

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 554 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY ABNEY, HILL-EVANS, VENKAT, HOWARD, GIRAL, SANCHEZ, SCHLOSSBERG, WAXMAN, BRENNAN, HOHENSTEIN, KHAN, NEILSON, SHUSTERMAN, KENYATTA, FREEMAN, O'MARA, FRANKEL, BELLMON, CERRATO, FLEMING, OTTEN, DEASY, GREEN, DALEY, CURRY, STEHR, DAVIDSON, KRAJEWSKI, TWARDZIK, DOUGHERTY, PIELLI, MERSKI AND SAMUELSON, FEBRUARY 11, 2025

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MAY 6, 2025

AN ACT

1 Authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the Social
2 Work Licensure Compact; and providing for the form of the
3 compact.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Social Work
8 Licensure Compact Act.

9 Section 2. Authority to execute compact.

10 The Governor, on behalf of the Commonwealth, is hereby
11 authorized to execute a compact in substantially the following
12 form with any one or more of the states of the United States,
13 and the General Assembly hereby signifies in advance its
14 approval and ratification of the compact:

SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT

15 SECTION 1. PURPOSE

1 The purpose of this Compact is to facilitate interstate  
2 practice of Regulated Social Workers by improving public access  
3 to competent Social Work Services. The Compact preserves the  
4 regulatory authority of States to protect public health and  
5 safety through the current system of State licensure.

6 This Compact is designed to achieve the following objectives:

7 A. Increase public access to Social Work Services;

8 B. Reduce overly burdensome and duplicative requirements  
9 associated with holding multiple licenses;

10 C. Enhance the Member States' ability to protect the  
11 public's health and safety;

12 D. Encourage the cooperation of Member States in  
13 regulating multistate practice;

14 E. Promote mobility and address workforce shortages by  
15 eliminating the necessity for licenses in multiple States by  
16 providing for the mutual recognition of other Member State  
17 licenses;

18 F. Support military families;

19 G. Facilitate the exchange of licensure and disciplinary  
20 information among Member States;

21 H. Authorize all Member States to hold a Regulated  
22 Social Worker accountable for abiding by a Member State's  
23 laws, regulations, and applicable professional standards in  
24 the Member State in which the client is located at the time  
25 care is rendered; and

26 I. Allow for the use of telehealth to facilitate  
27 increased access to regulated Social Work Services.

28 SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

29 As used in this Compact, and except as otherwise provided,  
30 the following definitions shall apply:

1       A. "Active Military Member" means any individual with full-  
2 time duty status in the active armed forces of the United States  
3 including members of the National Guard and Reserve.

4       B. "Adverse Action" means any administrative, civil,  
5 equitable or criminal action permitted by a State's laws which  
6 is imposed by a Licensing Authority or other authority against a  
7 Regulated Social Worker, including actions against an  
8 individual's license or Multistate Authorization to Practice  
9 such as revocation, suspension, probation, monitoring of the  
10 Licensee, limitation on the Licensee's practice, or any other  
11 Encumbrance on licensure affecting a Regulated Social Worker's  
12 authorization to practice, including issuance of a cease and  
13 desist action.

14       C. "Alternative Program" means a non-disciplinary monitoring  
15 or practice remediation process approved by a Licensing  
16 Authority to address practitioners with an Impairment.

17       D. "Charter Member States" - Member States who have enacted  
18 legislation to adopt this Compact where such legislation  
19 predates the effective date of this Compact as described in  
20 Section 14.

21       E. "Compact Commission" or "Commission" means the government  
22 agency whose membership consists of all States that have enacted  
23 this Compact, which is known as the Social Work Licensure  
24 Compact Commission, as described in Section 10, and which shall  
25 operate as an instrumentality of the Member States.

26       F. "Current Significant Investigative Information" means:

27           1. Investigative information that a Licensing Authority,  
28 after a preliminary inquiry that includes notification and an  
29 opportunity for the Regulated Social Worker to respond has  
30 reason to believe is not groundless and, if proved true,

1 would indicate more than a minor infraction as may be defined  
2 by the Commission; or

3 2. Investigative information that indicates that the  
4 Regulated Social Worker represents an immediate threat to  
5 public health and safety, as may be defined by the  
6 Commission, regardless of whether the Regulated Social Worker  
7 has been notified and has had an opportunity to respond.

8 G. "Data System" means a repository of information about  
9 Licensees, including, continuing education, examination,  
10 licensure, Current Significant Investigative Information,  
11 Disqualifying Event, Multistate License(s) and Adverse Action  
12 information or other information as required by the Commission.

13 H. "Disqualifying Event" means any Adverse Action or  
14 incident which results in an Encumbrance that disqualifies or  
15 makes the Licensee ineligible to either obtain, retain or renew  
16 a Multistate License.

17 I. "Domicile" means the jurisdiction in which the Licensee  
18 resides and intends to remain indefinitely.

19 J. "Encumbrance" means a revocation or suspension of, or any  
20 limitation on, the full and unrestricted practice of Social Work  
21 licensed and regulated by a Licensing Authority.

22 K. "Executive Committee" means a group of delegates elected  
23 or appointed to act on behalf of, and within the powers granted  
24 to them by, the compact and Commission.

25 L. "Home State" means the Member State that is the  
26 Licensee's primary Domicile.

27 M. "Impairment" means a condition(s) that may impair a  
28 practitioner's ability to engage in full and unrestricted  
29 practice as a Regulated Social Worker without some type of  
30 intervention and may include alcohol and drug dependence, mental

1 health impairment, and neurological or physical impairments.

2 N. "Licensee(s)" means an individual who currently holds a  
3 license from a State to practice as a Regulated Social Worker.

4 O. "Licensing Authority" means the board or agency of a  
5 Member State, or equivalent, that is responsible for the  
6 licensing and regulation of Regulated Social Workers.

7 P. "Member State" means a state, commonwealth, district, or  
8 territory of the United States of America that has enacted this  
9 Compact.

10 Q. "Multistate Authorization to Practice" means a legally  
11 authorized privilege to practice, which is equivalent to a  
12 license, associated with a Multistate License permitting the  
13 practice of Social Work in a Remote State.

14 R. "Multistate License" means a license to practice as a  
15 Regulated Social Worker issued by a Home State Licensing  
16 Authority that authorizes the Regulated Social Worker to  
17 practice in all Member States under Multistate Authorization to  
18 Practice.

19 S. "Qualifying National Exam" means a national licensing  
20 examination approved by the Commission.

21 T. "Regulated Social Worker" means any clinical, master's or  
22 bachelor's Social Worker licensed by a Member State regardless  
23 of the title used by that Member State.

24 U. "Remote State" means a Member State other than the  
25 Licensee's Home State.

26 V. "Rule(s)" or "Rule(s) of the Commission" means a  
27 regulation or regulations duly promulgated by the Commission, as  
28 authorized by the Compact, that has the force of law.

29 W. "Single State License" means a Social Work license issued  
30 by any State that authorizes practice only within the issuing

1 State and does not include Multistate Authorization to Practice  
2 in any Member State.

3 X. "Social Work" or "Social Work Services" means the  
4 application of social work theory, knowledge, methods, ethics,  
5 and the professional use of self to restore or enhance social,  
6 psychosocial, or biopsychosocial functioning of individuals,  
7 couples, families, groups, organizations, and communities  
8 through the care and services provided by a Regulated Social  
9 Worker as set forth in the Member State's statutes and  
10 regulations in the State where the services are being provided.

11 Y. "State" means any state, commonwealth, district, or  
12 territory of the United States of America that regulates the  
13 practice of Social Work.

14 Z. "Unencumbered License" means a license that authorizes a  
15 Regulated Social Worker to engage in the full and unrestricted  
16 practice of Social Work.

### 17 SECTION 3. STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT

18 A. To be eligible to participate in the compact, a potential  
19 Member State must currently meet all of the following criteria:

20 1. License and regulate the practice of Social Work at  
21 either the clinical, master's, or bachelor's category.

22 2. Require applicants for licensure to graduate from a  
23 program that is:

24 a. Operated by a college or university recognized by  
25 the Licensing Authority;

26 b. Accredited, or in candidacy by an institution  
27 that subsequently becomes accredited, by an accrediting  
28 agency recognized by either:

29 i. the Council for Higher Education

30 Accreditation, or its successor; or

1                   ii. the United States Department of Education;

2                   and

3                   c. Corresponds to the licensure sought as outlined  
4                   in Section 4.

5                   3. Require applicants for clinical licensure to complete  
6                   a period of supervised practice.

7                   4. Have a mechanism in place for receiving,  
8                   investigating, and adjudicating complaints about Licensees.

9                   B. To maintain membership in the Compact a Member State  
10 shall:

11                   1. Require that applicants for a Multistate License pass  
12                   a Qualifying National Exam for the corresponding category of  
13                   Multistate License sought as outlined in Section 4.

14                   2. Participate fully in the Commission's Data System,  
15                   including using the Commission's unique identifier as defined  
16                   in Rules.

17                   3. Notify the Commission, in compliance with the terms  
18                   of the Compact and Rules, of any Adverse Action or the  
19                   availability of Current Significant Investigative Information  
20                   regarding a Licensee.

21                   4. Implement procedures for considering the criminal  
22                   history records of applicants for a Multistate License. Such  
23                   procedures shall include the submission of fingerprints or  
24                   other biometric-based information by applicants for the  
25                   purpose of obtaining an applicant's criminal history record  
26                   information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the  
27                   agency responsible for retaining that State's criminal  
28                   records.

29                   5. Comply with the Rules of the Commission.

30                   6. Require an applicant to obtain or retain a license in

1 the Home State and meet the Home State's qualifications for  
2 licensure or renewal of licensure, as well as all other  
3 applicable Home State laws.

4 7. Authorize a Licensee holding a Multistate License in  
5 any Member State to practice in accordance with the terms of  
6 the Compact and Rules of the Commission.

7 8. Designate a delegate to participate in the Commission  
8 meetings.

9 C. A Member State meeting the requirements of Section 3.A.  
10 and 3.B of this Compact shall designate the categories of Social  
11 Work licensure that are eligible for issuance of a Multistate  
12 License for applicants in such Member State. To the extent that  
13 any Member State does not meet the requirements for  
14 participation in the Compact at any particular category of  
15 Social Work licensure, such Member State may choose, but is not  
16 obligated to, issue a Multistate License to applicants that  
17 otherwise meet the requirements of Section 4 for issuance of a  
18 Multistate License in such category or categories of licensure.

19 D. The Home State may charge a fee for granting the  
20 Multistate License.

#### 21 SECTION 4. SOCIAL WORKER PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT

22 A. To be eligible for a Multistate License under the terms  
23 and provisions of the Compact, an applicant, regardless of  
24 category must:

25 1. Hold or be eligible for an active, Unencumbered  
26 License in the Home State.

27 2. Pay any applicable fees, including any State fee, for  
28 the Multistate License.

29 3. Submit, in connection with an application for a  
30 Multistate License, fingerprints or other biometric data for



1 the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information  
2 from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the agency  
3 responsible for retaining that State's criminal records.

4 4. Notify the Home State of any Adverse Action,  
5 Encumbrance, or restriction on any professional license taken  
6 by any Member State or non-Member State within 30 days from  
7 the date the action is taken.

8 5. Meet any continuing competence requirements  
9 established by the Home State.

10 6. Abide by the laws, regulations, and applicable  
11 standards in the Member State where the client is located at  
12 the time care is rendered.

13 B. An applicant for a clinical-category Multistate License  
14 must meet all of the following requirements:

15 1. Fulfill a competency requirement, which shall be  
16 satisfied by either:

17 a. Passage of a clinical-category Qualifying  
18 National Exam; or

19 b. Licensure of the applicant in their Home State at  
20 the clinical category, beginning prior to such time as a  
21 Qualifying National Exam was required by the Home State  
22 and accompanied by a period of continuous Social Work  
23 licensure thereafter, all of which may be further  
24 governed by the Rules of the Commission; or

25 c. The substantial equivalency of the foregoing  
26 competency requirements which the Commission may  
27 determine by Rule.

28 2. Attain at least a master's degree in Social Work from  
29 a program that is:

30 a. Operated by a college or university recognized by

1 the Licensing Authority; and

2 b. Accredited, or in candidacy that subsequently  
3 becomes accredited, by an accrediting agency recognized  
4 by either:

5 i. the Council for Higher Education  
6 Accreditation or its successor; or

7 ii. the United States Department of Education.

8 3. Fulfill a practice requirement, which shall be  
9 satisfied by demonstrating completion of either:

10 a. A period of postgraduate supervised clinical  
11 practice equal to a minimum of three thousand hours; or

12 b. A minimum of two years of full-time postgraduate  
13 supervised clinical practice; or

14 c. The substantial equivalency of the foregoing  
15 practice requirements which the Commission may determine  
16 by Rule.

17 C. An applicant for a master's-category Multistate License  
18 must meet all of the following requirements:

19 1. Fulfill a competency requirement, which shall be  
20 satisfied by either:

21 a. Passage of a masters-category Qualifying National  
22 Exam;

23 b. Licensure of the applicant in their Home State at  
24 the master's category, beginning prior to such time as a  
25 Qualifying National Exam was required by the Home State  
26 at the master's category and accompanied by a continuous  
27 period of Social Work licensure thereafter, all of which  
28 may be further governed by the Rules of the Commission;  
29 or

30 c. The substantial equivalency of the foregoing

1 competency requirements which the Commission may  
2 determine by Rule.

3 2. Attain at least a master's degree in Social Work from  
4 a program that is:

5 a. Operated by a college or university recognized by  
6 the Licensing Authority; and

7 b. Accredited, or in candidacy that subsequently  
8 becomes accredited, by an accrediting agency recognized  
9 by either:

10 i. the Council for Higher Education  
11 Accreditation or its successor; or

12 ii. the United States Department of Education.

13 D. An applicant for a bachelor's-category Multistate License  
14 must meet all of the following requirements:

15 1. Fulfill a competency requirement, which shall be  
16 satisfied by either:

17 a. Passage of a bachelor's-category Qualifying  
18 National Exam;

19 b. Licensure of the applicant in their Home State at  
20 the bachelor's category, beginning prior to such time as  
21 a Qualifying National Exam was required by the Home State  
22 and accompanied by a period of continuous Social Work  
23 licensure thereafter, all of which may be further  
24 governed by the Rules of the Commission; or

25 c. The substantial equivalency of the foregoing  
26 competency requirements which the Commission may  
27 determine by Rule.

28 2. Attain at least a bachelor's degree in Social Work  
29 from a program that is:

30 a. Operated by a college or university recognized by

1 the Licensing Authority; and

2 b. Accredited, or in candidacy that subsequently  
3 becomes accredited, by an accrediting agency recognized  
4 by either:

5 i. the Council for Higher Education  
6 Accreditation or its successor; or

7 ii. the United States Department of Education.

8 E. The Multistate License for a Regulated Social Worker is  
9 subject to the renewal requirements of the Home State. The  
10 Regulated Social Worker must maintain compliance with the  
11 requirements of Section 4(A) to be eligible to renew a  
12 Multistate License.

13 F. The Regulated Social Worker's services in a Remote State  
14 are subject to that Member State's regulatory authority. A  
15 Remote State may, in accordance with due process and that Member  
16 State's laws, remove a Regulated Social Worker's Multistate  
17 Authorization to Practice in the Remote State for a specific  
18 period of time, impose fines, and take any other necessary  
19 actions to protect the health and safety of its citizens.

20 G. If a Multistate License is encumbered, the Regulated  
21 Social Worker's Multistate Authorization to Practice shall be  
22 deactivated in all Remote States until the Multistate License is  
23 no longer encumbered.

24 H. If a Multistate Authorization to Practice is encumbered  
25 in a Remote State, the regulated Social Worker's Multistate  
26 Authorization to Practice may be deactivated in that State until  
27 the Multistate Authorization to Practice is no longer  
28 encumbered.

29 SECTION 5. ISSUANCE OF A MULTISTATE LICENSE

30 A. Upon receipt of an application for Multistate License,

1 the Home State Licensing Authority shall determine the  
2 applicant's eligibility for a Multistate License in accordance  
3 with Section 4 of this Compact.

4 B. If such applicant is eligible pursuant to Section 4 of  
5 this Compact, the Home State Licensing Authority shall issue a  
6 Multistate License that authorizes the applicant or Regulated  
7 Social Worker to practice in all Member States under a  
8 Multistate Authorization to Practice.

9 C. Upon issuance of a Multistate License, the Home State  
10 Licensing Authority shall designate whether the Regulated Social  
11 Worker holds a Multistate License in the Bachelors, Masters, or  
12 Clinical category of Social Work.

13 D. A Multistate License issued by a Home State to a resident  
14 in that State shall be recognized by all Compact Member States  
15 as authorizing Social Work Practice under a Multistate  
16 Authorization to Practice corresponding to each category of  
17 licensure regulated in each Member State.

18 SECTION 6. AUTHORITY OF INTERSTATE COMPACT COMMISSION AND  
19 MEMBER STATE LICENSING AUTHORITIES

20 A. Nothing in this Compact, nor any Rule of the Commission,  
21 shall be construed to limit, restrict, or in any way reduce the  
22 ability of a Member State to enact and enforce laws,  
23 regulations, or other rules related to the practice of Social  
24 Work in that State, where those laws, regulations, or other  
25 rules are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Compact.

26 B. Nothing in this Compact shall affect the requirements  
27 established by a Member State for the issuance of a Single State  
28 License.

29 C. Nothing in this Compact, nor any Rule of the Commission,  
30 shall be construed to limit, restrict, or in any way reduce the

1 ability of a Member State to take Adverse Action against a  
2 Licensee's Single State License to practice Social Work in that  
3 State.

4 D. Nothing in this Compact, nor any Rule of the Commission,  
5 shall be construed to limit, restrict, or in any way reduce the  
6 ability of a Remote State to take Adverse Action against a  
7 Licensee's Multistate Authorization to Practice in that State.

8 E. Nothing in this Compact, nor any Rule of the Commission,  
9 shall be construed to limit, restrict, or in any way reduce the  
10 ability of a Licensee's Home State to take Adverse Action  
11 against a Licensee's Multistate License based upon information  
12 provided by a Remote State.

13 SECTION 7. REISSUANCE OF A MULTISTATE LICENSE BY A NEW HOME  
14 STATE

15 A. A Licensee can hold a Multistate License, issued by their  
16 Home State, in only one Member State at any given time.

17 B. If a Licensee changes their Home State by moving between  
18 two Member States:

19 1. The Licensee shall immediately apply for the  
20 reissuance of their Multistate License in their new Home  
21 State. The Licensee shall pay all applicable fees and notify  
22 the prior Home State in accordance with the Rules of the  
23 Commission.

24 2. Upon receipt of an application to reissue a  
25 Multistate License, the new Home State shall verify that the  
26 Multistate License is active, unencumbered and eligible for  
27 reissuance under the terms of the Compact and the Rules of  
28 the Commission. The Multistate License issued by the prior  
29 Home State will be deactivated and all Member States notified  
30 in accordance with the applicable Rules adopted by the

1 Commission.

2 3. Prior to the reissuance of the Multistate License,  
3 the new Home State shall conduct procedures for considering  
4 the criminal history records of the Licensee. Such procedures  
5 shall include the submission of fingerprints or other  
6 biometric-based information by applicants for the purpose of  
7 obtaining an applicant's criminal history record information  
8 from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the agency  
9 responsible for retaining that State's criminal records.

10 4. If required for initial licensure, the new Home State  
11 may require completion of jurisprudence requirements in the  
12 new Home State.

13 5. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Compact,  
14 if a Licensee does not meet the requirements set forth in  
15 this Compact for the reissuance of a Multistate License by  
16 the new Home State, then the Licensee shall be subject to the  
17 new Home State requirements for the issuance of a Single  
18 State License in that State.

19 C. If a Licensee changes their primary State of residence by  
20 moving from a Member State to a non-Member State, or from a non-  
21 Member State to a Member State, then the Licensee shall be  
22 subject to the State requirements for the issuance of a Single  
23 State License in the new Home State.

24 D. Nothing in this Compact shall interfere with a Licensee's  
25 ability to hold a Single State License in multiple States;  
26 however, for the purposes of this Compact, a Licensee shall have  
27 only one Home State, and only one Multistate License.

28 E. Nothing in this Compact shall interfere with the  
29 requirements established by a Member State for the issuance of a  
30 Single State License.

1 SECTION 8. MILITARY FAMILIES

2 An Active Military Member or their spouse shall designate a  
3 Home State where the individual has a Multistate License. The  
4 individual may retain their Home State designation during the  
5 period the service member is on active duty.

6 SECTION 9. ADVERSE ACTIONS

7 A. In addition to the other powers conferred by State law, a  
8 Remote State shall have the authority, in accordance with  
9 existing State due process law, to:

10 1. Take Adverse Action against a Regulated Social  
11 Worker's Multistate Authorization to Practice only within  
12 that Member State, and issue subpoenas for both hearings and  
13 investigations that require the attendance and testimony of  
14 witnesses as well as the production of evidence. Subpoenas  
15 issued by a Licensing Authority in a Member State for the  
16 attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of  
17 evidence from another Member State shall be enforced in the  
18 latter State by any court of competent jurisdiction,  
19 according to the practice and procedure of that court  
20 applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before  
21 it. The issuing Licensing Authority shall pay any witness  
22 fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other fees required by  
23 the service statutes of the State in which the witnesses or  
24 evidence are located.

25 2. Only the Home State shall have the power to take  
26 Adverse Action against a Regulated Social Worker's Multistate  
27 License.

28 B. For purposes of taking Adverse Action, the Home State  
29 shall give the same priority and effect to reported conduct  
30 received from a Member State as it would if the conduct had



1 occurred within the Home State. In so doing, the Home State  
2 shall apply its own State laws to determine appropriate action.

3 C. The Home State shall complete any pending investigations  
4 of a Regulated Social Worker who changes their Home State during  
5 the course of the investigations. The Home State shall also have  
6 the authority to take appropriate action(s) and shall promptly  
7 report the conclusions of the investigations to the  
8 administrator of the Data System. The administrator of the Data  
9 System shall promptly notify the new Home State of any Adverse  
10 Actions.

11 D. A Member State, if otherwise permitted by State law, may  
12 recover from the affected Regulated Social Worker the costs of  
13 investigations and dispositions of cases resulting from any  
14 Adverse Action taken against that Regulated Social Worker.

15 E. A Member State may take Adverse Action based on the  
16 factual findings of another Member State, provided that the  
17 Member State follows its own procedures for taking the Adverse  
18 Action.

19 F. Joint Investigations:

20 1. In addition to the authority granted to a Member  
21 State by its respective Social Work practice act or other  
22 applicable State law, any Member State may participate with  
23 other Member States in joint investigations of Licensees.

24 2. Member States shall share any investigative,  
25 litigation, or compliance materials in furtherance of any  
26 joint or individual investigation initiated under the  
27 Compact.

28 G. If Adverse Action is taken by the Home State against the  
29 Multistate License of a Regulated Social Worker, the Regulated  
30 Social Worker's Multistate Authorization to Practice in all

1 other Member States shall be deactivated until all Encumbrances  
2 have been removed from the Multistate License. All Home State  
3 disciplinary orders that impose Adverse Action against the  
4 license of a Regulated Social Worker shall include a statement  
5 that the Regulated Social Worker's Multistate Authorization to  
6 Practice is deactivated in all Member States until all  
7 conditions of the decision, order or agreement are satisfied.

8 H. If a Member State takes Adverse Action, it shall promptly  
9 notify the administrator of the Data System. The administrator  
10 of the Data System shall promptly notify the Home State and all  
11 other Member State's of any Adverse Actions by Remote States.

12 I. Nothing in this Compact shall override a Member State's  
13 decision that participation in an Alternative Program may be  
14 used in lieu of Adverse Action.

15 J. Nothing in this Compact shall authorize a Member State to  
16 demand the issuance of subpoenas for attendance and testimony of  
17 witnesses or the production of evidence from another Member  
18 State for lawful actions within that Member State.

19 K. Nothing in this Compact shall authorize a Member State to  
20 impose discipline against a Regulated Social Worker who holds a  
21 Multistate Authorization to Practice for lawful actions within  
22 another Member State.

## 23 SECTION 10. ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT

### 24 COMMISSION

25 A. The Compact Member States hereby create and establish a  
26 joint government agency whose membership consists of all Member  
27 States that have enacted the compact known as the Social Work  
28 Licensure Compact Commission. The Commission is an  
29 instrumentality of the Compact States acting jointly and not an  
30 instrumentality of any one State. The Commission shall come into

1 existence on or after the effective date of the Compact as set  
2 forth in Section 14.

3 B. Membership, Voting, and Meetings

4 1. Each Member State shall have and be limited to one  
5 (1) delegate selected by that Member State's Licensing  
6 Authority.

7 2. The delegate shall be either:

8 a. A current member of the Licensing Authority at  
9 the time of appointment, who is a Regulated Social Worker  
10 or public member of the State Licensing Authority; or

11 b. An administrator of the Licensing Authority or  
12 their designee.

13 3. The Commission shall by Rule or bylaw establish a  
14 term of office for delegates and may by Rule or bylaw  
15 establish term limits.

16 4. The Commission may recommend removal or suspension of  
17 any delegate from office.

18 5. A Member State's Licensing Authority shall fill any  
19 vacancy of its delegate occurring on the Commission within 60  
20 days of the vacancy.

21 6. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote on all  
22 matters before the Commission requiring a vote by Commission  
23 delegates.

24 7. A delegate shall vote in person or by such other  
25 means as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for  
26 delegates to meet by telecommunication, video conference, or  
27 other means of communication.

28 8. The Commission shall meet at least once during each  
29 calendar year. Additional meetings may be held as set forth  
30 in the bylaws. The Commission may meet by telecommunication,

1 video conference or other similar electronic means.

2 C. The Commission shall have the following powers:

3 1. Establish the fiscal year of the Commission;

4 2. Establish code of conduct and conflict of interest  
5 policies;

6 3. Establish and amend Rules and bylaws;

7 4. Maintain its financial records in accordance with the  
8 bylaws;

9 5. Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the  
10 provisions of this Compact, the Commission's Rules, and the  
11 bylaws;

12 6. Initiate and conclude legal proceedings or actions in  
13 the name of the Commission, provided that the standing of any  
14 Licensing Authority to sue or be sued under applicable law  
15 shall not be affected;

16 7. Maintain and certify records and information provided  
17 to a Member State as the authenticated business records of  
18 the Commission, and designate an agent to do so on the  
19 Commission's behalf;

20 8. Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

21 9. Borrow, accept, or contract for services of  
22 personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a  
23 Member State;

24 10. Conduct an annual financial review;

25 11. Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix  
26 compensation, define duties, grant such individuals  
27 appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the  
28 Compact, and establish the Commission's personnel policies  
29 and programs relating to conflicts of interest,  
30 qualifications of personnel, and other related personnel

1 matters;

2 12. Assess and collect fees;

3 13. Accept any and all appropriate gifts, donations,  
4 grants of money, other sources of revenue, equipment,  
5 supplies, materials, and services, and receive, utilize, and  
6 dispose of the same; provided that at all times the  
7 Commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety or  
8 conflict of interest;

9 14. Lease, purchase, retain, own, hold, improve, or use  
10 any property, real, personal, or mixed, or any undivided  
11 interest therein;

12 15. Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange,  
13 abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property real, personal,  
14 or mixed;

15 16. Establish a budget and make expenditures;

16 17. Borrow money;

17 18. Appoint committees, including standing committees,  
18 composed of members, State regulators, State legislators or  
19 their representatives, and consumer representatives, and such  
20 other interested persons as may be designated in this Compact  
21 and the bylaws;

22 19. Provide and receive information from, and cooperate  
23 with, law enforcement agencies;

24 20. Establish and elect an Executive Committee,  
25 including a chair and a vice chair;

26 21. Determine whether a State's adopted language is  
27 materially different from the model compact language such  
28 that the State would not qualify for participation in the  
29 Compact; and

30 22. Perform such other functions as may be necessary or

1 appropriate to achieve the purposes of this Compact.

2 D. The Executive Committee

3 1. The Executive Committee shall have the power to act  
4 on behalf of the Commission according to the terms of this  
5 Compact. The powers, duties, and responsibilities of the  
6 Executive Committee shall include:

7 a. Oversee the day-to-day activities of the  
8 administration of the compact including enforcement and  
9 compliance with the provisions of the compact, its Rules  
10 and bylaws, and other such duties as deemed necessary;

11 b. Recommend to the Commission changes to the Rules  
12 or bylaws, changes to this Compact legislation, fees  
13 charged to Compact Member States, fees charged to  
14 Licensees, and other fees;

15 c. Ensure Compact administration services are  
16 appropriately provided, including by contract;

17 d. Prepare and recommend the budget;

18 e. Maintain financial records on behalf of the  
19 Commission;

20 f. Monitor Compact compliance of Member States and  
21 provide compliance reports to the Commission;

22 g. Establish additional committees as necessary;

23 h. Exercise the powers and duties of the Commission  
24 during the interim between Commission meetings, except  
25 for adopting or amending Rules, adopting or amending  
26 bylaws, and exercising any other powers and duties  
27 expressly reserved to the Commission by Rule or bylaw;  
28 and

29 i. Other duties as provided in the Rules or bylaws  
30 of the Commission.

1           2. The Executive Committee shall be composed of up to  
2 eleven (11) members:

3           a. The chair and vice chair of the Commission shall  
4 be voting members of the Executive Committee; and

5           b. The Commission shall elect five voting members  
6 from the current membership of the Commission.

7           c. Up to four (4) ex officio, nonvoting members from  
8 four (4) recognized national Social Work organizations.

9           d. The ex officio members will be selected by their  
10 respective organizations.

11          3. The Commission may remove any member of the Executive  
12 Committee as provided in the Commission's bylaws.

13          4. The Executive Committee shall meet at least annually.

14           a. Executive Committee meetings shall be open to the  
15 public, except that the Executive Committee may meet in a  
16 closed, non-public meeting as provided in subsection F.2  
17 below.

18           b. The Executive Committee shall give seven (7)  
19 days' notice of its meetings, posted on its website and  
20 as determined to provide notice to persons with an  
21 interest in the business of the Commission.

22           c. The Executive Committee may hold a special  
23 meeting in accordance with subsection F.1.b. below.

24          E. The Commission shall adopt and provide to the Member  
25 States an annual report.

26          F. Meetings of the Commission

27           1. All meetings shall be open to the public, except that  
28 the Commission may meet in a closed, non-public meeting as  
29 provided in subsection F.2 below.

30           a. Public notice for all meetings of the full

1 Commission of meetings shall be given in the same manner  
2 as required under the Rulemaking provisions in Section  
3 12, except that the Commission may hold a special meeting  
4 as provided in subsection F.1.b below.

5 b. The Commission may hold a special meeting when it  
6 must meet to conduct emergency business by giving 48  
7 hours' notice to all commissioners, on the Commission's  
8 website, and other means as provided in the Commission's  
9 Rules. The Commission's legal counsel shall certify that  
10 the Commission's need to meet qualifies as an emergency.

11 2. The Commission or the Executive Committee or other  
12 committees of the Commission may convene in a closed, non-  
13 public meeting for the Commission or Executive Committee or  
14 other committees of the Commission to receive legal advice or  
15 to discuss:

16 a. Non-compliance of a Member State with its  
17 obligations under the Compact;

18 b. The employment, compensation, discipline or other  
19 matters, practices or procedures related to specific  
20 employees;

21 c. Current or threatened discipline of a Licensee by  
22 the Commission or by a Member State's Licensing  
23 Authority;

24 d. Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated  
25 litigation;

26 e. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease,  
27 or sale of goods, services, or real estate;

28 f. Accusing any person of a crime or formally  
29 censuring any person;

30 g. Trade secrets or commercial or financial



1 information that is privileged or confidential;

2 h. Information of a personal nature where disclosure  
3 would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of  
4 personal privacy;

5 i. Investigative records compiled for law  
6 enforcement purposes;

7 j. Information related to any investigative reports  
8 prepared by or on behalf of or for use of the Commission  
9 or other committee charged with responsibility of  
10 investigation or determination of compliance issues  
11 pursuant to the Compact;

12 k. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by  
13 federal or Member State law; or

14 l. Other matters as promulgated by the Commission by  
15 Rule.

16 3. If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed, the  
17 presiding officer shall state that the meeting will be closed  
18 and reference each relevant exempting provision, and such  
19 reference shall be recorded in the minutes.

20 4. The Commission shall keep minutes that fully and  
21 clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall  
22 provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the  
23 reasons therefore, including a description of the views  
24 expressed. All documents considered in connection with an  
25 action shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and  
26 documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal,  
27 subject to release only by a majority vote of the Commission  
28 or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

29 G. Financing of the Commission

30 1. The Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment

1 of, the reasonable xpenses of its establishment,  
2 organization, and ongoing activities.

3 2. The Commission may accept any and all appropriate  
4 revenue sources as provided in subsection C(13).

5 3. The Commission may levy on and collect an annual  
6 assessment from each Member State and impose fees on  
7 Licensees of Member States to whom it grants a Multistate  
8 License to cover the cost of the operations and activities of  
9 the Commission and its staff, which must be in a total amount  
10 sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved each year  
11 for which revenue is not provided by other sources. The  
12 aggregate annual assessment amount for Member States shall be  
13 allocated based upon a formula that the Commission shall  
14 promulgate by Rule.

15 4. The Commission shall not incur obligations of any  
16 kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same;  
17 nor shall the Commission pledge the credit of any of the  
18 Member States, except by and with the authority of the Member  
19 State.

20 5. The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all  
21 receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of  
22 the Commission shall be subject to the financial review and  
23 accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However,  
24 all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the  
25 Commission shall be subject to an annual financial review by  
26 a certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of  
27 the financial review shall be included in and become part of  
28 the annual report of the Commission.

29 H. Qualified Immunity, Defense, and Indemnification

30 1. The members, officers, executive director, employees

1 and representatives of the Commission shall be immune from  
2 suit and liability, both personally and in their official  
3 capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or  
4 personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising  
5 out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that  
6 occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is made  
7 had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the  
8 scope of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities;  
9 provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to  
10 protect any such person from suit or liability for any  
11 damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional  
12 or willful or wanton misconduct of that person. The  
13 procurement of insurance of any type by the Commission shall  
14 not in any way compromise or limit the immunity granted  
15 hereunder.

16 2. The Commission shall defend any member, officer,  
17 executive director, employee, and representative of the  
18 Commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability  
19 arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission  
20 that occurred within the scope of Commission employment,  
21 duties, or responsibilities, or as determined by the  
22 Commission that the person against whom the claim is made had  
23 a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of  
24 Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities; provided  
25 that nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit that  
26 person from retaining their own counsel at their own expense;  
27 and provided further, that the actual or alleged act, error,  
28 or omission did not result from that person's intentional or  
29 willful or wanton misconduct.

30 3. The Commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any

1 member, officer, executive director, employee, and  
2 representative of the Commission for the amount of any  
3 settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising  
4 out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that  
5 occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties,  
6 or responsibilities, or that such person had a reasonable  
7 basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission  
8 employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the  
9 actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from  
10 the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that  
11 person.

12 4. Nothing herein shall be construed as a limitation on  
13 the liability of any Licensee for professional malpractice or  
14 misconduct, which shall be governed solely by any other  
15 applicable State laws.

16 5. Nothing in this Compact shall be interpreted to waive  
17 or otherwise abrogate a Member State's state action immunity  
18 or state action affirmative defense with respect to antitrust  
19 claims under the Sherman Act, Clayton Act, or any other State  
20 or federal antitrust or anticompetitive law or regulation.

21 6. Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to be a  
22 waiver of sovereign immunity by the Member States or by the  
23 Commission.

24 SECTION 11. DATA SYSTEM

25 A. The Commission shall provide for the development,  
26 maintenance, operation, and utilization of a coordinated Data  
27 System.

28 B. The Commission shall assign each applicant for a  
29 Multistate License a unique identifier, as determined by the  
30 Rules of the Commission.

1 C. Notwithstanding any other provision of State law to the  
2 contrary, a Member State shall submit a uniform data set to the  
3 Data System on all individuals to whom this Compact is  
4 applicable as required by the Rules of the Commission,  
5 including:

6 1. Identifying information;

7 2. Licensure data;

8 3. Adverse Actions against a license and information  
9 related thereto;

10 4. Non-confidential information related to Alternative  
11 Program participation, the beginning and ending dates of such  
12 participation, and other information related to such  
13 participation not made confidential under Member State law;

14 5. Any denial of application for licensure, and the  
15 reason(s) for such denial;

16 6. The presence of Current Significant Investigative  
17 Information; and

18 7. Other information that may facilitate the  
19 administration of this Compact or the protection of the  
20 public, as determined by the Rules of the Commission.

21 D. The records and information provided to a Member State  
22 pursuant to this Compact or through the Data System, when  
23 certified by the Commission or an agent thereof, shall  
24 constitute the authenticated business records of the Commission,  
25 and shall be entitled to any associated hearsay exception in any  
26 relevant judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative proceedings  
27 in a Member State.

28 E. Current Significant Investigative Information pertaining  
29 to a Licensee in any Member State will only be available to  
30 other Member States.

1           1. It is the responsibility of the Member States to  
2 report any Adverse Action against a Licensee and to monitor  
3 the database to determine whether Adverse Action has been  
4 taken against a Licensee. Adverse Action information  
5 pertaining to a Licensee in any Member State will be  
6 available to any other Member State.

7           F. Member States contributing information to the Data System  
8 may designate information that may not be shared with the public  
9 without the express permission of the contributing State.

10          G. Any information submitted to the Data System that is  
11 subsequently expunged pursuant to federal law or the laws of the  
12 Member State contributing the information shall be removed from  
13 the Data System.

#### 14 SECTION 12. RULEMAKING

15          A. The Commission shall promulgate reasonable Rules in order  
16 to effectively and efficiently implement and administer the  
17 purposes and provisions of the Compact. A Rule shall be invalid  
18 and have no force or effect only if a court of competent  
19 jurisdiction holds that the Rule is invalid because the  
20 Commission exercised its rulemaking authority in a manner that  
21 is beyond the scope and purposes of the Compact, or the powers  
22 granted hereunder, or based upon another applicable standard of  
23 review.

24          B. The Rules of the Commission shall have the force of law  
25 in each Member State, provided however that where the Rules of  
26 the Commission conflict with the laws of the Member State that  
27 establish the Member State's laws, regulations, and applicable  
28 standards that govern the practice of Social Work as held by a  
29 court of competent jurisdiction, the Rules of the Commission  
30 shall be ineffective in that State to the extent of the

1 conflict.

2 C. The Commission shall exercise its Rulemaking powers  
3 pursuant to the criteria set forth in this Section and the Rules  
4 adopted thereunder. Rules shall become binding on the day  
5 following adoption or the date specified in the rule or  
6 amendment, whichever is later.

7 D. If a majority of the legislatures of the Member States  
8 rejects a Rule or portion of a Rule, by enactment of a statute  
9 or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the Compact  
10 within four (4) years of the date of adoption of the Rule, then  
11 such Rule shall have no further force and effect in any Member  
12 State.

13 E. Rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of  
14 the Commission.

15 F. Prior to adoption of a proposed Rule, the Commission  
16 shall hold a public hearing and allow persons to provide oral  
17 and written comments, data, facts, opinions, and arguments.

18 G. Prior to adoption of a proposed Rule by the Commission,  
19 and at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting at which  
20 the Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed Rule,  
21 the Commission shall provide a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:

22 1. On the website of the Commission or other publicly  
23 accessible platform;

24 2. To persons who have requested notice of the  
25 Commission's notices of proposed rulemaking; and

26 3. In such other way(s) as the Commission may by Rule  
27 specify.

28 H. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking shall include:

29 1. The time, date, and location of the public hearing at  
30 which the Commission will hear public comments on the

1 proposed Rule and, if different, the time, date, and location  
2 of the meeting where the Commission will consider and vote on  
3 the proposed Rule;

4 2. If the hearing is held via telecommunication, video  
5 conference, or other electronic means, the Commission shall  
6 include the mechanism for access to the hearing in the Notice  
7 of Proposed Rulemaking;

8 3. The text of the proposed Rule and the reason  
9 therefor;

10 4. A request for comments on the proposed Rule from any  
11 interested person; and

12 5. The manner in which interested persons may submit  
13 written comments.

14 I. All hearings will be recorded. A copy of the recording  
15 and all written comments and documents received by the  
16 Commission in response to the proposed Rule shall be available  
17 to the public.

18 J. Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a  
19 separate hearing on each Rule. Rules may be grouped for the  
20 convenience of the Commission at hearings required by this  
21 section.

22 K. The Commission shall, by majority vote of all members,  
23 take final action on the proposed Rule based on the Rulemaking  
24 record and the full text of the Rule.

25 1. The Commission may adopt changes to the proposed Rule  
26 provided the changes do not enlarge the original purpose of  
27 the proposed Rule.

28 2. The Commission shall provide an explanation of the  
29 reasons for substantive changes made to the proposed Rule as  
30 well as reasons for substantive changes not made that were



1 recommended by commenters.

2 3. The Commission shall determine a reasonable effective  
3 date for the Rule. Except for an emergency as provided in  
4 Section 12.L, the effective date of the rule shall be no  
5 sooner than 30 days after issuing the notice that it adopted  
6 or amended the Rule.

7 L. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the  
8 Commission may consider and adopt an emergency Rule with 48  
9 hours' notice, with opportunity to comment, provided that the  
10 usual Rulemaking procedures provided in the Compact and in this  
11 section shall be retroactively applied to the Rule as soon as  
12 reasonably possible, in no event later than ninety (90) days  
13 after the effective date of the Rule. For the purposes of this  
14 provision, an emergency Rule is one that must be adopted  
15 immediately in order to:

16 1. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or  
17 welfare;

18 2. Prevent a loss of Commission or Member State funds;

19 3. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of a Rule that  
20 is established by federal law or rule; or

21 4. Protect public health and safety.

22 M. The Commission or an authorized committee of the  
23 Commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted Rule for  
24 purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format,  
25 errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice of  
26 any revisions shall be posted on the website of the Commission.  
27 The revision shall be subject to challenge by any person for a  
28 period of thirty (30) days after posting. The revision may be  
29 challenged only on grounds that the revision results in a  
30 material change to a Rule. A challenge shall be made in writing

1 and delivered to the Commission prior to the end of the notice  
2 period. If no challenge is made, the revision will take effect  
3 without further action. If the revision is challenged, the  
4 revision may not take effect without the approval of the  
5 Commission.

6 N. No Member State's rulemaking requirements shall apply  
7 under this compact.

8 SECTION 13. OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AND ENFORCEMENT

9 A. Oversight

10 1. The executive and judicial branches of State  
11 government in each Member State shall enforce this Compact  
12 and take all actions necessary and appropriate to implement  
13 the Compact.

14 2. Except as otherwise provided in this Compact, venue  
15 is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the  
16 Commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court  
17 of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the  
18 Commission is located. The Commission may waive venue and  
19 jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents  
20 to participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.  
21 Nothing herein shall affect or limit the selection or  
22 propriety of venue in any action against a Licensee for  
23 professional malpractice, misconduct or any such similar  
24 matter.

25 3. The Commission shall be entitled to receive service  
26 of process in any proceeding regarding the enforcement or  
27 interpretation of the Compact and shall have standing to  
28 intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to  
29 provide the Commission service of process shall render a  
30 judgment or order void as to the Commission, this Compact, or

1 promulgated Rules.

2 B. Default, Technical Assistance, and Termination

3 1. If the Commission determines that a Member State has  
4 defaulted in the performance of its obligations or  
5 responsibilities under this Compact or the promulgated Rules,  
6 the Commission shall provide written notice to the defaulting  
7 State. The notice of default shall describe the default, the  
8 proposed means of curing the default, and any other action  
9 that the Commission may take, and shall offer training and  
10 specific technical assistance regarding the default.

11 2. The Commission shall provide a copy of the notice of  
12 default to the other Member States.

13 C. If a State in default fails to cure the default, the  
14 defaulting State may be terminated from the Compact upon an  
15 affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates of the Member  
16 States, and all rights, privileges and benefits conferred on  
17 that State by this Compact may be terminated on the effective  
18 date of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the  
19 offending State of obligations or liabilities incurred during  
20 the period of default.

21 D. Termination of membership in the Compact shall be imposed  
22 only after all other means of securing compliance have been  
23 exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be  
24 given by the Commission to the governor, the majority and  
25 minority leaders of the defaulting State's legislature, the  
26 defaulting State's State Licensing Authority and each of the  
27 Member States' Licensing Authority.

28 E. A State that has been terminated is responsible for all  
29 assessments, obligations, and liabilities incurred through the  
30 effective date of termination, including obligations that extend

1 beyond the effective date of termination.

2 F. Upon the termination of a State's membership from this  
3 Compact, that State shall immediately provide notice to all  
4 Licensees within that State of such termination. The terminated  
5 State shall continue to recognize all licenses granted pursuant  
6 to this Compact for a minimum of six (6) months after the date  
7 of said notice of termination.

8 G. The Commission shall not bear any costs related to a  
9 State that is found to be in default or that has been terminated  
10 from the Compact, unless agreed upon in writing between the  
11 Commission and the defaulting State.

12 H. The defaulting State may appeal the action of the  
13 Commission by petitioning the U.S. District Court for the  
14 District of Columbia or the federal district where the  
15 Commission has its principal offices. The prevailing party shall  
16 be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable  
17 attorney's fees.

18 I. Dispute Resolution

19 1. Upon request by a Member State, the Commission shall  
20 attempt to resolve disputes related to the Compact that arise  
21 among Member States and between Member and non-Member States.

22 2. The Commission shall promulgate a Rule providing for  
23 both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as  
24 appropriate.

25 J. Enforcement

26 1. By majority vote as provided by Rule, the Commission  
27 may initiate legal action against a Member State in default  
28 in the United States District Court for the District of  
29 Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has its  
30 principal offices to enforce compliance with the provisions

1 of the Compact and its promulgated Rules. The relief sought  
2 may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event  
3 judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall  
4 be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable  
5 attorney's fees. The remedies herein shall not be the  
6 exclusive remedies of the Commission. The Commission may  
7 pursue any other remedies available under federal or the  
8 defaulting Member State's law.

9 2. A Member State may initiate legal action against the  
10 Commission in the U.S. District Court for the District of  
11 Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has its  
12 principal offices to enforce compliance with the provisions  
13 of the Compact and its promulgated Rules. The relief sought  
14 may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event  
15 judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall  
16 be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable  
17 attorney's fees.

18 3. No person other than a Member State shall enforce  
19 this compact against the Commission.

#### 20 SECTION 14. EFFECTIVE DATE, WITHDRAWAL, AND AMENDMENT

21 A. The Compact shall come into effect on the date on which  
22 the Compact statute is enacted into law in the seventh Member  
23 State.

24 1. On or after the effective date of the Compact, the  
25 Commission shall convene and review the enactment of each of  
26 the first seven Member States ("Charter Member States") to  
27 determine if the statute enacted by each such Charter Member  
28 State is materially different than the model Compact statute.

29 a. A Charter Member State whose enactment is found  
30 to be materially different from the model Compact statute

1 shall be entitled to the default process set forth in  
2 Section 13.

3 b. If any Member State is later found to be in  
4 default, or is terminated or withdraws from the Compact,  
5 the Commission shall remain in existence and the Compact  
6 shall remain in effect even if the number of Member  
7 States should be less than seven.

8 2. Member States enacting the Compact subsequent to the  
9 seven initial Charter Member States shall be subject to the  
10 process set forth in Section 10(C)(21) to determine if their  
11 enactments are materially different from the model Compact  
12 statute and whether they qualify for participation in the  
13 Compact.

14 3. All actions taken for the benefit of the Commission  
15 or in furtherance of the purposes of the administration of  
16 the Compact prior to the effective date of the Compact or the  
17 Commission coming into existence shall be considered to be  
18 actions of the Commission unless specifically repudiated by  
19 the Commission.

20 4. Any State that joins the Compact subsequent to the  
21 Commission's initial adoption of the Rules and bylaws shall  
22 be subject to the Rules and bylaws as they exist on the date  
23 on which the Compact becomes law in that State. Any Rule that  
24 has been previously adopted by the Commission shall have the  
25 full force and effect of law on the day the Compact becomes  
26 law in that State.

27 B. Any Member State may withdraw from this Compact by  
28 enacting a statute repealing the same.

29 1. A Member State's withdrawal shall not take effect  
30 until 180 days after enactment of the repealing statute.

1           2. Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing  
2 requirement of the withdrawing State's Licensing Authority to  
3 comply with the investigative and Adverse Action reporting  
4 requirements of this Compact prior to the effective date of  
5 withdrawal.

6           3. Upon the enactment of a statute withdrawing from this  
7 compact, a State shall immediately provide notice of such  
8 withdrawal to all Licensees within that State.

9 Notwithstanding any subsequent statutory enactment to the  
10 contrary, such withdrawing State shall continue to recognize  
11 all licenses granted pursuant to this compact for a minimum  
12 of 180 days after the date of such notice of withdrawal.

13       C. Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to  
14 invalidate or prevent any licensure agreement or other  
15 cooperative arrangement between a Member State and a non-Member  
16 State that does not conflict with the provisions of this  
17 Compact.

18       D. This Compact may be amended by the Member States. No  
19 amendment to this Compact shall become effective and binding  
20 upon any Member State until it is enacted into the laws of all  
21 Member States.

## 22 SECTION 15. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

23       A. This Compact and the Commission's rulemaking authority  
24 shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes,  
25 and the implementation and administration of the Compact.  
26 Provisions of the Compact expressly authorizing or requiring the  
27 promulgation of Rules shall not be construed to limit the  
28 Commission's rulemaking authority solely for those purposes.

29       B. The provisions of this Compact shall be severable and if  
30 any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this Compact is

1 held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to the  
2 constitution of any Member State, a State seeking participation  
3 in the Compact, or of the United States, or the applicability  
4 thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is  
5 held to be unconstitutional by a court of competent  
6 jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of this Compact and  
7 the applicability thereof to any other government, agency,  
8 person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.

9 C. Notwithstanding subsection B of this section, the  
10 Commission may deny a State's participation in the Compact or,  
11 in accordance with the requirements of Section 13.B, terminate a  
12 Member State's participation in the Compact, if it determines  
13 that a constitutional requirement of a Member State is a  
14 material departure from the Compact. Otherwise, if this Compact  
15 shall be held to be contrary to the constitution of any Member  
16 State, the Compact shall remain in full force and effect as to  
17 the remaining Member States and in full force and effect as to  
18 the Member State affected as to all severable matters.

19 SECTION 16. CONSISTENT EFFECT AND CONFLICT WITH OTHER STATE  
20 LAWS

21 A. A Licensee providing services in a Remote State under a  
22 Multistate Authorization to Practice shall adhere to the laws  
23 and regulations, including laws, regulations, and applicable  
24 standards, of the Remote State where the client is located at  
25 the time care is rendered.

26 B. Nothing herein shall prevent or inhibit the enforcement  
27 of any other law of a Member State that is not inconsistent with  
28 the Compact.

29 C. Any laws, statutes, regulations, or other legal  
30 requirements in a Member State in conflict with the Compact are



1 superseded to the extent of the conflict.

2 D. All permissible agreements between the Commission and the  
3 Member States are binding in accordance with their terms.

4 Section 3. When and how compact becomes operative.

5 (a) General rule.--When the Governor executes the  
6 Interstate Compact on behalf of this State and files a verified  
7 copy with the Secretary of the Commonwealth and when the compact  
8 is ratified by one or more other states, then the compact shall  
9 become operative and effective between this State and the other  
10 state or states. The Governor is authorized and directed to take  
11 action as may be necessary to complete the exchange of official  
12 documents between this State and any other state ratifying the  
13 compact.

14 (b) Notice in Pennsylvania Bulletin.--The Secretary of the  
15 Commonwealth shall transmit notice to the Legislative Reference  
16 Bureau for publication in the next available issue of the  
17 Pennsylvania Bulletin when the conditions specified in  
18 subsection (a) are satisfied and shall include in the notice the  
19 date on which the compact became effective and operative between  
20 this State and any other state or states in accordance with this  
21 act.

22 Section 4. Compensation and expenses of compact administrator.

23 The compact administrator who represents this State, as  
24 provided for in the Interstate Compact, shall not be entitled to  
25 any additional compensation for the compact administrator's  
26 duties and responsibilities as compact administrator but shall  
27 be entitled to reimbursement for reasonable expenses actually  
28 incurred in connection with the compact administrator's duties  
29 and responsibilities as compact administrator in the same manner  
30 as for expenses incurred in connection with other duties and

1 responsibilities of the compact administrator's office or  
2 employment.

3 Section 5. Effective date.

4 This act shall take effect in ~~60 days~~ 18 MONTHS.

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