL EXAM WAS REQUIRED BY THE HOME STATE AT THE MASTER’S CATEGORY**
27 **AND ACCOMPANIED BY A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE**
28 **THEREAFTER, ALL OF WHICH MAY BE FURTHER GOVERNED BY THE RULE OF THE**
29 **COMMISSION; OR**

1 (III) THE SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCY OF THE FOREGOING
2 COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS WHICH THE COMMISSION MAY DETERMINE BY RULE.

3 (2) ATTAIN AT LEAST A MASTER'S DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK, FROM A
4 PROGRAM THAT IS:

5 (I) OPERATED BY A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZED BY
6 THE LICENSING AUTHORITY; AND

7 (II) ACCREDITED, OR IN CANDIDACY THAT SUBSEQUENTLY
8 BECOMES ACCREDITED, BY AN ACCREDITING AGENCY RECOGNIZED BY EITHER:

9 1. THE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
10 ACCREDITATION, OR ITS SUCCESSOR; OR

11 2. THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

12 (D) AN APPLICANT FOR A BACHELOR'S-CATEGORY MULTISTATE LICENSE
13 MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

14 (1) FULFILL A COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT, WHICH SHALL BE
15 SATISFIED BY EITHER:

16 (I) PASSAGE OF A BACHELOR'S-CATEGORY QUALIFYING
17 NATIONAL EXAM;

18 (II) LICENSURE OF THE APPLICANT IN THEIR HOME STATE AT
19 THE BACHELOR'S CATEGORY, BEGINNING PRIOR TO SUCH TIME AS A QUALIFYING
20 NATIONAL EXAM WAS REQUIRED BY THE HOME STATE AND ACCOMPANIED BY A
21 CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE THEREAFTER, ALL OF WHICH
22 MAY BE FURTHER GOVERNED BY THE RULE OF THE COMMISSION; OR

23 (III) THE SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCY OF THE FOREGOING
24 COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS WHICH THE COMMISSION MAY DETERMINE BY RULE;
25 AND

26 (2) ATTAIN AT LEAST A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK FROM
27 A PROGRAM THAT IS:

28 (I) OPERATED BY A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZED BY
29 THE LICENSING AUTHORITY; AND

30 (II) ACCREDITED, OR IN CANDIDACY THAT SUBSEQUENTLY
31 BECOMES ACCREDITED, BY AN ACCREDITING AGENCY RECOGNIZED BY EITHER:

1 1. THE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
2 ACCREDITATION, OR ITS SUCCESSOR; OR

3 2. THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

4 (E) THE MULTISTATE LICENSE FOR A REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER IS
5 SUBJECT TO THE RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE HOME STATE. THE REGULATED
6 SOCIAL WORKER MUST MAINTAIN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF
7 SECTION 4(A) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RENEW A MULTISTATE LICENSE.

8 (F) THE REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER'S SERVICES IN A REMOTE STATE ARE
9 SUBJECT TO THAT MEMBER STATE'S REGULATORY AUTHORITY. A REMOTE STATE
10 MAY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DUE PROCESS AND THAT MEMBER STATE'S LAWS,
11 REMOVE A REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER'S MULTISTATE AUTHORIZATION TO
12 PRACTICE IN THE REMOTE STATE FOR A SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME, IMPOSE FINES,
13 AND TAKE ANY OTHER NECESSARY ACTIONS TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY
14 OF ITS CITIZENS.

15 (G) IF A MULTISTATE LICENSE IS ENCUMBERED, THE REGULATED SOCIAL
16 WORKER'S MULTISTATE AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE SHALL BE DEACTIVATED IN
17 ALL REMOTE STATES UNTIL THE MULTISTATE LICENSE IS NO LONGER
18 ENCUMBERED.

19 (H) IF A MULTISTATE AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE IS ENCUMBERED IN A
20 REMOTE STATE, THE REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER'S MULTISTATE AUTHORIZATION
21 TO PRACTICE MAY BE DEACTIVATED IN THAT STATE UNTIL THE MULTISTATE
22 AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE IS NO LONGER ENCUMBERED.

23 SECTION 5. ISSUANCE OF A MULTISTATE LICENSE.

24 (A) UPON RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION FOR A MULTISTATE LICENSE, THE
25 HOME STATE LICENSING AUTHORITY SHALL DETERMINE THE APPLICANT'S
26 ELIGIBILITY FOR A MULTISTATE LICENSE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 4 OF THIS
27 COMPACT.

28 (B) IF SUCH APPLICANT IS ELIGIBLE PURSUANT TO SECTION 4 OF THIS
29 COMPACT, THE HOME STATE LICENSING AUTHORITY SHALL ISSUE A MULTISTATE
30 LICENSE THAT AUTHORIZES THE APPLICANT OR REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER TO
31 PRACTICE IN ALL MEMBER STATES UNDER A MULTISTATE AUTHORIZATION TO
32 PRACTICE.

33 (C) UPON ISSUANCE OF A MULTISTATE LICENSE, THE HOME STATE
34 LICENSING AUTHORITY SHALL DESIGNATE WHETHER THE REGULATED SOCIAL

1 WORKER HOLDS A MULTISTATE LICENSE IN THE BACHELOR'S, MASTER'S, OR
2 CLINICAL CATEGORY OF SOCIAL WORK.

3 (D) A MULTISTATE LICENSE ISSUED BY A HOME STATE TO A RESIDENT IN
4 THAT STATE SHALL BE RECOGNIZED BY ALL COMPACT MEMBER STATES AS
5 AUTHORIZING SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE UNDER A MULTISTATE AUTHORIZATION TO
6 PRACTICE CORRESPONDING TO EACH CATEGORY OF LICENSURE REGULATED IN
7 EACH MEMBER STATE.

8 **SECTION 6. AUTHORITY OF INTERSTATE COMPACT COMMISSION AND**
9 **MEMBER STATE LICENSING AUTHORITIES.**

10 (A) NOTHING IN THIS COMPACT, NOR ANY RULE OF THE COMMISSION,
11 SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT, RESTRICT, OR IN ANY WAY REDUCE THE ABILITY
12 OF A MEMBER STATE TO ENACT AND ENFORCE LAWS, REGULATIONS, OR OTHER
13 RULES RELATED TO THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL WORK IN THAT STATE, WHERE THOSE
14 LAWS, REGULATIONS, OR OTHER RULES ARE NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE
15 PROVISIONS OF THIS COMPACT.

16 (B) NOTHING IN THIS COMPACT SHALL AFFECT THE REQUIREMENTS
17 ESTABLISHED BY A MEMBER STATE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A SINGLE STATE LICENSE.

18 (C) NOTHING IN THIS COMPACT, NOR ANY RULE OF THE COMMISSION,
19 SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT, RESTRICT, OR IN ANY WAY REDUCE THE ABILITY
20 OF A ~~REMOTE~~ MEMBER STATE TO TAKE ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST A LICENSEE'S
21 SINGLE STATE ~~AUTHORIZATION~~ LICENSE TO PRACTICE SOCIAL WORK IN THAT
22 STATE.

23 (D) NOTHING IN THIS COMPACT, NOR ANY RULE OF THE COMMISSION,
24 SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT, RESTRICT, OR IN ANY WAY REDUCE THE ABILITY
25 OF A REMOTE STATE TO TAKE ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST A LICENSEE'S MULTISTATE
26 AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE IN THAT STATE.

27 (E) NOTHING IN THIS COMPACT, NOR ANY RULE OF THE COMMISSION,
28 SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT, RESTRICT, OR IN ANY WAY REDUCE THE ABILITY
29 OF A LICENSEE'S HOME STATE TO TAKE ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST A LICENSEE'S
30 MULTISTATE LICENSE BASED UPON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY A REMOTE STATE.

31 **SECTION 7. REISSUANCE OF A MULTISTATE LICENSE BY A NEW HOME**
32 **STATE.**

33 (A) A LICENSEE CAN HOLD A MULTISTATE LICENSE, ISSUED BY THEIR HOME
34 STATE, IN ONLY ONE MEMBER STATE AT ANY GIVEN TIME.

1 **(B) IF A LICENSEE CHANGES THEIR HOME STATE BY MOVING BETWEEN TWO**
2 **MEMBER STATES:**

3 **(1) THE LICENSEE SHALL IMMEDIATELY APPLY FOR THE REISSUANCE**
4 **OF THEIR MULTISTATE LICENSE IN THEIR NEW HOME STATE. THE LICENSEE SHALL**
5 **PAY ALL APPLICABLE FEES AND NOTIFY THE PRIOR HOME STATE IN ACCORDANCE**
6 **WITH THE RULES OF THE COMMISSION.**

7 **(2) UPON RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION TO REISSUE A MULTISTATE**
8 **LICENSE, THE NEW HOME STATE SHALL VERIFY THAT THE MULTISTATE LICENSE IS**
9 **ACTIVE, UNENCUMBERED AND ELIGIBLE FOR REISSUANCE UNDER THE TERMS OF**
10 **THE COMPACT AND THE RULES OF THE COMMISSION. THE MULTISTATE LICENSE**
11 **ISSUED BY THE PRIOR HOME STATE WILL BE DEACTIVATED AND ALL MEMBER**
12 **STATES NOTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPLICABLE RULES ADOPTED BY THE**
13 **COMMISSION.**

14 **(3) PRIOR TO THE REISSUANCE OF THE MULTISTATE LICENSE, THE**
15 **NEW HOME STATE SHALL CONDUCT PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERING THE CRIMINAL**
16 **HISTORY RECORDS OF THE LICENSEE. SUCH PROCEDURES SHALL INCLUDE THE**
17 **SUBMISSION OF FINGERPRINTS OR OTHER BIOMETRIC-BASED INFORMATION**
18 **~~APPLICABLE~~ BY APPLICANTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING AN APPLICANT'S**
19 **CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION FROM THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF**
20 **INVESTIGATION AND THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR RETAINING THAT STATE'S**
21 **CRIMINAL RECORDS.**

22 **(4) IF REQUIRED FOR INITIAL LICENSURE, THE NEW HOME STATE**
23 **MAY REQUIRE COMPLETION OF JURISPRUDENCE REQUIREMENTS IN THE NEW HOME**
24 **STATE.**

25 **(5) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS COMPACT, IF**
26 **A LICENSEE DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THIS COMPACT FOR**
27 **THE REISSUANCE OF A MULTISTATE LICENSE BY THE NEW HOME STATE, THEN THE**
28 **LICENSEE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE NEW HOME STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE**
29 **ISSUANCE OF A SINGLE STATE LICENSE IN THAT STATE.**

30 **(C) IF A LICENSEE CHANGES THEIR PRIMARY STATE OF RESIDENCE BY**
31 **MOVING FROM A MEMBER STATE TO A NON-MEMBER STATE, OR FROM A**
32 **NON-MEMBER STATE TO A MEMBER STATE, THEN THE LICENSEE SHALL BE SUBJECT**
33 **TO THE STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A SINGLE STATE LICENSE IN**
34 **THE NEW HOME STATE.**

35 **(D) NOTHING IN THIS COMPACT SHALL INTERFERE WITH A LICENSEE'S**
36 **ABILITY TO HOLD A SINGLE STATE LICENSE IN MULTIPLE STATES; HOWEVER, FOR**

1 THE PURPOSES OF THIS COMPACT, A LICENSEE SHALL HAVE ONLY ONE HOME
2 STATE, AND ONLY ONE MULTISTATE LICENSE.

3 (E) NOTHING IN THIS COMPACT SHALL INTERFERE WITH THE
4 REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY A MEMBER STATE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A SINGLE
5 STATE LICENSE.

6 SECTION 8. MILITARY FAMILIES.

7 AN ACTIVE MILITARY MEMBER OR THEIR SPOUSE SHALL DESIGNATE A HOME
8 STATE WHERE THE INDIVIDUAL HAS A MULTISTATE LICENSE. THE INDIVIDUAL MAY
9 RETAIN THEIR HOME STATE DESIGNATION DURING THE PERIOD THE SERVICE
10 MEMBER IS ON ACTIVE DUTY.

11 SECTION 9. ADVERSE ACTIONS.

12 (A) IN ADDITION TO THE OTHER POWERS CONFERRED BY STATE LAW, A
13 REMOTE STATE SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING
14 STATE DUE PROCESS LAW, TO:

15 (1) TAKE ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST A REGULATED SOCIAL
16 WORKER'S MULTISTATE AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE ONLY WITHIN THAT MEMBER
17 STATE, AND ISSUE SUBPOENAS FOR BOTH HEARINGS AND INVESTIGATIONS THAT
18 REQUIRE THE ATTENDANCE AND TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES AS WELL AS THE
19 PRODUCTION OF EVIDENCE. SUBPOENAS ISSUED BY A LICENSING AUTHORITY IN A
20 MEMBER STATE FOR THE ATTENDANCE AND TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES OR THE
21 PRODUCTION OF EVIDENCE FROM ANOTHER MEMBER STATE SHALL BE ENFORCED
22 IN THE LATTER STATE BY ANY COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION, ACCORDING
23 TO THE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE OF THAT COURT APPLICABLE TO SUBPOENAS
24 ISSUED IN PROCEEDINGS PENDING BEFORE IT. THE ISSUING AUTHORITY SHALL PAY
25 ANY WITNESS FEES, TRAVEL EXPENSES, MILEAGE AND OTHER FEES REQUIRED BY
26 THE SERVICE STATUTES OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE WITNESSES OR EVIDENCE ARE
27 LOCATED.

28 (2) ONLY THE HOME STATE SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO TAKE
29 ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST A REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER'S MULTISTATE LICENSE.

30 (B) FOR PURPOSES OF TAKING ADVERSE ACTION, THE HOME STATE SHALL
31 GIVE THE SAME PRIORITY AND EFFECT TO REPORTED CONDUCT RECEIVED FROM A
32 MEMBER STATE AS IT WOULD IF THE CONDUCT HAD OCCURRED WITHIN THE HOME
33 STATE. IN SO DOING, THE HOME STATE SHALL APPLY ITS OWN STATE LAWS TO
34 DETERMINE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

1 (C) THE HOME STATE SHALL COMPLETE ANY PENDING INVESTIGATIONS OF
2 A REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER WHO CHANGES THEIR HOME STATE DURING THE
3 COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATIONS. THE HOME STATE SHALL ALSO HAVE THE
4 AUTHORITY TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION(S) AND SHALL PROMPTLY REPORT THE
5 CONCLUSIONS OF THE INVESTIGATIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DATA
6 SYSTEM. THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DATA SYSTEM SHALL PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE
7 NEW HOME STATE OF ANY ADVERSE ACTIONS.

8 (D) A MEMBER STATE, IF OTHERWISE PERMITTED BY STATE LAW, MAY
9 RECOVER FROM THE AFFECTED REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER THE COSTS OF
10 INVESTIGATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS OF CASES RESULTING FROM ANY ADVERSE
11 ACTION TAKEN AGAINST THAT REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER.

12 (E) A MEMBER STATE MAY TAKE ADVERSE ACTION BASED ON THE FACTUAL
13 FINDINGS OF ANOTHER MEMBER STATE, PROVIDED THAT THE MEMBER STATE
14 FOLLOWS ITS OWN PROCEDURES FOR TAKING ADVERSE ACTION.

15 (F) (1) IN ADDITION TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED TO A MEMBER STATE
16 BY ITS RESPECTIVE REGULATED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE ACT OR OTHER
17 APPLICABLE STATE LAW, ANY MEMBER STATE MAY PARTICIPATE WITH OTHER
18 MEMBER STATES IN JOINT INVESTIGATIONS OF LICENSEES.

19 (2) MEMBER STATES SHALL SHARE ANY INVESTIGATIVE, LITIGATION,
20 OR COMPLIANCE MATERIALS IN FURTHERANCE OF ANY JOINT OR INDIVIDUAL
21 INVESTIGATION INITIATED UNDER THE COMPACT.

22 (G) IF AN ADVERSE ACTION IS TAKEN BY THE HOME STATE AGAINST THE
23 MULTISTATE LICENSE OF A REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER, THE REGULATED SOCIAL
24 WORKER'S MULTISTATE AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE IN ALL OTHER MEMBER
25 STATES SHALL BE DEACTIVATED UNTIL ALL ENCUMBRANCES HAVE BEEN REMOVED
26 FROM THE MULTISTATE LICENSE. ALL HOME STATE DISCIPLINARY ORDERS THAT
27 IMPOSE ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST THE LICENSE OF A REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER
28 SHALL INCLUDE A STATEMENT THAT THE REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER'S
29 MULTISTATE AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE IS DEACTIVATED IN ALL MEMBER
30 STATES UNTIL ALL CONDITIONS OF THE DECISION, ORDER, OR AGREEMENT ARE
31 SATISFIED.

32 (H) IF A MEMBER STATE TAKES ADVERSE ACTION, IT SHALL PROMPTLY
33 NOTIFY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DATA SYSTEM. THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE
34 DATA SYSTEM SHALL PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE HOME STATE AND ALL OTHER MEMBER
35 STATES OF ANY ADVERSE ACTIONS BY REMOTE STATES.

1 **(I) NOTHING IN THIS COMPACT SHALL OVERRIDE A MEMBER STATE'S**
2 **DECISION THAT PARTICIPATION IN AN ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM MAY BE USED IN**
3 **LIEU OF ADVERSE ACTION.**

4 **(J) NOTHING IN THIS COMPACT SHALL AUTHORIZE A MEMBER STATE TO**
5 **DEMAND THE ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENAS FOR ATTENDANCE AND TESTIMONY OF**
6 **WITNESSES OR THE PRODUCTION OF EVIDENCE FROM ANOTHER MEMBER STATE**
7 **FOR LAWFUL ACTIONS WITHIN THAT MEMBER STATE.**

8 **(K) NOTHING IN THIS COMPACT SHALL AUTHORIZE A MEMBER STATE TO**
9 **IMPOSE DISCIPLINE AGAINST A REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER WHO HOLDS A**
10 **MULTISTATE AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE FOR LAWFUL ACTIONS WITHIN**
11 **ANOTHER MEMBER STATE.**

12 **SECTION 10. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE**
13 **COMPACT COMMISSION.**

14 **(A) THE COMPACT MEMBER STATES HEREBY CREATE AND ESTABLISH A**
15 **JOINT GOVERNMENT AGENCY WHOSE MEMBERSHIP CONSISTS OF ALL MEMBER**
16 **STATES THAT HAVE ENACTED THE COMPACT KNOWN AS THE SOCIAL WORK**
17 **LICENSURE COMPACT COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION IS AN INSTRUMENTALITY**
18 **OF THE COMPACT STATES ACTING JOINTLY AND NOT AN INSTRUMENTALITY OF ANY**
19 **ONE STATE. THE COMMISSION SHALL COME INTO EXISTENCE ON OR AFTER THE**
20 **EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE COMPACT AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 14.**

21 **(B) (1) EACH MEMBER STATE SHALL HAVE AND BE LIMITED TO ONE**
22 **DELEGATE SELECTED BY THAT MEMBER STATE'S LICENSING AUTHORITY.**

23 **(2) THE DELEGATE SHALL BE EITHER:**

24 **(I) A CURRENT MEMBER OF THE LICENSING AUTHORITY AT**
25 **THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT, WHO IS A REGULATED SOCIAL WORKER, OR PUBLIC**
26 **MEMBER OF THE LICENSING AUTHORITY; OR**

27 **(II) AN ADMINISTRATOR OF THE LICENSING AUTHORITY OR**
28 **THEIR DESIGNEE.**

29 **(3) THE COMMISSION SHALL BY RULE OR BYLAW ESTABLISH A TERM**
30 **OF OFFICE FOR DELEGATES AND MAY BY RULE OR BYLAW ESTABLISH TERM LIMITS.**

31 **(4) THE COMMISSION MAY RECOMMEND REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION**
32 **OF ANY DELEGATE FROM OFFICE.**

1 **(5) A MEMBER STATE'S LICENSING AUTHORITY SHALL FILL ANY**
2 **VACANCY OF ITS DELEGATE OCCURRING ON THE COMMISSION WITHIN 60 DAYS OF**
3 **THE VACANCY.**

4 **(6) EACH DELEGATE SHALL BE ENTITLED TO ONE VOTE ON ALL**
5 **MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION REQUIRING A VOTE BY COMMISSION**
6 **DELEGATES.**

7 **(7) A DELEGATE SHALL VOTE IN PERSON OR BY SUCH OTHER MEANS**
8 **AS PROVIDED IN THE BYLAWS. THE BYLAWS MAY PROVIDE FOR DELEGATES TO MEET**
9 **BY TELECOMMUNICATION, VIDEO CONFERENCE, OR OTHER MEANS OF**
10 **COMMUNICATION.**

11 **(8) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE DURING EACH**
12 **CALENDAR YEAR. ADDITIONAL MEETINGS MAY BE HELD AS SET FORTH IN THE**
13 **BYLAWS. THE COMMISSION MAY MEET BY TELECOMMUNICATION, VIDEO**
14 **CONFERENCE, OR OTHER SIMILAR ELECTRONIC MEANS.**

15 **(C) THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING POWERS:**

16 **(1) ESTABLISH THE FISCAL YEAR OF THE COMMISSION;**

17 **(2) ESTABLISH A CODE OF CONDUCT AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
18 **POLICIES;**

19 **(3) ESTABLISH AND AMEND RULES AND BYLAWS;**

20 **(4) MAINTAIN ITS FINANCIAL RECORDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**
21 **BYLAWS;**

22 **(5) MEET AND TAKE SUCH ACTIONS AS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE**
23 **PROVISIONS OF THE COMPACT, THE COMMISSION'S RULES AND BYLAWS;**

24 **(6) INITIATE AND CONCLUDE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS OR ACTIONS IN**
25 **THE NAME OF THE COMMISSION, PROVIDED THAT THE STANDING OF ANY STATE**
26 **LICENSING BOARD TO SUE OR BE SUED UNDER APPLICABLE LAW SHALL NOT BE**
27 **AFFECTED;**

28 **(7) MAINTAIN AND CERTIFY RECORDS AND INFORMATION PROVIDED**
29 **TO A MEMBER STATE AS THE AUTHENTICATED BUSINESS RECORDS OF THE**
30 **COMMISSION AND DESIGNATE AN AGENT TO DO SO ON THE COMMISSION'S BEHALF;**

31 **(8) PURCHASE AND MAINTAIN INSURANCE AND BONDS;**

1 **(9) BORROW, ACCEPT, OR CONTRACT FOR SERVICES OF PERSONNEL,**
2 **INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, EMPLOYEES OF A MEMBER STATE;**

3 **(10) CONDUCT AN ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW;**

4 **(11) HIRE EMPLOYEES, ELECT OR APPOINT OFFICERS, FIX**
5 **COMPENSATION, DEFINE DUTIES, GRANT SUCH INDIVIDUALS APPROPRIATE**
6 **AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THE COMPACT, AND ESTABLISH THE**
7 **COMMISSION'S PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS RELATING TO CONFLICTS OF**
8 **INTEREST, QUALIFICATIONS OF PERSONNEL, AND OTHER RELATED PERSONNEL**
9 **MATTERS;**

10 **(12) ASSESS AND COLLECT FEES;**

11 **(13) ACCEPT ANY AND ALL APPROPRIATE GIFTS, DONATIONS, GRANTS**
12 **OF MONEY, OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, MATERIALS AND**
13 **SERVICES, AND TO RECEIVE, UTILIZE AND DISPOSE OF THE SAME; PROVIDED THAT**
14 **AT ALL TIMES THE COMMISSION SHALL AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY**
15 **OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST;**

16 **(14) LEASE, PURCHASE, RETAIN, OR OTHERWISE TO OWN, HOLD,**
17 **IMPROVE OR USE ANY PROPERTY, REAL, PERSONAL OR MIXED; OR ANY UNDIVIDED**
18 **INTEREST THEREIN;**

19 **(15) SELL, CONVEY, MORTGAGE, PLEDGE, LEASE, EXCHANGE,**
20 **ABANDON, OR OTHERWISE DISPOSE OF ANY PROPERTY REAL, PERSONAL, OR MIXED;**

21 **(16) ESTABLISH A BUDGET AND MAKE EXPENDITURES;**

22 **(17) BORROW MONEY;**

23 **(18) APPOINT COMMITTEES, INCLUDING STANDING COMMITTEES**
24 **COMPOSED OF MEMBERS, STATE REGULATORS, STATE LEGISLATORS OR THEIR**
25 **REPRESENTATIVES, AND CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES, AND SUCH OTHER**
26 **INTERESTED PERSONS AS MAY BE DESIGNATED IN THE COMPACT AND THE BYLAWS;**

27 **(19) PROVIDE AND RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM, AND COOPERATE**
28 **WITH, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES;**

29 **(20) ESTABLISH AND ELECT AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, INCLUDING A**
30 **CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR;**

1 **(21) DETERMINE WHETHER A STATE’S ADOPTED LANGUAGE IS**
2 **MATERIALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE MODEL COMPACT LANGUAGE SUCH THAT THE**
3 **STATE WOULD NOT QUALIFY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT; AND**

4 **(22) PERFORM SUCH OTHER FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY OR**
5 **APPROPRIATE TO ACHIEVE THE PURPOSES OF THE COMPACT.**

6 **(D) (1) THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO ACT ON**
7 **BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF THE COMPACT. THE**
8 **POWERS, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL**
9 **INCLUDE:**

10 **(I) OVERSEEING THE DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES OF THE**
11 **ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPACT INCLUDING ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE**
12 **WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE COMPACT, ITS RULES AND BYLAWS, AND OTHER SUCH**
13 **DUTIES AS DEEMED NECESSARY;**

14 **(II) RECOMMENDING TO THE COMMISSION CHANGES TO THE**
15 **RULES OR BYLAWS, CHANGES TO THIS COMPACT LEGISLATION, FEES CHARGED TO**
16 **COMPACT MEMBER STATES SUCH AS FEES CHARGED TO LICENSEES, AND OTHER**
17 **FEES;**

18 **(III) ENSURING COMPACT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES ARE**
19 **APPROPRIATELY PROVIDED, INCLUDING BY CONTRACT;**

20 **(IV) PREPARING AND RECOMMENDING THE BUDGET;**

21 **(V) MAINTAINING FINANCIAL RECORDS ON BEHALF OF THE**
22 **COMMISSION;**

23 **(VI) MONITORING COMPACT COMPLIANCE OF MEMBER STATES**
24 **AND PROVIDING COMPLIANCE REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION;**

25 **(VII) ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES AS NECESSARY;**

26 **(VIII) EXERCISING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE**
27 **COMMISSION DURING THE INTERIM BETWEEN COMMISSION MEETINGS, EXCEPT**
28 **FOR ADOPTING OR AMENDING RULES, ADOPTING OR AMENDING BYLAWS, AND**
29 **EXERCISING ANY OTHER POWERS AND DUTIES EXPRESSLY RESERVED TO THE**
30 **COMMISSION BY RULE OR BYLAW; AND**

31 **(IX) OTHER DUTIES AS PROVIDED IN THE RULES OR BYLAWS OF**
32 **THE COMMISSION.**

(2) THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL BE COMPOSED OF UP TO ELEVEN MEMBERS:

(I) THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE VOTING MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE;

(II) THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT FIVE VOTING MEMBERS FROM THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION;

(III) UP TO FOUR EX OFFICIO, NONVOTING MEMBERS FROM FOUR RECOGNIZED NATIONAL SOCIAL WORKER ORGANIZATIONS;

(IV) THE EX OFFICIO MEMBERS WILL BE SELECTED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS.

(3) THE COMMISSION MAY REMOVE ANY MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS PROVIDED IN THE COMMISSION'S BYLAWS.

(4) THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ANNUALLY.

(I) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS SHALL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, EXCEPT THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY MEET IN A CLOSED, NON-PUBLIC MEETING AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (F)(2) BELOW.

(II) THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL GIVE SEVEN DAYS' NOTICE OF ITS MEETINGS, POSTED ON ITS WEBSITE AND AS DETERMINED TO PROVIDE NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH AN INTEREST IN THE BUSINESS OF THE COMMISSION.

(III) THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (F)(1)(II) BELOW.

(E) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT AND PROVIDE TO THE MEMBER STATES AN ANNUAL REPORT.

(F) (1) ALL MEETINGS SHALL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, EXCEPT THAT THE COMMISSION MAY MEET IN A CLOSED, NON-PUBLIC MEETING AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION BELOW.

(I) PUBLIC NOTICE FOR ALL MEETINGS OF THE FULL COMMISSION SHALL BE GIVEN IN THE SAME MANNER AS REQUIRED UNDER THE RULEMAKING PROVISIONS IN SECTION 12, EXCEPT THAT THE COMMISSION MAY HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH BELOW.

1 (II) THE COMMISSION MAY HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING WHEN IT
2 MUST MEET TO CONDUCT EMERGENCY BUSINESS BY GIVING 48 HOURS' NOTICE TO
3 ALL COMMISSIONERS, ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE, AND OTHER MEANS AS
4 PROVIDED IN THE COMMISSION'S RULES. THE COMMISSION'S LEGAL COUNSEL
5 SHALL CERTIFY THAT THE COMMISSION'S NEED TO MEET QUALIFIES AS AN
6 EMERGENCY.

7 (2) THE COMMISSION OR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR OTHER
8 COMMITTEES OF THE COMMISSION MAY CONVENE IN A CLOSED, NON-PUBLIC
9 MEETING FOR THE COMMISSION OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR OTHER
10 COMMITTEES OF THE COMMISSION TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE OR TO DISCUSS:

11 (I) NON-COMPLIANCE OF A MEMBER STATE WITH ITS
12 OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE COMPACT;

13 (II) THE EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE OR OTHER
14 MATTERS, PRACTICES OR PROCEDURES RELATED TO SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES;

15 (III) CURRENT OR THREATENED DISCIPLINE OF A LICENSEE BY
16 THE COMMISSION OR BY A MEMBER STATE'S LICENSING AUTHORITY;

17 (IV) CURRENT, THREATENED, OR REASONABLY ANTICIPATED
18 LITIGATION;

19 (V) NEGOTIATION OF CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE, LEASE,
20 OR SALE OF GOODS, SERVICES, OR REAL ESTATE;

21 (VI) ACCUSING ANY PERSON OF A CRIME OR FORMALLY
22 CENSURING ANY PERSON;

23 (VII) TRADE SECRETS OR COMMERCIAL OR FINANCIAL
24 INFORMATION THAT IS PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL;

25 (VIII) INFORMATION OF A PERSONAL NATURE WHERE
26 DISCLOSURE WOULD CONSTITUTE A CLEARLY UNWARRANTED INVASION OF
27 PERSONAL PRIVACY;

28 (IX) INVESTIGATIVE RECORDS COMPILED FOR LAW
29 ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES;

30 (X) INFORMATION RELATED TO ANY INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS
31 PREPARED BY OR ON BEHALF OF OR FOR USE OF THE COMMISSION OR OTHER

1 COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY OF INVESTIGATION OR
2 DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE ISSUES PURSUANT TO THE COMPACT;

3 (XI) MATTERS SPECIFICALLY EXEMPTED FROM DISCLOSURE BY
4 FEDERAL OR MEMBER STATE LAW; OR

5 (XII) OTHER MATTERS AS PROMULGATED BY THE COMMISSION
6 BY RULE.

7 (3) IF A MEETING, OR PORTION OF A MEETING, IS CLOSED, THE
8 PRESIDING OFFICER SHALL STATE THAT THE MEETING WILL BE CLOSED AND
9 REFERENCE EACH RELEVANT EXEMPTING PROVISION, AND SUCH REFERENCES
10 SHALL BE RECORDED IN THE MINUTES.

11 (4) THE COMMISSION SHALL KEEP MINUTES THAT FULLY AND
12 CLEARLY DESCRIBE ALL MATTERS DISCUSSED IN A MEETING AND SHALL PROVIDE A
13 FULL AND ACCURATE SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN, AND THE REASONS
14 THEREFORE, INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED. ALL
15 DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED IN CONNECTION WITH AN ACTION SHALL BE IDENTIFIED
16 IN SUCH MINUTES. ALL MINUTES AND DOCUMENTS OF A CLOSED MEETING SHALL
17 REMAIN UNDER SEAL, SUBJECT TO RELEASE ONLY BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE
18 COMMISSION OR ORDER OF A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION.

19 (G) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL PAY, OR PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT
20 OF, THE REASONABLE EXPENSES OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND
21 ONGOING ACTIVITIES.

22 (2) THE COMMISSION MAY ACCEPT ANY AND ALL APPROPRIATE
23 REVENUE SOURCES, AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C)(13) OF THIS SECTION.

24 (3) THE COMMISSION MAY LEVY ON AND COLLECT AN ANNUAL
25 ASSESSMENT FROM EACH MEMBER STATE AND IMPOSE FEES ON LICENSEES OF
26 MEMBER STATES TO WHOM IT GRANTS A MULTISTATE LICENSE TO COVER THE COST
27 OF THE OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS STAFF, WHICH
28 MUST BE IN A TOTAL AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO COVER ITS ANNUAL BUDGET AS
29 APPROVED EACH YEAR FOR WHICH REVENUE IS NOT PROVIDED BY OTHER SOURCES.
30 THE AGGREGATE ANNUAL ASSESSMENT AMOUNT FOR MEMBER STATES SHALL BE
31 ALLOCATED BASED UPON A FORMULA THAT THE COMMISSION SHALL PROMULGATE
32 BY RULE.

33 (4) THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT INCUR OBLIGATIONS OF ANY KIND
34 PRIOR TO SECURING THE FUNDS ADEQUATE TO MEET THE SAME; NOR SHALL THE
35 COMMISSION PLEDGE THE CREDIT OF ANY OF THE MEMBER STATES, EXCEPT BY AND
36 WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE MEMBER STATE.

1 (5) THE COMMISSION SHALL KEEP ACCURATE ACCOUNTS OF ALL
2 RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS. THE RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE
3 COMMISSION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE FINANCIAL REVIEW AND ACCOUNTING
4 PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED UNDER ITS BYLAWS. HOWEVER, ALL RECEIPTS AND
5 DISBURSEMENTS OF FUNDS HANDLED BY THE COMMISSION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO
6 AN ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW BY A CERTIFIED OR LICENSED PUBLIC
7 ACCOUNTANT, AND THE REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL REVIEW SHALL BE INCLUDED IN
8 AND BECOME PART OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION.

9 (H) (1) THE MEMBERS, OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EMPLOYEES
10 AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE IMMUNE FROM SUIT AND
11 LIABILITY, BOTH PERSONALLY AND IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITY, FOR ANY CLAIM
12 FOR DAMAGE TO OR LOSS OF PROPERTY OR PERSONAL INJURY OR OTHER CIVIL
13 LIABILITY CAUSED BY OR ARISING OUT OF ANY ACTUAL OR ALLEGED ACT, ERROR OR
14 OMISSION THAT OCCURRED, OR THAT THE PERSON AGAINST WHOM THE CLAIM IS
15 MADE HAD A REASONABLE BASIS FOR BELIEVING OCCURRED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF
16 COMMISSION EMPLOYMENT, DUTIES OR RESPONSIBILITIES; PROVIDED THAT
17 NOTHING IN THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PROTECT ANY SUCH
18 PERSON FROM SUIT OR LIABILITY FOR ANY DAMAGE, LOSS, INJURY, OR LIABILITY
19 CAUSED BY THE INTENTIONAL OR WILLFUL OR WANTON MISCONDUCT OF THAT
20 PERSON. THE PROCUREMENT OF INSURANCE OF ANY TYPE BY THE COMMISSION
21 SHALL NOT IN ANY WAY COMPROMISE OR LIMIT THE IMMUNITY GRANTED
22 HEREUNDER.

23 (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL DEFEND ANY MEMBER, OFFICER,
24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EMPLOYEE, AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMISSION IN
25 ANY CIVIL ACTION SEEKING TO IMPOSE LIABILITY ARISING OUT OF ANY ACTUAL OR
26 ALLEGED ACT, ERROR, OR OMISSION THAT OCCURRED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF
27 COMMISSION EMPLOYMENT, DUTIES, OR RESPONSIBILITIES, OR AS DETERMINED BY
28 THE COMMISSION THAT THE PERSON AGAINST WHOM THE CLAIM IS MADE HAD A
29 REASONABLE BASIS FOR BELIEVING OCCURRED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF
30 COMMISSION EMPLOYMENT, DUTIES, OR RESPONSIBILITIES; PROVIDED THAT
31 NOTHING HEREIN SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT THAT PERSON FROM
32 RETAINING THEIR OWN COUNSEL AT THEIR EXPENSE; AND PROVIDED FURTHER,
33 THAT THE ACTUAL OR ALLEGED ACT, ERROR, OR OMISSION DID NOT RESULT FROM
34 THAT PERSON'S INTENTIONAL OR WILLFUL OR WANTON MISCONDUCT.

35 (3) THE COMMISSION SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS ANY
36 MEMBER, OFFICER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EMPLOYEE, AND REPRESENTATIVE OF
37 THE COMMISSION FOR THE AMOUNT OF ANY SETTLEMENT OR JUDGMENT OBTAINED
38 AGAINST THAT PERSON ARISING OUT OF ANY ACTUAL OR ALLEGED ACT, ERROR OR
39 OMISSION THAT OCCURRED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF COMMISSION EMPLOYMENT,
40 DUTIES, OR RESPONSIBILITIES, OR THAT SUCH PERSON HAD A REASONABLE BASIS

FOR BELIEVING OCCURRED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF COMMISSION EMPLOYMENT, DUTIES, OR RESPONSIBILITIES, PROVIDED THAT THE ACTUAL OR ALLEGED ACT, ERROR, OR OMISSION DID NOT RESULT FROM THE INTENTIONAL OR WILLFUL OR WANTON MISCONDUCT OF THAT PERSON.

(4) NOTHING HEREIN SHALL BE CONSTRUED AS A LIMITATION ON THE LIABILITY OF ANY LICENSEE FOR PROFESSIONAL MALPRACTICE OR MISCONDUCT, WHICH SHALL BE GOVERNED SOLELY BY ANY OTHER APPLICABLE STATE LAWS.

(5) NOTHING IN THIS COMPACT SHALL BE INTERPRETED TO WAIVE OR OTHERWISE ABROGATE A MEMBER STATE'S ACTION IMMUNITY OR STATE ACTION AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE WITH RESPECT TO ANTITRUST CLAIMS UNDER THE SHERMAN ACT, CLAYTON ACT, OR ANY OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL ANTITRUST OR ANTICOMPETITIVE LAW OR REGULATION.

(6) NOTHING IN THIS COMPACT SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO BE A WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY BY THE MEMBER STATES OR BY THE COMMISSION.

SECTION 11. DATA SYSTEM.

(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE, OPERATION, AND UTILIZATION OF A COORDINATED DATA SYSTEM.

(B) THE COMMISSION SHALL ASSIGN EACH APPLICANT FOR A MULTISTATE LICENSE A UNIQUE IDENTIFIER, AS DETERMINED BY THE RULES OF THE COMMISSION.

(C) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF STATE LAW TO THE CONTRARY, A MEMBER STATE SHALL SUBMIT A UNIFORM DATA SET TO THE DATA SYSTEM ON ALL INDIVIDUALS TO WHOM THIS COMPACT IS APPLICABLE AS REQUIRED BY THE RULES OF THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING:

(1) IDENTIFYING INFORMATION;

(2) LICENSURE DATA;

(3) ADVERSE ACTIONS AGAINST A LICENSE AND INFORMATION RELATED THERETO;

(4) NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION RELATED TO ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM PARTICIPATION, THE BEGINNING AND END DATES OF SUCH

1 PARTICIPATION, AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATED TO SUCH PARTICIPATION NOT
2 MADE CONFIDENTIAL UNDER MEMBER STATE LAW;

3 (5) ANY DENIAL OF APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE, AND THE
4 REASON(S) FOR SUCH DENIAL;

5 (6) THE PRESENCE OF CURRENT SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIVE
6 INFORMATION; AND

7 (7) OTHER INFORMATION THAT MAY FACILITATE THE
8 ADMINISTRATION OF THIS COMPACT, AS DETERMINED BY THE RULES OF THE
9 COMMISSION.

10 (D) THE RECORDS AND INFORMATION PROVIDED TO A MEMBER STATE
11 PURSUANT TO THIS COMPACT OR THROUGH THE DATA SYSTEM, WHEN CERTIFIED
12 BY THE COMMISSION OR AN AGENT THEREOF, SHALL CONSTITUTE THE
13 AUTHENTICATED BUSINESS RECORDS OF THE COMMISSION, AND SHALL BE
14 ENTITLED TO ANY ASSOCIATED HEARSAY EXCEPTION IN ANY RELEVANT JUDICIAL,
15 QUASI-JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS IN A MEMBER STATE.

16 (E) CURRENT SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION PERTAINING TO
17 A LICENSEE IN ANY MEMBER STATE WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE TO OTHER MEMBER
18 STATES.

19 (1) IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MEMBER STATES TO REPORT
20 ANY ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST A LICENSEE AND TO MONITOR THE DATABASE TO
21 DETERMINE WHETHER INFORMATION PERTAINING TO A LICENSEE IN ANY MEMBER
22 STATE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANY OTHER MEMBER STATE.

23 (F) MEMBER STATES CONTRIBUTING INFORMATION TO THE DATA SYSTEM
24 MAY DESIGNATE INFORMATION THAT MAY NOT BE SHARED WITH THE PUBLIC
25 WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE CONTRIBUTING STATE.

26 (G) ANY INFORMATION SUBMITTED TO THE DATA SYSTEM THAT IS
27 SUBSEQUENTLY EXPUNGED PURSUANT TO FEDERAL LAW OR THE LAWS OF THE
28 MEMBER STATE CONTRIBUTING THE INFORMATION SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THE
29 DATA SYSTEM.

30 **SECTION 12. RULEMAKING.**

31 (A) THE COMMISSION SHALL PROMULGATE REASONABLE RULES IN ORDER
32 TO EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE PURPOSES
33 AND PROVISIONS OF THE COMPACT. A RULE SHALL BE INVALID AND HAVE NO FORCE
34 OR EFFECT ONLY IF A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION HOLDS THAT THE RULE

1 IS INVALID BECAUSE THE COMMISSION EXERCISED ITS RULEMAKING AUTHORITY IN
2 A MANNER THAT IS BEYOND THE SCOPE AND PURPOSES OF THE COMPACT, OR THE
3 POWERS GRANTED HEREUNDER, OR BASED UPON ANOTHER APPLICABLE STANDARD
4 OF REVIEW.

5 (B) THE RULES OF THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE THE FORCE OF LAW IN
6 EACH MEMBER STATE, PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT WHERE THE RULES OF THE
7 COMMISSION CONFLICT WITH THE LAWS OF THE MEMBER STATE THAT ESTABLISH
8 THE MEMBER STATE'S ~~SCOPE OF PRACTICE~~ LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND APPLICABLE
9 STANDARDS THAT GOVERN THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL WORK AS HELD BY A COURT
10 OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION, THE RULES OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE
11 INEFFECTIVE IN THAT STATE TO THE EXTENT OF THE CONFLICT.

12 (C) THE COMMISSION SHALL EXERCISE ITS RULEMAKING POWERS
13 PURSUANT TO THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION AND THE RULES ADOPTED
14 THEREUNDER. RULES SHALL BECOME BINDING AS ON THE DAY FOLLOWING
15 ADOPTION OR THE DATE SPECIFIED IN THE RULE OR AMENDMENT, WHICHEVER IS
16 LATER.

17 (D) IF A MAJORITY OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE MEMBER STATES
18 REJECTS A RULE OR PORTION OF A RULE, BY ENACTMENT OF A STATUTE OR
19 RESOLUTION IN THE SAME MANNER USED TO ADOPT THE COMPACT WITHIN FOUR
20 YEARS OF THE DATE OF ADOPTION OF THE RULE, THEN SUCH RULE SHALL HAVE NO
21 FURTHER FORCE AND EFFECT IN ANY MEMBER STATE.

22 (E) RULES SHALL BE ADOPTED AT A REGULAR OR SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
23 COMMISSION.

24 (F) PRIOR TO ADOPTION OF A PROPOSED RULE, THE COMMISSION SHALL
25 HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AND ALLOW PERSONS TO PROVIDE ORAL AND WRITTEN
26 COMMENTS, DATA, FACTS, OPINIONS, AND ARGUMENTS.

27 (G) PRIOR TO ADOPTION OF A PROPOSED RULE BY THE COMMISSION, AND
28 AT LEAST 30 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING AT WHICH THE COMMISSION WILL
29 HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED RULE, THE COMMISSION SHALL
30 PROVIDE A NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING:

31 (1) ON THE WEBSITE OF THE COMMISSION OR OTHER PUBLICLY
32 ACCESSIBLE PLATFORM;

33 (2) TO PERSONS WHO HAVE REQUESTED NOTICE OF THE
34 COMMISSION'S NOTICES OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING; AND

1 **(3) IN SUCH OTHER WAY(S) AS THE COMMISSION MAY BY RULE**
2 **SPECIFY.**

3 **(H) THE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING SHALL INCLUDE:**

4 **(1) THE TIME, DATE, AND LOCATION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AT**
5 **WHICH THE COMMISSION WILL HEAR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED RULE,**
6 **AND, IF DIFFERENT, THE TIME, DATE, AND LOCATION OF THE MEETING WHERE THE**
7 **COMMISSION WILL CONSIDER AND VOTE ON THE PROPOSED RULE;**

8 **(2) IF THE HEARING IS HELD VIA TELECOMMUNICATION, VIDEO**
9 **CONFERENCE, OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS, THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE**
10 **THE MECHANISM FOR ACCESS TO THE HEARING IN THE NOTICE OF PROPOSED**
11 **RULEMAKING;**

12 **(3) THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE AND THE REASON THEREFOR;**

13 **(4) A REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED RULE FROM ANY**
14 **INTERESTED PERSON; AND**

15 **(5) THE MANNER IN WHICH INTERESTED PERSONS MAY SUBMIT**
16 **WRITTEN COMMENTS.**

17 **(I) ALL HEARINGS WILL BE RECORDED. A COPY OF THE RECORDING AND**
18 **ALL WRITTEN COMMENTS AND DOCUMENTS RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION IN**
19 **RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSED RULE SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.**

20 **(J) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED AS REQUIRING A**
21 **SEPARATE HEARING ON EACH RULE. RULES MAY BE GROUPED FOR THE**
22 **CONVENIENCE OF THE COMMISSION AT HEARINGS REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION.**

23 **(K) THE COMMISSION SHALL, BY MAJORITY VOTE OF ALL MEMBERS, TAKE**
24 **FINAL ACTION ON THE PROPOSED RULE BASED ON THE RULEMAKING RECORD AND**
25 **THE FULL TEXT OF THE RULE.**

26 **(1) THE COMMISSION MAY ADOPT CHANGES TO THE PROPOSED RULE**
27 **PROVIDED THE CHANGES DO NOT ENLARGE THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF THE**
28 **PROPOSED RULE.**

29 **(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF THE**
30 **REASONS FOR SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES MADE TO THE PROPOSED RULE AS WELL AS**
31 **REASONS FOR SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES NOT MADE THAT WERE RECOMMENDED BY**
32 **COMMENTERS.**

(3) THE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE A REASONABLE EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE RULE. EXCEPT FOR AN EMERGENCY AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 12(L), THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE RULE SHALL BE NO SOONER THAN 30 DAYS AFTER ISSUING THE NOTICE THAT IT ADOPTED OR AMENDED THE RULE.

(L) UPON DETERMINATION THAT AN EMERGENCY EXISTS, THE COMMISSION MAY CONSIDER AND ADOPT AN EMERGENCY RULE WITH 48 HOURS' NOTICE, WITH OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT, PROVIDED THAT THE USUAL RULEMAKING PROCEDURES PROVIDED IN THE COMPACT AND IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE RETROACTIVELY APPLIED TO THE RULE AS SOON AS REASONABLY POSSIBLE, IN NO EVENT LATER THAN 90 DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE RULE. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PROVISION, AN EMERGENCY RULE IS ONE THAT MUST BE ADOPTED IMMEDIATELY IN ORDER TO:

(1) MEET AN IMMINENT THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, OR WELFARE;

(2) PREVENT A LOSS OF COMMISSION OR MEMBER STATE FUNDS;

(3) MEET A DEADLINE FOR THE PROMULGATION OF A RULE THAT IS ESTABLISHED BY FEDERAL LAW OR RULE; OR

(4) PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY.

(M) THE COMMISSION OR AN AUTHORIZED COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION MAY DIRECT REVISIONS TO A PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED RULE FOR PURPOSES OF CORRECTING TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS, ERRORS IN FORMAT, ERRORS IN CONSISTENCY, OR GRAMMATICAL ERRORS. PUBLIC NOTICE OF ANY REVISIONS SHALL BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE COMMISSION. THE REVISION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO CHALLENGE BY ANY PERSON FOR A PERIOD OF 30 DAYS AFTER POSTING. THE REVISION MAY BE CHALLENGED ONLY ON GROUNDS THAT THE REVISION RESULTS IN A MATERIAL CHANGE TO A RULE. A CHALLENGE SHALL BE MADE IN WRITING AND DELIVERED TO THE ~~CHAIR OF THE~~ COMMISSION PRIOR TO THE END OF THE NOTICE PERIOD. IF NO CHALLENGE IS MADE, THE REVISION WILL TAKE EFFECT WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION. IF THE REVISION IS CHALLENGED, THE REVISION MAY NOT TAKE EFFECT WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION.

(N) NO MEMBER STATE'S RULEMAKING REQUIREMENTS SHALL APPLY UNDER THIS COMPACT.

SECTION 13. OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AND ENFORCEMENT.

1 (A) (1) THE EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES OF STATE
2 GOVERNMENT IN EACH MEMBER STATE SHALL ENFORCE THIS COMPACT AND TAKE
3 ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE TO IMPLEMENT THE COMPACT.

4 (2) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS COMPACT, VENUE IS
5 PROPER AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS BY OR AGAINST THE COMMISSION SHALL BE
6 BROUGHT SOLELY AND EXCLUSIVELY IN A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION
7 WHERE THE PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION IS LOCATED. THE
8 COMMISSION MAY WAIVE VENUE AND JURISDICTIONAL DEFENSES TO THE EXTENT
9 IT ADOPTS OR CONSENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION
10 PROCEEDINGS. NOTHING HEREIN SHALL AFFECT OR LIMIT THE SELECTION OR
11 PROPRIETY OF VENUE IN ANY ACTION AGAINST A LICENSEE FOR PROFESSIONAL
12 MALPRACTICE, MISCONDUCT OR ANY SUCH SIMILAR MATTER.

13 (3) THE COMMISSION SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE SERVICE OF
14 PROCESS IN ANY SUCH PROCEEDING REGARDING THE ENFORCEMENT OR
15 INTERPRETATION OF THE COMPACT, AND SHALL HAVE STANDING TO INTERVENE IN
16 SUCH A PROCEEDING FOR ALL PURPOSES. FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE COMMISSION
17 SERVICE OF PROCESS RENDERS A JUDGMENT OR ORDER VOID AS TO THE
18 COMMISSION, THE COMPACT, OR PROMULGATED RULES.

19 (B) (1) IF THE COMMISSION DETERMINES THAT A MEMBER STATE HAS
20 DEFAULTED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS OBLIGATIONS OR RESPONSIBILITIES
21 UNDER THIS COMPACT OR THE PROMULGATED RULES, THE COMMISSION SHALL
22 PROVIDE WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE DEFAULTING STATE. THE NOTICE OF DEFAULT
23 SHALL DESCRIBE THE DEFAULT, THE PROPOSED MEANS OF CURING THE DEFAULT,
24 AND ANY OTHER ACTION THAT THE COMMISSION MAY TAKE, AND SHALL OFFER
25 TRAINING AND SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDING THE DEFAULT.

26 (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF THE NOTICE OF
27 DEFAULT TO THE OTHER MEMBER STATES.

28 (C) IF A STATE IN DEFAULT FAILS TO CURE THE DEFAULT, THE DEFAULTING
29 STATE MAY BE TERMINATED FROM THE COMPACT UPON AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF
30 A MAJORITY OF THE DELEGATES OF THE MEMBER STATES, AND ALL RIGHTS,
31 PRIVILEGES AND BENEFITS CONFERRED ON THAT STATE BY THIS COMPACT MAY BE
32 TERMINATED ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF TERMINATION. A CURE OF THE DEFAULT
33 DOES NOT RELIEVE THE OFFENDING STATE OF OBLIGATIONS OR LIABILITIES
34 INCURRED DURING THE PERIOD OF DEFAULT.

35 (D) TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMPACT SHALL BE IMPOSED
36 ONLY AFTER ALL OTHER MEANS OF SECURING COMPLIANCE HAVE BEEN
37 EXHAUSTED. NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUSPEND OR TERMINATE SHALL BE GIVEN BY
38 THE COMMISSION TO THE GOVERNOR, THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS OF

1 THE DEFAULTING STATE'S LEGISLATURE, THE DEFAULTING STATE'S STATE
2 LICENSING AUTHORITY, AND EACH OF THE MEMBER STATES' LICENSING
3 AUTHORITY.

4 (E) A STATE THAT HAS BEEN TERMINATED IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL
5 ASSESSMENTS, OBLIGATIONS, AND LIABILITIES INCURRED THROUGH THE
6 EFFECTIVE DATE OF TERMINATION, INCLUDING OBLIGATIONS THAT EXTEND
7 BEYOND THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF TERMINATION.

8 (F) UPON THE TERMINATION OF A STATE'S MEMBERSHIP FROM THIS
9 COMPACT, THAT STATE SHALL IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE NOTICE TO ALL LICENSEES
10 WITHIN THAT STATE OF SUCH TERMINATION. THE TERMINATED STATE SHALL
11 CONTINUE TO RECOGNIZE ALL LICENSES GRANTED PURSUANT TO THIS COMPACT
12 FOR A MINIMUM OF SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF SAID NOTICE OF TERMINATION.

13 (G) THE COMMISSION MAY NOT BEAR ANY COSTS RELATED TO A STATE
14 THAT IS FOUND TO BE IN DEFAULT OR THAT HAS BEEN TERMINATED FROM THE
15 COMPACT, UNLESS AGREED UPON IN WRITING BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE
16 DEFAULTING STATE.

17 (H) THE DEFAULTING STATE MAY APPEAL THE ACTION OF THE COMMISSION
18 BY PETITIONING THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OR
19 THE FEDERAL DISTRICT WHERE THE COMMISSION HAS ITS PRINCIPAL OFFICES.
20 THE PREVAILING PARTY SHALL BE AWARDED ALL COSTS OF SUCH LITIGATION,
21 INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES.

22 (I) (1) UPON REQUEST BY A MEMBER STATE, THE COMMISSION SHALL
23 ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE DISPUTES RELATED TO THE COMPACT THAT ARISE AMONG
24 MEMBER STATES AND BETWEEN MEMBER AND NON-MEMBER STATES.

25 (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL PROMULGATE A RULE PROVIDING FOR
26 BOTH MEDIATION AND BINDING DISPUTE RESOLUTION FOR DISPUTES AS
27 APPROPRIATE.

28 (J) (1) BY MAJORITY VOTE AS PROVIDED BY RULE, THE COMMISSION
29 MAY INITIATE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST A MEMBER STATE IN DEFAULT IN THE
30 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OR THE
31 FEDERAL DISTRICT WHERE THE COMMISSION HAS ITS PRINCIPAL OFFICES TO
32 ENFORCE COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE COMPACT AND ITS
33 PROMULGATED RULES. THE RELIEF SOUGHT MAY INCLUDE BOTH INJUNCTIVE
34 RELIEF AND DAMAGES. IN THE EVENT JUDICIAL ENFORCEMENT IS NECESSARY, THE
35 PREVAILING MEMBER SHALL BE AWARDED ALL COSTS OF SUCH LITIGATION,
36 INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES. THE REMEDIES HEREIN SHALL NOT BE
37 THE EXCLUSIVE REMEDIES OF THE COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION MAY PURSUE

1 ANY OTHER REMEDIES AVAILABLE UNDER FEDERAL OR THE DEFAULTING MEMBER
2 STATE'S LAW.

3 (2) A MEMBER STATE MAY INITIATE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE
4 COMMISSION IN THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OR
5 THE FEDERAL DISTRICT WHERE THE COMMISSION HAS ITS PRINCIPAL OFFICES TO
6 ENFORCE COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE COMPACT AND ITS
7 PROMULGATED RULES. THE RELIEF SOUGHT MAY INCLUDE BOTH INJUNCTIVE
8 RELIEF AND DAMAGES. IN THE EVENT JUDICIAL ENFORCEMENT IS NECESSARY, THE
9 PREVAILING PARTY SHALL BE AWARDED ALL COSTS OF SUCH LITIGATION,
10 INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES.

11 (3) NO PERSON OTHER THAN A MEMBER STATE SHALL ENFORCE THIS
12 COMPACT AGAINST THE COMMISSION.

13 **SECTION 14. EFFECTIVE DATE, WITHDRAWAL, AND AMENDMENT.**

14 (A) THE COMPACT SHALL COME INTO EFFECT ON THE DATE ON WHICH THE
15 COMPACT STATUTE IS ENACTED INTO LAW IN THE SEVENTH MEMBER STATE.

16 (1) ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE COMPACT, THE
17 COMMISSION SHALL CONVENE AND REVIEW THE ENACTMENT OF EACH OF THE
18 FIRST SEVEN MEMBER STATES ("CHARTER MEMBER STATES") TO DETERMINE IF
19 THE STATUTE ENACTED BY EACH SUCH CHARTER MEMBER STATE IS MATERIALLY
20 DIFFERENT THAN THE MODEL COMPACT STATUTE.

21 (I) A CHARTER MEMBER STATE WHOSE ENACTMENT IS FOUND
22 TO BE MATERIALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE MODEL COMPACT STATUTE SHALL BE
23 ENTITLED TO THE DEFAULT PROCESS SET FORTH IN SECTION 13.

24 (II) IF ANY MEMBER STATE IS LATER FOUND TO BE IN DEFAULT,
25 OR IS TERMINATED OR WITHDRAWS FROM THE COMPACT, THE COMMISSION SHALL
26 REMAIN IN EXISTENCE AND THE COMPACT SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT EVEN IF THE
27 NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES SHOULD BE LESS THAN SEVEN.

28 (2) MEMBER STATES ENACTING THE COMPACT SUBSEQUENT TO THE
29 SEVEN INITIAL CHARTER MEMBER STATES SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE PROCESS SET
30 FORTH IN SECTION 10(C)(21) TO DETERMINE IF THEIR ENACTMENTS ARE
31 MATERIALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE MODEL COMPACT STATUTE AND WHETHER
32 THEY QUALIFY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT.

33 (3) ALL ACTIONS TAKEN FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMISSION OR
34 IN FURTHERANCE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPACT
35 PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE COMPACT OR THE COMMISSION COMING

1 INTO EXISTENCE SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO BE ACTIONS OF THE COMMISSION
2 UNLESS SPECIFICALLY REPUDIATED BY THE COMMISSION.

3 (4) ANY STATE THAT JOINS THE COMPACT SUBSEQUENT TO THE
4 COMMISSION'S INITIAL ADOPTION OF THE RULES SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE RULES
5 AND BYLAWS AS THEY EXIST ON THE DATE ON WHICH THE COMPACT BECOMES LAW
6 IN THAT STATE. ANY RULE THAT HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE
7 COMMISSION SHALL HAVE THE FULL FORCE AND EFFECT OF LAW ON THE DAY THE
8 COMPACT BECOMES LAW IN THAT STATE.

9 (B) ANY MEMBER STATE MAY WITHDRAW FROM THE COMPACT BY
10 ENACTING A STATUTE REPEALING THE SAME.

11 (1) A MEMBER STATE'S WITHDRAWAL SHALL NOT TAKE EFFECT
12 UNTIL 180 DAYS AFTER ENACTMENT OF THE REPEALING STATUTE.

13 (2) WITHDRAWAL SHALL NOT AFFECT THE CONTINUING
14 REQUIREMENT OF THE WITHDRAWING STATE'S LICENSING AUTHORITY TO COMPLY
15 WITH THE INVESTIGATIVE AND ADVERSE ACTION REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF
16 THIS ACT PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF WITHDRAWAL.

17 (3) UPON THE ENACTMENT OF A STATUTE WITHDRAWING FROM THIS
18 COMPACT, A STATE SHALL IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE NOTICE OF SUCH WITHDRAWAL
19 TO ALL LICENSEES WITHIN THAT STATE. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY SUBSEQUENT
20 STATUTORY ENACTMENT TO THE CONTRARY, SUCH WITHDRAWING STATE SHALL
21 CONTINUE TO RECOGNIZE ALL LICENSES GRANTED PURSUANT TO THIS COMPACT
22 FOR A MINIMUM OF 180 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SUCH NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL.

23 (C) NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS COMPACT SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO
24 INVALIDATE OR PREVENT ANY SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE AGREEMENT OR OTHER
25 COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN A MEMBER STATE AND A NON-MEMBER
26 STATE THAT DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS COMPACT.

27 (D) THIS COMPACT MAY BE AMENDED BY THE MEMBER STATES. NO
28 AMENDMENT TO THE COMPACT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE AND BINDING UPON ANY
29 MEMBER STATE UNTIL IT IS ENACTED INTO THE LAWS OF ALL MEMBER STATES.

30 **SECTION 15. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY.**

31 (A) THIS COMPACT AND THE COMMISSION'S RULEMAKING AUTHORITY
32 SHALL BE LIBERALLY CONSTRUED SO AS TO EFFECTUATE THE PURPOSES, AND THE
33 IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPACT. PROVISIONS OF THE
34 COMPACT EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZING OR REQUIRING THE PROMULGATION OF RULES

1 SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT THE COMMISSION'S RULEMAKING AUTHORITY
2 SOLELY FOR THOSE PURPOSES.

3 (B) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS COMPACT SHALL BE SEVERABLE AND IF ANY
4 PHRASE, CLAUSE, SENTENCE OR PROVISION OF THIS COMPACT IS HELD BY A COURT
5 OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION TO BE CONTRARY TO THE CONSTITUTION OF ANY
6 MEMBER STATE, A STATE SEEKING PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT, OR OF THE
7 UNITED STATES, OR THE APPLICABILITY THEREOF TO ANY GOVERNMENT, AGENCY,
8 PERSON OR CIRCUMSTANCE IS HELD TO BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL BY A COURT OF
9 COMPETENT JURISDICTION, THE VALIDITY OF THE REMAINDER OF THE COMPACT
10 AND THE APPLICABILITY THEREOF TO ANY GOVERNMENT, AGENCY, PERSON, OR
11 CIRCUMSTANCE SHALL NOT BE AFFECTED THEREBY.

12 (C) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE
13 COMMISSION MAY DENY A STATE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT OR, IN
14 ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 13(B), TERMINATE A MEMBER
15 STATE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT, IF IT DETERMINES THAT A
16 CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT OF A MEMBER STATE IS A MATERIAL DEPARTURE
17 FROM THE COMPACT. OTHERWISE, IF THIS COMPACT SHALL BE HELD TO BE
18 CONTRARY TO THE CONSTITUTION OF ANY MEMBER STATE, THE COMPACT SHALL
19 REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT AS TO THE REMAINING MEMBER STATES AND
20 IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT AS TO THE MEMBER STATE AFFECTED AS TO ALL
21 SEVERABLE MATTERS.

22 SECTION 16. BINDING EFFECT OF COMPACT AND OTHER LAWS.

23 (A) A LICENSEE PROVIDING SERVICES IN A REMOTE STATE UNDER A
24 MULTISTATE AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE SHALL ADHERE TO THE LAWS AND
25 REGULATIONS, INCLUDING ~~SCOPE OF PRACTICE~~ LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND
26 APPLICABLE STANDARDS, OF THE REMOTE STATE WHERE THE CLIENT IS LOCATED
27 AT THE TIME CARE IS RENDERED.

28 (B) NOTHING HEREIN SHALL PREVENT OR INHIBIT THE ENFORCEMENT OF
29 ANY OTHER LAW OF A MEMBER STATE THAT IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE
30 COMPACT.

31 (C) ANY LAWS, STATUTES, REGULATIONS, OR OTHER LEGAL
32 REQUIREMENTS IN A MEMBER STATE IN CONFLICT WITH THE COMPACT ARE
33 SUPERSEDED TO THE EXTENT OF THE CONFLICT.

34 (D) ALL PERMISSIBLE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE
35 MEMBER STATES ARE BINDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR TERMS.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is contingent on the
2 enacting of substantially similar legislation in six other states. The Maryland Department
3 of Health shall notify the Department of Legislative Services within 10 days after six states
4 have enacted legislation that is substantially similar to this Act.

5 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 2 of this
6 Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.