

**As Passed by the Senate**

**135th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

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**S. B. No. 90**

**Senator Roegner**

**Cosponsors: Senators Johnson, Hoagland, Cirino, Craig, DeMora, Gavarone, Hackett, Hicks-Hudson, Ingram, Kunze, Landis, McColley, Reineke, Reynolds, Romanchuk, Rulli, Sykes, Wilkin**

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**A BILL**

To enact sections 4757.52 and 4757.521 of the 1  
Revised Code to enter into the Social Work 2  
Licensure Compact. 3

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 4757.52 and 4757.521 of the 4  
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 5

**Sec. 4757.52.** The "Social Work Licensure Compact" is 6  
hereby ratified, enacted into law, and entered into by the state 7  
of Ohio as a party to the compact with any other state that has 8  
legally joined in the compact as follows: 9

**SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT** 10

**SECTION 1: PURPOSE** 11

The purpose of this Compact is to facilitate interstate 12  
practice of Regulated Social Workers by improving public access 13  
to competent Social Work Services. The Compact preserves the 14  
regulatory authority of States to protect public health and 15  
safety through the current system of State licensure. 16

<u>This Compact is designed to achieve the following</u>	17
<u>objectives:</u>	18
<u>A. Increase public access to Social Work Services;</u>	19
<u>B. Reduce overly burdensome and duplicative requirements</u> <u>associated with holding multiple licenses;</u>	20 21
<u>C. Enhance the Member States' ability to protect the</u> <u>public's health and safety;</u>	22 23
<u>D. Encourage the cooperation of Member States in</u> <u>regulating multistate practice;</u>	24 25
<u>E. Promote mobility and address workforce shortages by</u> <u>eliminating the necessity for licenses in multiple States by</u> <u>providing for the mutual recognition of other Member State</u> <u>licenses;</u>	26 27 28 29
<u>F. Support military families;</u>	30
<u>G. Facilitate the exchange of licensure and disciplinary</u> <u>information among Member States;</u>	31 32
<u>H. Authorize all Member States to hold a Regulated Social</u> <u>Worker accountable for abiding by a Member State's laws,</u> <u>regulations, and applicable professional standards in the Member</u> <u>State in which the client is located at the time care is</u> <u>rendered; and</u>	33 34 35 36 37
<u>I. Allow for the use of telehealth to facilitate increased</u> <u>access to regulated Social Work Services.</u>	38 39
<b><u>SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS</u></b>	40
<u>As used in this Compact, and except as otherwise provided,</u> <u>the following definitions shall apply:</u>	41 42
<u>A. "Active Military Member" means any individual with</u>	43

full-time duty status in the active armed forces of the United States including members of the National Guard and Reserve. 44  
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**B. "Adverse Action"** means any administrative, civil, equitable or criminal action permitted by a State's laws which is imposed by a Licensing Authority or other authority against a Regulated Social Worker, including actions against an individual's license or Multistate Authorization to Practice such as revocation, suspension, probation, monitoring of the Licensee, limitation on the Licensee's practice, or any other Encumbrance on licensure affecting a Regulated Social Worker's authorization to practice, including issuance of a cease and desist action. 46  
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**C. "Alternative Program"** means a non-disciplinary monitoring or practice remediation process approved by a Licensing Authority to address practitioners with an Impairment. 56  
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**D. "Charter Member States"** - Member States who have enacted legislation to adopt this Compact where such legislation predates the effective date of this Compact as described in Section 14. 59  
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**E. "Compact Commission" or "Commission"** means the government agency whose membership consists of all States that have enacted this Compact, which is known as the Social Work Licensure Compact Commission, as described in Section 10, and which shall operate as an instrumentality of the Member States. 63  
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**F. "Current Significant Investigative Information"** means: 68  
1. Investigative information that a Licensing Authority, after a preliminary inquiry that includes notification and an opportunity for the Regulated Social Worker to respond has reason to believe is not groundless and, if proved true, would 69  
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indicate more than a minor infraction as may be defined by the 73  
Commission; or 74

2. Investigative information that indicates that the 75  
Regulated Social Worker represents an immediate threat to public 76  
health and safety, as may be defined by the Commission, 77  
regardless of whether the Regulated Social Worker has been 78  
notified and has had an opportunity to respond. 79

G. "Data System" means a repository of information about 80  
Licensees, including, continuing education, examination, 81  
licensure, Current Significant Investigative Information, 82  
Disqualifying Event, Multistate License(s) and Adverse Action 83  
information or other information as required by the Commission. 84

H. "Domicile" means the jurisdiction in which the Licensee 85  
resides and intends to remain indefinitely. 86

I. "Disqualifying Event" means any Adverse Action or 87  
incident which results in an Encumbrance that disqualifies or 88  
makes the Licensee ineligible to either obtain, retain or renew 89  
a Multistate License. 90

J. "Encumbrance" means a revocation or suspension of, or 91  
any limitation on, the full and unrestricted practice of Social 92  
Work licensed and regulated by a Licensing Authority. 93

K. "Executive Committee" means a group of delegates 94  
elected or appointed to act on behalf of, and within the powers 95  
granted to them by, the compact and Commission. 96

L. "Home State" means the Member State that is the 97  
Licensee's primary Domicile. 98

M. "Impairment" means a condition(s) that may impair a 99  
practitioner's ability to engage in full and unrestricted 100

practice as a Regulated Social Worker without some type of 101  
intervention and may include alcohol and drug dependence, mental 102  
health impairment, and neurological or physical impairments. 103

N. "Licensee(s)" means an individual who currently holds a 104  
license from a State to practice as a Regulated Social Worker. 105

O. "Licensing Authority" means the board or agency of a 106  
Member State, or equivalent, that is responsible for the 107  
licensing and regulation of Regulated Social Workers. 108

P. "Member State" means a state, commonwealth, district, 109  
or territory of the United States of America that has enacted 110  
this Compact. 111

Q. "Multistate Authorization to Practice" means a legally 112  
authorized privilege to practice, which is equivalent to a 113  
license, associated with a Multistate License permitting the 114  
practice of Social Work in a Remote State. 115

R. "Multistate License" means a license to practice as a 116  
Regulated Social Worker issued by a Home State Licensing 117  
Authority that authorizes the Regulated Social Worker to 118  
practice in all Member States under Multistate Authorization to 119  
Practice. 120

S. "Qualifying National Exam" means a national licensing 121  
examination approved by the Commission. 122

T. "Regulated Social Worker" means any clinical, master's 123  
or bachelor's Social Worker licensed by a Member State 124  
regardless of the title used by that Member State. 125

U. "Remote State" means a Member State other than the 126  
Licensee's Home State. 127

V. "Rule(s)" or "Rule(s) of the Commission" means a 128

regulation or regulations duly promulgated by the Commission, as 129  
authorized by the Compact, that has the force of law. 130

W. "Single State License" means a Social Work license 131  
issued by any State that authorizes practice only within the 132  
issuing State and does not include Multistate Authorization to 133  
Practice in any Member State. 134

X. "Social Work" or "Social Work Services" means the 135  
application of social work theory, knowledge, methods, ethics, 136  
and the professional use of self to restore or enhance social, 137  
psychosocial, or biopsychosocial functioning of individuals, 138  
couples, families, groups, organizations, and communities 139  
through the care and services provided by a Regulated Social 140  
Worker as set forth in the Member State's statutes and 141  
regulations in the State where the services are being provided. 142

Y. "State" means any state, commonwealth, district, or 143  
territory of the United States of America that regulates the 144  
practice of Social Work. 145

Z. "Unencumbered License" means a license that authorizes 146  
a Regulated Social Worker to engage in the full and unrestricted 147  
practice of Social Work. 148

**SECTION 3. STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT** 149

A. To be eligible to participate in the compact, a 150  
potential Member State must currently meet all of the following 151  
criteria: 152

1. License and regulate the practice of Social Work at 153  
either the clinical, master's, or bachelor's category. 154

2. Require applicants for licensure to graduate from a 155  
program that is: 156

<u>a. Operated by a college or university recognized by the</u>	157
<u>Licensing Authority;</u>	158
<u>b. Accredited, or in candidacy by an institution that</u>	159
<u>subsequently becomes accredited, by an accrediting agency</u>	160
<u>recognized by either:</u>	161
<u>i. the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or its</u>	162
<u>successor; or</u>	163
<u>ii. the United States Department of Education; and</u>	164
<u>c. Corresponds to the licensure sought as outlined in</u>	165
<u>Section 4.</u>	166
<u>3. Require applicants for clinical licensure to complete a</u>	167
<u>period of supervised practice.</u>	168
<u>4. Have a mechanism in place for receiving, investigating,</u>	169
<u>and adjudicating complaints about Licensees.</u>	170
<u>B. To maintain membership in the Compact a Member State</u>	171
<u>shall:</u>	172
<u>1. Require that applicants for a Multistate License pass a</u>	173
<u>Qualifying National Exam for the corresponding category of</u>	174
<u>Multistate License sought as outlined in Section 4.</u>	175
<u>2. Participate fully in the Commission's Data System,</u>	176
<u>including using the Commission's unique identifier as defined in</u>	177
<u>Rules;</u>	178
<u>3. Notify the Commission, in compliance with the terms of</u>	179
<u>the Compact and Rules, of any Adverse Action or the availability</u>	180
<u>of Current Significant Investigative Information regarding a</u>	181
<u>Licensee;</u>	182
<u>4. Implement procedures for considering the criminal</u>	183

history records of applicants for a Multistate License. Such 184  
procedures shall include the submission of fingerprints or other 185  
biometric-based information by applicants for the purpose of 186  
obtaining an applicant's criminal history record information 187  
from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the agency 188  
responsible for retaining that State's criminal records. 189

5. Comply with the Rules of the Commission; 190

6. Require an applicant to obtain or retain a license in 191  
the Home State and meet the Home State's qualifications for 192  
licensure or renewal of licensure, as well as all other 193  
applicable Home State laws; 194

7. Authorize a Licensee holding a Multistate License in 195  
any Member State to practice in accordance with the terms of the 196  
Compact and Rules of the Commission; and 197

8. Designate a delegate to participate in the Commission 198  
meetings. 199

C. A Member State meeting the requirements of Section 3.A. 200  
and 3.B of this Compact shall designate the categories of Social 201  
Work licensure that are eligible for issuance of a Multistate 202  
License for applicants in such Member State. To the extent that 203  
any Member State does not meet the requirements for 204  
participation in the Compact at any particular category of 205  
Social Work licensure, such Member State may choose, but is not 206  
obligated to, issue a Multistate License to applicants that 207  
otherwise meet the requirements of Section 4 for issuance of a 208  
Multistate License in such category or categories of licensure. 209

D. The Home State may charge a fee for granting the 210  
Multistate License. 211

**SECTION 4. SOCIAL WORKER PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT** 212

<u>A. To be eligible for a Multistate License under the terms</u>	213
<u>and provisions of the Compact, an applicant, regardless of</u>	214
<u>category must:</u>	215
<u>1. Hold or be eligible for an active, Unencumbered License</u>	216
<u>in the Home State;</u>	217
<u>2. Pay any applicable fees, including any State fee, for</u>	218
<u>the Multistate License;</u>	219
<u>3. Submit, in connection with an application for a</u>	220
<u>Multistate License, fingerprints or other biometric data for the</u>	221
<u>purpose of obtaining criminal history record information from</u>	222
<u>the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the agency responsible</u>	223
<u>for retaining that State's criminal records.</u>	224
<u>4. Notify the Home State of any Adverse Action,</u>	225
<u>Encumbrance, or restriction on any professional license taken by</u>	226
<u>any Member State or non-Member State within 30 days from the</u>	227
<u>date the action is taken.</u>	228
<u>5. Meet any continuing competence requirements established</u>	229
<u>by the Home State;</u>	230
<u>6. Abide by the laws, regulations, and applicable</u>	231
<u>standards in the Member State where the client is located at the</u>	232
<u>time care is rendered.</u>	233
<u>B. An applicant for a clinical-category Multistate License</u>	234
<u>must meet all of the following requirements:</u>	235
<u>2. Fulfill a competency requirement, which shall be</u>	236
<u>satisfied by either:</u>	237
<u>a. Passage of a clinical-category Qualifying National</u>	238
<u>Exam; or</u>	239

<u>b. Licensure of the applicant in their Home State at the</u>	240
<u>clinical category, beginning prior to such time as a Qualifying</u>	241
<u>National Exam was required by the Home State and accompanied by</u>	242
<u>a period of continuous Social Work licensure thereafter, all of</u>	243
<u>which may be further governed by the Rules of the Commission; or</u>	244
<u>c. The substantial equivalency of the foregoing competency</u>	245
<u>requirements which the Commission may determine by Rule.</u>	246
<u>3. Attain at least a master's degree in Social Work from a</u>	247
<u>program that is:</u>	248
<u>a. Operated by a college or university recognized by the</u>	249
<u>Licensing Authority; and</u>	250
<u>b. Accredited, or in candidacy that subsequently becomes</u>	251
<u>accredited, by an accrediting agency recognized by either:</u>	252
<u>i. the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its</u>	253
<u>successor; or</u>	254
<u>ii. the United States Department of Education.</u>	255
<u>4. Fulfill a practice requirement, which shall be</u>	256
<u>satisfied by demonstrating completion of either:</u>	257
<u>a. A period of postgraduate supervised clinical practice</u>	258
<u>equal to a minimum of three thousand hours; or</u>	259
<u>b. A minimum of two years of full-time postgraduate</u>	260
<u>supervised clinical practice; or</u>	261
<u>c. The substantial equivalency of the foregoing practice</u>	262
<u>requirements which the Commission may determine by Rule.</u>	263
<u>C. An applicant for a master's-category Multistate License</u>	264
<u>must meet all of the following requirements:</u>	265
<u>1. Fulfill a competency requirement, which shall be</u>	266

<u>satisfied by either:</u>	267
<u>a. Passage of a masters-category Qualifying National Exam;</u>	268
<u>b. Licensure of the applicant in their Home State at the</u>	269
<u>master's category, beginning prior to such time as a Qualifying</u>	270
<u>National Exam was required by the Home State at the master's</u>	271
<u>category and accompanied by a continuous period of Social Work</u>	272
<u>licensure thereafter, all of which may be further governed by</u>	273
<u>the Rules of the Commission; or</u>	274
<u>c. The substantial equivalency of the foregoing competency</u>	275
<u>requirements which the Commission may determine by Rule.</u>	276
<u>2. Attain at least a master's degree in Social Work from a</u>	277
<u>program that is:</u>	278
<u>a. Operated by a college or university recognized by the</u>	279
<u>Licensing Authority; and</u>	280
<u>b. Accredited, or in candidacy that subsequently becomes</u>	281
<u>accredited, by an accrediting agency recognized by either:</u>	282
<u>i. the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its</u>	283
<u>successor; or</u>	284
<u>ii. the United States Department of Education.</u>	285
<u>D. An applicant for a bachelor's-category Multistate</u>	286
<u>License must meet all of the following requirements:</u>	287
<u>1. Fulfill a competency requirement, which shall be</u>	288
<u>satisfied by either:</u>	289
<u>a. Passage of a bachelor's-category Qualifying National</u>	290
<u>Exam;</u>	291
<u>b. Licensure of the applicant in their Home State at the</u>	292
<u>bachelor's category, beginning prior to such time as a</u>	293

<u>Qualifying National Exam was required by the Home State and</u>	294
<u>accompanied by a period of continuous Social Work licensure</u>	295
<u>thereafter, all of which may be further governed by the Rules of</u>	296
<u>the Commission; or</u>	297
<u>c. The substantial equivalency of the foregoing competency</u>	298
<u>requirements which the Commission may determine by Rule.</u>	299
<u>2. Attain at least a bachelor's degree in Social Work from</u>	300
<u>a program that is:</u>	301
<u>a. Operated by a college or university recognized by the</u>	302
<u>Licensing Authority; and</u>	303
<u>b. Accredited, or in candidacy that subsequently becomes</u>	304
<u>accredited, by an accrediting agency recognized by either:</u>	305
<u>i. the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its</u>	306
<u>successor; or</u>	307
<u>ii. the United States Department of Education.</u>	308
<u>E. The Multistate License for a Regulated Social Worker is</u>	309
<u>subject to the renewal requirements of the Home State. The</u>	310
<u>Regulated Social Worker must maintain compliance with the</u>	311
<u>requirements of Section 4(A) to be eligible to renew a</u>	312
<u>Multistate License.</u>	313
<u>F. The Regulated Social Worker's services in a Remote</u>	314
<u>State are subject to that Member State's regulatory authority. A</u>	315
<u>Remote State may, in accordance with due process and that Member</u>	316
<u>State's laws, remove a Regulated Social Worker's Multistate</u>	317
<u>Authorization to Practice in the Remote State for a specific</u>	318
<u>period of time, impose fines, and take any other necessary</u>	319
<u>actions to protect the health and safety of its citizens.</u>	320
<u>G. If a Multistate License is encumbered, the Regulated</u>	321

Social Worker's Multistate Authorization to Practice shall be 322  
deactivated in all Remote States until the Multistate License is 323  
no longer encumbered. 324

H. If a Multistate Authorization to Practice is encumbered 325  
in a Remote State, the regulated Social Worker's Multistate 326  
Authorization to Practice may be deactivated in that State until 327  
the Multistate Authorization to Practice is no longer 328  
encumbered. 329

**SECTION 5: ISSUANCE OF A MULTISTATE LICENSE** 330

A. Upon receipt of an application for Multistate License, 331  
the Home State Licensing Authority shall determine the 332  
applicant's eligibility for a Multistate License in accordance 333  
with Section 4 of this Compact. 334

B. If such applicant is eligible pursuant to Section 4 of 335  
this Compact, the Home State Licensing Authority shall issue a 336  
Multistate License that authorizes the applicant or Regulated 337  
Social Worker to practice in all Member States under a 338  
Multistate Authorization to Practice. 339

C. Upon issuance of a Multistate License, the Home State 340  
Licensing Authority shall designate whether the Regulated Social 341  
Worker holds a Multistate License in the Bachelors, Masters, or 342  
Clinical category of Social Work. 343

D. A Multistate License issued by a Home State to a 344  
resident in that State shall be recognized by all Compact Member 345  
States as authorizing Social Work Practice under a Multistate 346  
Authorization to Practice corresponding to each category of 347  
licensure regulated in each Member State. 348

**SECTION 6: AUTHORITY OF INTERSTATE COMPACT COMMISSION AND MEMBER** 349  
**STATE LICENSING AUTHORITIES** 350

A. Nothing in this Compact, nor any Rule of the Commission, shall be construed to limit, restrict, or in any way reduce the ability of a Member State to enact and enforce laws, regulations, or other rules related to the practice of Social Work in that State, where those laws, regulations, or other rules are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Compact. 351  
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B. Nothing in this Compact shall affect the requirements established by a Member State for the issuance of a Single State License. 357  
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C. Nothing in this Compact, nor any Rule of the Commission, shall be construed to limit, restrict, or in any way reduce the ability of a Member State to take Adverse Action against a Licensee's Single State License to practice Social Work in that State. 360  
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D. Nothing in this Compact, nor any Rule of the Commission, shall be construed to limit, restrict, or in any way reduce the ability of a Remote State to take Adverse Action against a Licensee's Multistate Authorization to Practice in that State. 365  
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E. Nothing in this Compact, nor any Rule of the Commission, shall be construed to limit, restrict, or in any way reduce the ability of a Licensee's Home State to take Adverse Action against a Licensee's Multistate License based upon information provided by a Remote State. 370  
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**SECTION 7: REISSUANCE OF A MULTISTATE LICENSE BY A NEW HOME STATE** 375  
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A. A Licensee can hold a Multistate License, issued by their Home State, in only one Member State at any given time. 377  
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B. If a Licensee changes their Home State by moving 379

<u>between two Member States:</u>	380
<u>1. The Licensee shall immediately apply for the reissuance</u>	381
<u>of their Multistate License in their new Home State. The</u>	382
<u>Licensee shall pay all applicable fees and notify the prior Home</u>	383
<u>State in accordance with the Rules of the Commission.</u>	384
<u>2. Upon receipt of an application to reissue a Multistate</u>	385
<u>License, the new Home State shall verify that the Multistate</u>	386
<u>License is active, unencumbered and eligible for reissuance</u>	387
<u>under the terms of the Compact and the Rules of the Commission.</u>	388
<u>The Multistate License issued by the prior Home State will be</u>	389
<u>deactivated and all Member States notified in accordance with</u>	390
<u>the applicable Rules adopted by the Commission.</u>	391
<u>3. Prior to the reissuance of the Multistate License, the</u>	392
<u>new Home State shall conduct procedures for considering the</u>	393
<u>criminal history records of the Licensee. Such procedures shall</u>	394
<u>include the submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based</u>	395
<u>information by applicants for the purpose of obtaining an</u>	396
<u>applicant's criminal history record information from the Federal</u>	397
<u>Bureau of Investigation and the agency responsible for retaining</u>	398
<u>that State's criminal records.</u>	399
<u>4. If required for initial licensure, the new Home State</u>	400
<u>may require completion of jurisprudence requirements in the new</u>	401
<u>Home State.</u>	402
<u>5. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Compact, if</u>	403
<u>a Licensee does not meet the requirements set forth in this</u>	404
<u>Compact for the reissuance of a Multistate License by the new</u>	405
<u>Home State, then the Licensee shall be subject to the new Home</u>	406
<u>State requirements for the issuance of a Single State License in</u>	407
<u>that State.</u>	408

C. If a Licensee changes their primary State of residence 409  
by moving from a Member State to a non-Member State, or from a 410  
non-Member State to a Member State, then the Licensee shall be 411  
subject to the State requirements for the issuance of a Single 412  
State License in the new Home State. 413

D. Nothing in this Compact shall interfere with a 414  
Licensee's ability to hold a Single State License in multiple 415  
States; however, for the purposes of this Compact, a Licensee 416  
shall have only one Home State, and only one Multistate License. 417

E. Nothing in this Compact shall interfere with the 418  
requirements established by a Member State for the issuance of a 419  
Single State License. 420

**SECTION 8. MILITARY FAMILIES** 421

An Active Military Member or their spouse shall designate 422  
a Home State where the individual has a Multistate License. The 423  
individual may retain their Home State designation during the 424  
period the service member is on active duty. 425

**SECTION 9. ADVERSE ACTIONS** 426

A. In addition to the other powers conferred by State law, 427  
a Remote State shall have the authority, in accordance with 428  
existing State due process law, to: 429

1. Take Adverse Action against a Regulated Social Worker's 430  
Multistate Authorization to Practice only within that Member 431  
State, and issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations 432  
that require the attendance and testimony of witnesses as well 433  
as the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a Licensing 434  
Authority in a Member State for the attendance and testimony of 435  
witnesses or the production of evidence from another Member 436  
State shall be enforced in the latter State by any court of 437

competent jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure 438  
of that court applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings 439  
pending before it. The issuing Licensing Authority shall pay any 440  
witness fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other fees required 441  
by the service statutes of the State in which the witnesses or 442  
evidence are located. 443

2. Only the Home State shall have the power to take 444  
Adverse Action against a Regulated Social Worker's Multistate 445  
License. 446

B. For purposes of taking Adverse Action, the Home State 447  
shall give the same priority and effect to reported conduct 448  
received from a Member State as it would if the conduct had 449  
occurred within the Home State. In so doing, the Home State 450  
shall apply its own State laws to determine appropriate action. 451

C. The Home State shall complete any pending 452  
investigations of a Regulated Social Worker who changes their 453  
Home State during the course of the investigations. The Home 454  
State shall also have the authority to take appropriate 455  
action(s) and shall promptly report the conclusions of the 456  
investigations to the administrator of the Data System. The 457  
administrator of the Data System shall promptly notify the new 458  
Home State of any Adverse Actions. 459

D. A Member State, if otherwise permitted by State law, 460  
may recover from the affected Regulated Social Worker the costs 461  
of investigations and dispositions of cases resulting from any 462  
Adverse Action taken against that Regulated Social Worker. 463

E. A Member State may take Adverse Action based on the 464  
factual findings of another Member State, provided that the 465  
Member State follows its own procedures for taking the Adverse 466

<u>Action.</u>	467
<u>F. Joint Investigations:</u>	468
<u>1. In addition to the authority granted to a Member State</u>	469
<u>by its respective Social Work practice act or other applicable</u>	470
<u>State law, any Member State may participate with other Member</u>	471
<u>States in joint investigations of Licensees.</u>	472
<u>2. Member States shall share any investigative,</u>	473
<u>litigation, or compliance materials in furtherance of any joint</u>	474
<u>or individual investigation initiated under the Compact.</u>	475
<u>G. If Adverse Action is taken by the Home State against</u>	476
<u>the Multistate License of a Regulated Social Worker, the</u>	477
<u>Regulated Social Worker's Multistate Authorization to Practice</u>	478
<u>in all other Member States shall be deactivated until all</u>	479
<u>Encumbrances have been removed from the Multistate License. All</u>	480
<u>Home State disciplinary orders that impose Adverse Action</u>	481
<u>against the license of a Regulated Social Worker shall include a</u>	482
<u>statement that the Regulated Social Worker's Multistate</u>	483
<u>Authorization to Practice is deactivated in all Member States</u>	484
<u>until all conditions of the decision, order or agreement are</u>	485
<u>satisfied.</u>	486
<u>H. If a Member State takes Adverse Action, it shall</u>	487
<u>promptly notify the administrator of the Data System. The</u>	488
<u>administrator of the Data System shall promptly notify the Home</u>	489
<u>State and all other Member State's of any Adverse Actions by</u>	490
<u>Remote States.</u>	491
<u>I. Nothing in this Compact shall override a Member State's</u>	492
<u>decision that participation in an Alternative Program may be</u>	493
<u>used in lieu of Adverse Action.</u>	494
<u>J. Nothing in this Compact shall authorize a Member State</u>	495

to demand the issuance of subpoenas for attendance and testimony 496  
of witnesses or the production of evidence from another Member 497  
State for lawful actions within that Member State. 498

K. Nothing in this Compact shall authorize a Member State 499  
to impose discipline against a Regulated Social Worker who holds 500  
a Multistate Authorization to Practice for lawful actions within 501  
another Member State. 502

**SECTION 10. ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT** 503

**COMMISSION** 504

A. The Compact Member States hereby create and establish a 505  
joint government agency whose membership consists of all Member 506  
States that have enacted the compact known as the Social Work 507  
Licensure Compact Commission. The Commission is an 508  
instrumentality of the Compact States acting jointly and not an 509  
instrumentality of any one State. The Commission shall come into 510  
existence on or after the effective date of the Compact as set 511  
forth in Section 14. 512

B. Membership, Voting, and Meetings 513

1. Each Member State shall have and be limited to one (1) 514  
delegate selected by that Member State's State Licensing 515  
Authority. 516

2. The delegate shall be either: 517

a. A current member of the State Licensing Authority at 518  
the time of appointment, who is a Regulated Social Worker or 519  
public member of the State Licensing Authority; or 520

b. An administrator of the State Licensing Authority or 521  
their designee. 522

3. The Commission shall by Rule or bylaw establish a term 523

<u>of office for delegates and may by Rule or bylaw establish term</u>	524
<u>limits.</u>	525
<u>4. The Commission may recommend removal or suspension any</u>	526
<u>delegate from office.</u>	527
<u>5. A Member State's State Licensing Authority shall fill</u>	528
<u>any vacancy of its delegate occurring on the Commission within</u>	529
<u>60 days of the vacancy.</u>	530
<u>6. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote on all</u>	531
<u>matters before the Commission requiring a vote by Commission</u>	532
<u>delegates.</u>	533
<u>7. A delegate shall vote in person or by such other means</u>	534
<u>as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates</u>	535
<u>to meet by telecommunication, videoconference, or other means of</u>	536
<u>communication.</u>	537
<u>8. The Commission shall meet at least once during each</u>	538
<u>calendar year. Additional meetings may be held as set forth in</u>	539
<u>the bylaws. The Commission may meet by telecommunication, video</u>	540
<u>conference or other similar electronic means.</u>	541
<u>C. The Commission shall have the following powers:</u>	542
<u>1. Establish the fiscal year of the Commission;</u>	543
<u>2. Establish code of conduct and conflict of interest</u>	544
<u>policies;</u>	545
<u>3. Establish and amend Rules and bylaws;</u>	546
<u>4. Maintain its financial records in accordance with the</u>	547
<u>bylaws;</u>	548
<u>5. Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the</u>	549
<u>provisions of this Compact, the Commission's Rules, and the</u>	550

<u>bylaws;</u>	551
<u>6. Initiate and conclude legal proceedings or actions in the name of the Commission, provided that the standing of any State Licensing Board to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected;</u>	552 553 554 555
<u>7. Maintain and certify records and information provided to a Member State as the authenticated business records of the Commission, and designate an agent to do so on the Commission's behalf;</u>	556 557 558 559
<u>8. Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;</u>	560
<u>9. Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a Member State;</u>	561 562
<u>10. Conduct an annual financial review</u>	563
<u>11. Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant such individuals appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the Compact, and establish the Commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel, and other related personnel matters;</u>	564 565 566 567 568 569
<u>12. Assess and collect fees;</u>	570
<u>13. Accept any and all appropriate gifts, donations, grants of money, other sources of revenue, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, and receive, utilize, and dispose of the same; provided that at all times the Commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest;</u>	571 572 573 574 575
<u>14. Lease, purchase, retain, own, hold, improve, or use any property, real, personal, or mixed, or any undivided interest therein;</u>	576 577 578

<u>15. Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange,</u>	579
<u>abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property real, personal, or</u>	580
<u>mixed;</u>	581
<u>16. Establish a budget and make expenditures;</u>	582
<u>17. Borrow money;</u>	583
<u>18. Appoint committees, including standing committees,</u>	584
<u>composed of members, State regulators, State legislators or</u>	585
<u>their representatives, and consumer representatives, and such</u>	586
<u>other interested persons as may be designated in this Compact</u>	587
<u>and the bylaws;</u>	588
<u>19. Provide and receive information from, and cooperate</u>	589
<u>with, law enforcement agencies;</u>	590
<u>20. Establish and elect an Executive Committee, including</u>	591
<u>a chair and a vice chair;</u>	592
<u>21. Determine whether a State's adopted language is</u>	593
<u>materially different from the model compact language such that</u>	594
<u>the State would not qualify for participation in the Compact;</u>	595
<u>and</u>	596
<u>22. Perform such other functions as may be necessary or</u>	597
<u>appropriate to achieve the purposes of this Compact.</u>	598
<u>D. The Executive Committee</u>	599
<u>1. The Executive Committee shall have the power to act on</u>	600
<u>behalf of the Commission according to the terms of this Compact.</u>	601
<u>The powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Executive</u>	602
<u>Committee shall include:</u>	603
<u>a. Oversee the day-to-day activities of the administration</u>	604
<u>of the compact including enforcement and compliance with the</u>	605

<u>provisions of the compact, its Rules and bylaws, and other such</u>	606
<u>duties as deemed necessary;</u>	607
<u>b. Recommend to the Commission changes to the Rules or</u>	608
<u>bylaws, changes to this Compact legislation, fees charged to</u>	609
<u>Compact Member States, fees charged to Licensees, and other</u>	610
<u>fees;</u>	611
<u>c. Ensure Compact administration services are</u>	612
<u>appropriately provided, including by contract;</u>	613
<u>d. Prepare and recommend the budget;</u>	614
<u>e. Maintain financial records on behalf of the Commission;</u>	615
<u>f. Monitor Compact compliance of Member States and provide</u>	616
<u>compliance reports to the Commission;</u>	617
<u>g. Establish additional committees as necessary;</u>	618
<u>h. Exercise the powers and duties of the Commission during</u>	619
<u>the interim between Commission meetings, except for adopting or</u>	620
<u>amending Rules, adopting or amending bylaws, and exercising any</u>	621
<u>other powers and duties expressly reserved to the Commission by</u>	622
<u>Rule or bylaw; and</u>	623
<u>i. Other duties as provided in the Rules or bylaws of the</u>	624
<u>Commission.</u>	625
<u>2. The Executive Committee shall be composed of up to</u>	626
<u>eleven (11) members:</u>	627
<u>a. The chair and vice chair of the Commission shall be</u>	628
<u>voting members of the Executive Committee; and</u>	629
<u>b. The Commission shall elect five voting members from the</u>	630
<u>current membership of the Commission.</u>	631
<u>c. Up to four (4) ex-officio, nonvoting members from four</u>	632

<u>(4) recognized national Social Work organizations.</u>	633
<u>d. The ex-officio members will be selected by their</u>	634
<u>respective organizations.</u>	635
<u>3. The Commission may remove any member of the Executive</u>	636
<u>Committee as provided in the Commission's bylaws.</u>	637
<u>4. The Executive Committee shall meet at least annually.</u>	638
<u>a. Executive Committee meetings shall be open to the</u>	639
<u>public, except that the Executive Committee may meet in a</u>	640
<u>closed, non-public meeting as provided in subsection F.2 below.</u>	641
<u>b. The Executive Committee shall give seven (7) days'</u>	642
<u>notice of its meetings, posted on its website and as determined</u>	643
<u>to provide notice to persons with an interest in the business of</u>	644
<u>the Commission.</u>	645
<u>c. The Executive Committee may hold a special meeting in</u>	646
<u>accordance with subsection F.1.b. below.</u>	647
<u>E. The Commission shall adopt and provide to the Member</u>	648
<u>States an annual report.</u>	649
<u>F. Meetings of the Commission</u>	650
<u>1. All meetings shall be open to the public, except that</u>	651
<u>the Commission may meet in a closed, non-public meeting as</u>	652
<u>provided in subsection F.2 below.</u>	653
<u>a. Public notice for all meetings of the full Commission</u>	654
<u>of meetings shall be given in the same manner as required under</u>	655
<u>the Rulemaking provisions in Section 12, except that the</u>	656
<u>Commission may hold a special meeting as provided in subsection</u>	657
<u>F.1.b below.</u>	658
<u>b. The Commission may hold a special meeting when it must</u>	659

meet to conduct emergency business by giving 48 hours' notice to 660  
all commissioners, on the Commission's website, and other means 661  
as provided in the Commission's Rules. The Commission's legal 662  
counsel shall certify that the Commission's need to meet 663  
qualifies as an emergency. 664

2. The Commission or the Executive Committee or other 665  
committees of the Commission may convene in a closed, non-public 666  
meeting for the Commission or Executive Committee or other 667  
committees of the Commission to receive legal advice or to 668  
discuss: 669

a. Non-compliance of a Member State with its obligations 670  
under the Compact; 671

b. The employment, compensation, discipline or other 672  
matters, practices or procedures related to specific employees; 673

c. Current or threatened discipline of a Licensee by the 674  
Commission or by a Member State's Licensing Authority; 675

d. Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated 676  
litigation; 677

e. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or 678  
sale of goods, services, or real estate; 679

f. Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring 680  
any person; 681

g. Trade secrets or commercial or financial information 682  
that is privileged or confidential; 683

h. Information of a personal nature where disclosure would 684  
constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; 685

i. Investigative records compiled for law enforcement 686

<u>purposes;</u>	687
<u>j. Information related to any investigative reports</u>	688
<u>prepared by or on behalf of or for use of the Commission or</u>	689
<u>other committee charged with responsibility of investigation or</u>	690
<u>determination of compliance issues pursuant to the Compact;</u>	691
<u>k. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by</u>	692
<u>federal or Member State law; or</u>	693
<u>1. Other matters as promulgated by the Commission by Rule.</u>	694
<u>3. If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed, the</u>	695
<u>presiding officer shall state that the meeting will be closed</u>	696
<u>and reference each relevant exempting provision, and such</u>	697
<u>reference shall be recorded in the minutes.</u>	698
<u>4. The Commission shall keep minutes that fully and</u>	699
<u>clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall</u>	700
<u>provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the</u>	701
<u>reasons therefore, including a description of the views</u>	702
<u>expressed. All documents considered in connection with an action</u>	703
<u>shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and documents</u>	704
<u>of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release</u>	705
<u>only by a majority vote of the Commission or order of a court of</u>	706
<u>competent jurisdiction.</u>	707
<u>G. Financing of the Commission</u>	708
<u>1. The Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment</u>	709
<u>of, the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization,</u>	710
<u>and ongoing activities.</u>	711
<u>2. The Commission may accept any and all appropriate</u>	712
<u>revenue sources as provided in subsection C(13).</u>	713
<u>3. The Commission may levy on and collect an annual</u>	714

assessment from each Member State and impose fees on Licensees 715  
of Member States to whom it grants a Multistate License to cover 716  
the cost of the operations and activities of the Commission and 717  
its staff, which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover 718  
its annual budget as approved each year for which revenue is not 719  
provided by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment 720  
amount for Member States shall be allocated based upon a formula 721  
that the Commission shall promulgate by Rule. 722

4. The Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind 723  
prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same; nor shall 724  
the Commission pledge the credit of any of the Member States, 725  
except by and with the authority of the Member State. 726

5. The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all 727  
receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of 728  
the Commission shall be subject to the financial review and 729  
accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However, all 730  
receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the Commission 731  
shall be subject to an annual financial review by a certified or 732  
licensed public accountant, and the report of the financial 733  
review shall be included in and become part of the annual report 734  
of the Commission. 735

H. Qualified Immunity, Defense, and Indemnification 736

1. The members, officers, executive director, employees 737  
and representatives of the Commission shall be immune from suit 738  
and liability, both personally and in their official capacity, 739  
for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal 740  
injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any 741  
actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that 742  
the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis 743  
for believing occurred within the scope of Commission 744

employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that nothing in 745  
this paragraph shall be construed to protect any such person 746  
from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury, or 747  
liability caused by the intentional or willful or wanton 748  
misconduct of that person. The procurement of insurance of any 749  
type by the Commission shall not in any way compromise or limit 750  
the immunity granted hereunder. 751

2. The Commission shall defend any member, officer, 752  
executive director, employee, and representative of the 753  
Commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability 754  
arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission 755  
that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, 756  
or responsibilities, or as determined by the Commission that the 757  
person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for 758  
believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, 759  
duties, or responsibilities; provided that nothing herein shall 760  
be construed to prohibit that person from retaining their own 761  
counsel at their own expense; and provided further, that the 762  
actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from 763  
that person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct. 764

3. The Commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any 765  
member, officer, executive director, employee, and 766  
representative of the Commission for the amount of any 767  
settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out 768  
of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred 769  
within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or 770  
responsibilities, or that such person had a reasonable basis for 771  
believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, 772  
duties, or responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged 773  
act, error, or omission did not result from the intentional or 774  
willful or wanton misconduct of that person. 775

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. 776  
777  
778  
779

5. Nothing in this Compact shall be interpreted to waive or otherwise abrogate a Member State's state 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. 780  
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6. Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity by the Member States or by the Commission. 785  
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**SECTION 11. DATA SYSTEM** 788

A. The Commission shall provide for the development, maintenance, operation, and utilization of a coordinated Data System. 789  
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B. The Commission shall assign each applicant for a Multistate License a unique identifier, as determined by the Rules of the Commission. 792  
793  
794

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: 795  
796  
797  
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799

1. Identifying information; 800

2. Licensure data; 801

3. Adverse Actions against a license and information related thereto; 802  
803

4. Non-confidential information related to Alternative 804  
Program participation, the beginning and ending dates of such 805  
participation, and other information related to such 806  
participation not made confidential under Member State law; 807

5. Any denial of application for licensure, and the 808  
reason(s) for such denial; 809

6. The presence of Current Significant Investigative 810  
Information; and 811

7. Other information that may facilitate the 812  
administration of this Compact or the protection of the public, 813  
as determined by the Rules of the Commission. 814

D. The records and information provided to a Member State 815  
pursuant to this Compact or through the Data System, when 816  
certified by the Commission or an agent thereof, shall 817  
constitute the authenticated business records of the Commission, 818  
and shall be entitled to any associated hearsay exception in any 819  
relevant judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative proceedings 820  
in a Member State. 821

E. Current Significant Investigative Information 822  
pertaining to a Licensee in any Member State will only be 823  
available to other Member States. 824

1. It is the responsibility of the Member States to report 825  
any Adverse Action against a Licensee and to monitor the 826  
database to determine whether Adverse Action has been taken 827  
against a Licensee. Adverse Action information pertaining to a 828  
Licensee in any Member State will be available to any other 829  
Member State. 830

F. Member States contributing information to the Data 831  
System may designate information that may not be shared with the 832

public without the express permission of the contributing State. 833

G. Any information submitted to the Data System that is 834  
subsequently expunged pursuant to federal law or the laws of the 835  
Member State contributing the information shall be removed from 836  
the Data System. 837

**SECTION 12. RULEMAKING** 838

A. The Commission shall promulgate reasonable Rules in 839  
order to effectively and efficiently implement and administer 840  
the purposes and provisions of the Compact. A Rule shall be 841  
invalid and have no force or effect only if a court of competent 842  
jurisdiction holds that the Rule is invalid because the 843  
Commission exercised its rulemaking authority in a manner that 844  
is beyond the scope and purposes of the Compact, or the powers 845  
granted hereunder, or based upon another applicable standard of 846  
review. 847

B. The Rules of the Commission shall have the force of law 848  
in each Member State, provided however that where the Rules of 849  
the Commission conflict with the laws of the Member State that 850  
establish the Member State's laws, regulations, and applicable 851  
standards that govern the practice of Social Work as held by a 852  
court of competent jurisdiction, the Rules of the Commission 853  
shall be ineffective in that State to the extent of the 854  
conflict. 855

C. The Commission shall exercise its Rulemaking powers 856  
pursuant to the criteria set forth in this Section and the Rules 857  
adopted thereunder. Rules shall become binding on the day 858  
following adoption or the date specified in the rule or 859  
amendment, whichever is later. 860

D. If a majority of the legislatures of the Member States 861

rejects a Rule or portion of a Rule, by enactment of a statute 862  
or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the Compact 863  
within four (4) years of the date of adoption of the Rule, then 864  
such Rule shall have no further force and effect in any Member 865  
State. 866

E. Rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting 867  
of the Commission. 868

F. Prior to adoption of a proposed Rule, the Commission 869  
shall hold a public hearing and allow persons to provide oral 870  
and written comments, data, facts, opinions, and arguments. 871

G. Prior to adoption of a proposed Rule by the Commission, 872  
and at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting at which 873  
the Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed Rule, 874  
the Commission shall provide a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: 875

1. On the website of the Commission or other publicly 876  
accessible platform; 877

2. To persons who have requested notice of the 878  
Commission's notices of proposed rulemaking, and 879

3. In such other way(s) as the Commission may by Rule 880  
specify. 881

H. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking shall include: 882

1. The time, date, and location of the public hearing at 883  
which the Commission will hear public comments on the proposed 884  
Rule and, if different, the time, date, and location of the 885  
meeting where the Commission will consider and vote on the 886  
proposed Rule; 887

2. If the hearing is held via telecommunication, video 888  
conference, or other electronic means, the Commission shall 889

<u>include the mechanism for access to the hearing in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking;</u>	890
	891
<u>3. The text of the proposed Rule and the reason therefor;</u>	892
<u>4. A request for comments on the proposed Rule from any interested person; and</u>	893
	894
<u>5. The manner in which interested persons may submit written comments.</u>	895
	896
<u>I. All hearings will be recorded. A copy of the recording and all written comments and documents received by the Commission in response to the proposed Rule shall be available to the public.</u>	897
	898
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	900
<u>J. Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a separate hearing on each Rule. Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the Commission at hearings required by this section.</u>	901
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<u>K. The Commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take final action on the proposed Rule based on the Rulemaking record and the full text of the Rule.</u>	905
	906
	907
<u>1. The Commission may adopt changes to the proposed Rule provided the changes do not enlarge the original purpose of the proposed Rule.</u>	908
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<u>2. The Commission shall provide an explanation of the reasons for substantive changes made to the proposed Rule as well as reasons for substantive changes not made that were recommended by commenters.</u>	911
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	913
	914
<u>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</u>	915
	916
	917

than 30 days after issuing the notice that it adopted or amended 918  
the Rule. 919

L. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the 920  
Commission may consider and adopt an emergency Rule with 48 921  
hours' notice, with opportunity to comment, provided that the 922  
usual Rulemaking procedures provided in the Compact and in this 923  
section shall be retroactively applied to the Rule as soon as 924  
reasonably possible, in no event later than ninety (90) days 925  
after the effective date of the Rule. For the purposes of this 926  
provision, an emergency Rule is one that must be adopted 927  
immediately in order to: 928

1. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or 929  
welfare; 930

2. Prevent a loss of Commission or Member State funds; 931

3. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of a Rule that is 932  
established by federal law or rule; or 933

4. Protect public health and safety. 934

M. The Commission or an authorized committee of the 935  
Commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted Rule for 936  
purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format, 937  
errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice of 938  
any revisions shall be posted on the website of the Commission. 939  
The revision shall be subject to challenge by any person for a 940  
period of thirty (30) days after posting. The revision may be 941  
challenged only on grounds that the revision results in a 942  
material change to a Rule. A challenge shall be made in writing 943  
and delivered to the Commission prior to the end of the notice 944  
period. If no challenge is made, the revision will take effect 945  
without further action. If the revision is challenged, the 946

revision may not take effect without the approval of the 947  
Commission. 948

N. No Member State's rulemaking requirements shall apply 949  
under this compact. 950

**SECTION 13. OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AND ENFORCEMENT** 951

A. Oversight 952

1. The executive and judicial branches of State government 953  
in each Member State shall enforce this Compact and take all 954  
actions necessary and appropriate to implement the Compact. 955

2. Except as otherwise provided in this Compact, venue is 956  
proper and judicial proceedings by or against the Commission 957  
shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent 958  
jurisdiction where the principal office of the Commission is 959  
located. The Commission may waive venue and jurisdictional 960  
defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to participate in 961  
alternative dispute resolution proceedings. Nothing herein shall 962  
affect or limit the selection or propriety of venue in any 963  
action against a Licensee for professional malpractice, 964  
misconduct or any such similar matter. 965

3. The Commission shall be entitled to receive service of 966  
process in any proceeding regarding the enforcement or 967  
interpretation of the Compact and shall have standing to 968  
intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to 969  
provide the Commission service of process shall render a 970  
judgment or order void as to the Commission, this Compact, or 971  
promulgated Rules. 972

B. Default, Technical Assistance, and Termination 973

1. If the Commission determines that a Member State has 974

defaulted in the performance of its obligations or 975  
responsibilities under this Compact or the promulgated Rules, 976  
the Commission shall provide written notice to the defaulting 977  
State. The notice of default shall describe the default, the 978  
proposed means of curing the default, and any other action that 979  
the Commission may take, and shall offer training and specific 980  
technical assistance regarding the default. 981

2. The Commission shall provide a copy of the notice of 982  
default to the other Member States. 983

C. If a State in default fails to cure the default, the 984  
defaulting State may be terminated from the Compact upon an 985  
affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates of the Member 986  
States, and all rights, privileges and benefits conferred on 987  
that State by this Compact may be terminated on the effective 988  
date of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the 989  
offending State of obligations or liabilities incurred during 990  
the period of default. 991

D. Termination of membership in the Compact shall be 992  
imposed only after all other means of securing compliance have 993  
been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall 994  
be given by the Commission to the governor, the majority and 995  
minority leaders of the defaulting State's legislature, the 996  
defaulting State's State Licensing Authority and each of the 997  
Member States' State Licensing Authority. 998

E. A State that has been terminated is responsible for all 999  
assessments, obligations, and liabilities incurred through the 1000  
effective date of termination, including obligations that extend 1001  
beyond the effective date of termination. 1002

F. Upon the termination of a State's membership from this 1003

Compact, that State shall immediately provide notice to all 1004  
Licensees within that State of such termination. The terminated 1005  
State shall continue to recognize all licenses granted pursuant 1006  
to this Compact for a minimum of six (6) months after the date 1007  
of said notice of termination. 1008

G. The Commission shall not bear any costs related to a 1009  
State that is found to be in default or that has been terminated 1010  
from the Compact, unless agreed upon in writing between the 1011  
Commission and the defaulting State. 1012

H. The defaulting State may appeal the action of the 1013  
Commission by petitioning the U.S. District Court for the 1014  
District of Columbia or the federal district where the 1015  
Commission has its principal offices. The prevailing party shall 1016  
be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable 1017  
attorney's fees. 1018

I. Dispute Resolution 1019

1. Upon request by a Member State, the Commission shall 1020  
attempt to resolve disputes related to the Compact that arise 1021  
among Member States and between Member and non-Member States. 1022

2. The Commission shall promulgate a Rule providing for 1023  
both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as 1024  
appropriate. 1025

J. Enforcement 1026

1. By majority vote as provided by Rule, the Commission 1027  
may initiate legal action against a Member State in default in 1028  
the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or 1029  
the federal district where the Commission has its principal 1030  
offices to enforce compliance with the provisions of the Compact 1031  
and its promulgated Rules. The relief sought may include both 1032

injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement 1033  
is necessary, the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of 1034  
such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees. The 1035  
remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the 1036  
Commission. The Commission may pursue any other remedies 1037  
available under federal or the defaulting Member State's law. 1038

2. A Member State may initiate legal action against the 1039  
Commission in the U.S. District Court for the District of 1040  
Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has its 1041  
principal offices to enforce compliance with the provisions of 1042  
the Compact and its promulgated Rules. The relief sought may 1043  
include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event 1044  
judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall be 1045  
awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable 1046  
attorney's fees. 1047

3. No person other than a Member State shall enforce this 1048  
compact against the Commission. 1049

**SECTION 14. EFFECTIVE DATE, WITHDRAWAL, AND AMENDMENT** 1050

A. The Compact shall come into effect on the date on which 1051  
the Compact statute is enacted into law in the seventh Member 1052  
State. 1053

1. On or after the effective date of the Compact, the 1054  
Commission shall convene and review the enactment of each of the 1055  
first seven Member States ("Charter Member States") to determine 1056  
if the statute enacted by each such Charter Member State is 1057  
materially different than the model Compact statute. 1058

a. A Charter Member State whose enactment is found to be 1059  
materially different from the model Compact statute shall be 1060  
entitled to the default process set forth in Section 13. 1061

b. If any Member State is later found to be in default, or 1062  
is terminated or withdraws from the Compact, the Commission 1063  
shall remain in existence and the Compact shall remain in effect 1064  
even if the number of Member States should be less than seven. 1065

2. Member States enacting the Compact subsequent to the 1066  
seven initial Charter Member States shall be subject to the 1067  
process set forth in Section 10(C)(21) to determine if their 1068  
enactments are materially different from the model Compact 1069  
statute and whether they qualify for participation in the 1070  
Compact. 1071

3. All actions taken for the benefit of the Commission or 1072  
in furtherance of the purposes of the administration of the 1073  
Compact prior to the effective date of the Compact or the 1074  
Commission coming into existence shall be considered to be 1075  
actions of the Commission unless specifically repudiated by the 1076  
Commission. 1077

4. Any State that joins the Compact subsequent to the 1078  
Commission's initial adoption of the Rules and bylaws shall be 1079  
subject to the Rules and bylaws as they exist on the date on 1080  
which the Compact becomes law in that State. Any Rule that has 1081  
been previously adopted by the Commission shall have the full 1082  
force and effect of law on the day the Compact becomes law in 1083  
that State. 1084

B. Any Member State may withdraw from this Compact by 1085  
enacting a statute repealing the same. 1086

1. A Member State's withdrawal shall not take effect until 1087  
180 days after enactment of the repealing statute. 1088

2. Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement 1089  
of the withdrawing State's Licensing Authority to comply with 1090

the investigative and Adverse Action reporting requirements of 1091  
this Compact prior to the effective date of withdrawal. 1092

3. Upon the enactment of a statute withdrawing from this 1093  
compact, a State shall immediately provide notice of such 1094  
withdrawal to all Licensees within that State. Notwithstanding 1095  
any subsequent statutory enactment to the contrary, such 1096  
withdrawing State shall continue to recognize all licenses 1097  
granted pursuant to this compact for a minimum of 180 days after 1098  
the date of such notice of withdrawal. 1099

C. Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to 1100  
invalidate or prevent any licensure agreement or other 1101  
cooperative arrangement between a Member State and a non-Member 1102  
State that does not conflict with the provisions of this 1103  
Compact. 1104

D. This Compact may be amended by the Member States. No 1105  
amendment to this Compact shall become effective and binding 1106  
upon any Member State until it is enacted into the laws of all 1107  
Member States. 1108

**SECTION 15. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY** 1109

A. This Compact and the Commission's rulemaking authority 1110  
shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes, 1111  
and the implementation and administration of the Compact. 1112  
Provisions of the Compact expressly authorizing or requiring the 1113  
promulgation of Rules shall not be construed to limit the 1114  
Commission's rulemaking authority solely for those purposes. 1115

B. The provisions of this Compact shall be severable and 1116  
if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this Compact is 1117  
held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to the 1118  
constitution of any Member State, a State seeking participation 1119

in the Compact, or of the United States, or the applicability 1120  
thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is 1121  
held to be unconstitutional by a court of competent 1122  
jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of this Compact and 1123  
the applicability thereof to any other government, agency, 1124  
person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. 1125

C. Notwithstanding subsection B of this section, the 1126  
Commission may deny a State's participation in the Compact or, 1127  
in accordance with the requirements of Section 13.B, terminate a 1128  
Member State's participation in the Compact, if it determines 1129  
that a constitutional requirement of a Member State is a 1130  
material departure from the Compact. Otherwise, if this Compact 1131  
shall be held to be contrary to the constitution of any Member 1132  
State, the Compact shall remain in full force and effect as to 1133  
the remaining Member States and in full force and effect as to 1134  
the Member State affected as to all severable matters. 1135

**SECTION 16. CONSISTENT EFFECT AND CONFLICT WITH OTHER STATE LAWS** 1136

A. A Licensee providing services in a Remote State under a 1137  
Multistate Authorization to Practice shall adhere to the laws 1138  
and regulations, including laws, regulations, and applicable 1139  
standards, of the Remote State where the client is located at 1140  
the time care is rendered. 1141

B. Nothing herein shall prevent or inhibit the enforcement 1142  
of any other law of a Member State that is not inconsistent with 1143  
the Compact. 1144

C. Any laws, statutes, regulations, or other legal 1145  
requirements in a Member State in conflict with the Compact are 1146  
superseded to the extent of the conflict. 1147

D. All permissible agreements between the Commission and 1148

the Member States are binding in accordance with their terms. 1149

**Sec. 4757.521.** Not later than sixty days after the 1150  
"Social Work Licensure Compact" is entered into under section 1151  
4757.52 of the Revised Code, the counselor, social worker, and 1152  
marriage and family therapist board, in accordance with section 1153  
10 of the compact, shall select an individual to serve as a 1154  
delegate to the social work licensure compact commission created 1155  
under the compact. The board shall fill a vacancy in this 1156  
position not later than sixty days after the vacancy occurs. 1157