SENATE BILL 105

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS; ENACTING THE SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE INTERSTATE COMPACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact".

SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] PURPOSE.--The purpose of the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact is to facilitate interstate practice of regulated social workers by improving public access to competent social work services. The compact preserves the regulatory authority of states to protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure. This compact is designed to:

- A. increase public access to social work services;
- B. reduce overly burdensome and duplicative

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requirements associated with holding multiple licenses;

- C. enhance the member states' ability to protect the public's health and safety;
- D. encourage the cooperation of member states in regulating multistate practice;
- E. promote mobility and address workforce shortages by eliminating the necessity for licenses in multiple states by providing for the mutual recognition of other member state licenses;
 - F. support military families;
- G. facilitate the exchange of licensure and disciplinary information among member states;
- H. authorize all member states to hold a regulated social worker accountable for abiding by a member state's laws, regulations and applicable professional standards in the member state in which a client is located at the time care is rendered; and
- I. allow for the use of telehealth to facilitate increased access to regulated social work services.
- SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Social Work Interstate Licensure Compact:
- A. "active military member" means any person with full-time duty status in the active armed forces of the United States, including members of the national guard and reserve;
- B. "adverse action" means any administrative,.228862.1

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civil, equitable or criminal action permitted by a state's laws that is imposed by a licensing authority or other authority against a regulated social worker, including an action against a person's license or multistate authorization to practice, such as revocation, suspension, probation, monitoring of the licensee, limitation on the licensee's practice, issuance of a cease and desist action or any other encumbrance on licensure affecting a regulated social worker's authorization to practice;

- "alternative program" means a non-disciplinary C. monitoring or practice remediation process approved by a licensing authority to address practitioners with an impairment;
- D. "charter member states" means member states who have enacted legislation to adopt this compact before the effective date of this compact as described in Section 15 of the Social Work Interstate Licensure Compact;
- "compact" means the Social Work Interstate Licensure Compact;
- "compact commission" or "commission" means the social work licensure compact commission created in Section 11 of the Social Work Interstate Licensure Compact;
- "current significant investigative information" G. means:
- (1) investigative information that a licensing .228862.1

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 indicate more than a minor infraction as may be defined by the commission; or

- (2) investigative information that indicates that the regulated social worker represents an immediate threat to public health and safety, as may be defined by the commission, regardless of whether the regulated social worker has been notified and has had an opportunity to respond;
- H. "data system" means a repository of information about licensees, including continuing education, examination, licensure, current significant investigative information, disqualifying events, multistate licenses, adverse action information or other information as required by the commission;
- I. "disqualifying event" means any adverse action or incident that results in an encumbrance that disqualifies or makes the licensee ineligible to either obtain, retain or renew a multistate license;
- J. "domicile" means the jurisdiction in which the licensee resides and intends to remain indefinitely;
- K. "encumbrance" means a revocation or suspension of, or any limitation on, the full and unrestricted practice of social work licensed and regulated by a licensing authority;
- L. "executive committee" means a group of delegates .228862.1

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elected or appointed to act on behalf of and within the powers granted to them by the compact and commission;

- "home state" means the member state that is the Μ. licensee's primary domicile;
- "impairment" means a condition that may impair a practitioner's ability to engage in full and unrestricted practice as a regulated social worker without some type of intervention and may include alcohol and drug dependence, mental health impairment and neurological or physical impairments;
- "licensee" means a person who currently holds a license from a member state to practice as a regulated social worker:
- Ρ. "licensing authority" means the board or agency of a member state, or equivalent, that is responsible for the licensing and regulation of regulated social workers;
- "member state" means a state, commonwealth, Q. district or territory of the United States that has enacted this compact;
- "multistate authorization to practice" means a legally authorized privilege to practice, which is equivalent to a license, associated with a multistate license permitting the practice of social work in a remote state;
- "multistate license" means a license to practice as a regulated social worker issued by a home state licensing .228862.1

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authority that authorizes the regulated social worker to practice in all member states under multistate authorization to practice;

- "qualifying national exam" means a national Τ. licensing examination approved by the commission;
- "regulated social worker" means any clinical, U. master's or bachelor's social worker licensed by a member state regardless of the title used by the member state;
- ٧. "remote state" means a member state other than the licensee's home state;
- "rule" or "rule of the commission" means a regulation or regulations duly promulgated by the commission, as authorized by this compact, that has the force of law;
- Χ. "single state license" means a social work license issued by any state that authorizes practice only within the issuing state and does not include multistate authorization to practice in any member state;
- "social work" or "social work services" means the application of social work theory, knowledge, methods and ethics and the professional use of self to restore or enhance social, psychosocial or biopsychosocial functioning of persons, couples, families, groups, organizations or communities through the care and services provided by a regulated social worker as set forth in the member state's statutes and regulations in the state where the services are being provided;

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	Ζ.	"state" mea	ans any	state,	commonwea	alth,	district
or	territory of	the United	d States	that	regulates	the	practice
of	social work;	and					

AA. "unencumbered license" means a license that authorizes a regulated social worker to engage in the full and unrestricted practice of social work.

SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT.--

A. To be eligible to participate in the compact, a potential member state shall:

- (1) license and regulate the practice of social work at the clinical, master's or bachelor's category;
- (2) require applicants for licensure to graduate from a program that:
- (a) is operated by a college or university recognized by the licensing authority;
- (b) is accredited, or in candidacy by an institution that subsequently becomes accredited, by an accrediting agency recognized by either: 1) the council for higher education accreditation, or its successor; or 2) the United States department of education; and
- (c) corresponds to the level of licensure sought by the applicant;
- (3) require applicants for clinical licensure to complete a period of supervised practice; and .228862.1

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- have a mechanism in place for receiving, (4) investigating and adjudicating complaints about licensees.
- To maintain membership in the compact, a member В. state shall:
- require that applicants for a multistate license pass a qualifying national exam for the corresponding category of multistate license sought;
- participate fully in the commission's data (2) system, including using the commission's unique identifier as defined in rules;
- notify the commission, in compliance with the terms of the compact and rules, of any adverse action or the availability of current significant investigative information regarding a licensee;
- implement procedures for considering the (4) criminal history records of applicants for a multistate The procedures shall include the submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based information by applicants for the purpose of obtaining an applicant's criminal history record information from the federal bureau of investigation and the agency responsible for retaining that state's criminal records;
 - comply with the rules of the commission; (5)
- (6) require an applicant to obtain or retain a license in the home state and meet the home state's .228862.1

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qualifications for licensure or renewal of licensure, as well as all other applicable home state laws;

- authorize a licensee holding a multistate (7) license in any member state to practice in accordance with the terms of this compact and rules of the commission; and
- (8) designate a delegate to participate in the commission meetings.
- A member state meeting the requirements of Subsections A and B of this section shall designate the categories of social work licensure that are eligible for issuance of a multistate license for applicants in the member To the extent that a member state does not meet the requirements for participation in this compact at any particular category of social work licensure, the member state may, but is not obligated to, issue a multistate license to applicants that otherwise meet the requirements of Section 5 of the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact for issuance of a multistate license in that category or categories of licensure.
- The home state may charge a fee for granting the multistate license.
- [NEW MATERIAL] SOCIAL WORKER PARTICIPATION IN SECTION 5. THE COMPACT .--
- To be eligible for a multistate license under the terms and provisions of this compact, an applicant, regardless of category, shall:

1	(1) hold or be eligible for an active
2	unencumbered license in the home state;
3	(2) pay any applicable fees, including any
4	state fee, for the multistate license;
5	(3) submit, in connection with an application
6	for a multistate license, fingerprints or other biometric data
7	for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record
8	information from the federal bureau of investigation and the
9	agency responsible for retaining that state's criminal records;
10	(4) notify the home state of any adverse
11	action, encumbrance or restriction on any professional license
12	taken by any member state or non-member state within thirty
13	days from the date the action is taken;
14	(5) meet any continuing competence
15	requirements established by the home state; and
16	(6) abide by the laws, regulations and
17	applicable standards in the member state where a client is
18	located at the time care is rendered.
19	B. An applicant for a clinical-category multistate
20	license shall:
21	(1) fulfill a competency requirement, which
22	shall be satisfied by:
23	(a) passage of a clinical-category
24	qualifying national exam;
25	(b) licensure of the applicant in the
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applicant's home state at the clinical category before the qualifying national exam was required by the home state, accompanied by a period of continuous social work licensure thereafter, all of which may be further governed by the rules of the commission; or

- (c) the substantial equivalency of the competency requirements established in this paragraph, which the commission may determine by rule;
- (2) attain at least a master's degree in social work from a program that is:
- (a) operated by a college or university recognized by the licensing authority; and
- (b) accredited, or in candidacy that subsequently becomes accredited, by an accrediting agency recognized by either the: 1) council for higher education accreditation, or its successor; or 2) United States department of education; and
- (3) fulfill a practice requirement, which shall be satisfied by demonstrating completion of either:
- (a) a period of postgraduate supervised clinical practice equal to a minimum of three thousand hours;
- (b) a minimum of two years of full-time postgraduate supervised clinical practice; or
- (c) the substantial equivalency of the practice requirements established in this paragraph, which the .228862.1

commission may determine by rule.
C. An applicant for a master's-category multistate
license shall:
(1) fulfill a competency requirement, which
shall be satisfied by:
(a) passage of a master's-category
qualifying national exam;
(b) licensure of the applicant in the
applicant's home state at the master's category before the
qualifying national exam was required by the home state,
accompanied by a period of continuous social work licensure
thereafter, all of which may be further governed by the rules
thereafter, all of which may be further governed by the rules of the commission; or
of the commission; or
of the commission; or (c) the substantial equivalency of the
of the commission; or (c) the substantial equivalency of the competency requirements established in this paragraph, which
of the commission; or (c) the substantial equivalency of the competency requirements established in this paragraph, which the commission may determine by rule; and
of the commission; or (c) the substantial equivalency of the competency requirements established in this paragraph, which the commission may determine by rule; and (2) attain at least a master's degree in
of the commission; or (c) the substantial equivalency of the competency requirements established in this paragraph, which the commission may determine by rule; and (2) attain at least a master's degree in social work from a program that is:
of the commission; or (c) the substantial equivalency of the competency requirements established in this paragraph, which the commission may determine by rule; and (2) attain at least a master's degree in social work from a program that is: (a) operated by a college or university
of the commission; or (c) the substantial equivalency of the competency requirements established in this paragraph, which the commission may determine by rule; and (2) attain at least a master's degree in social work from a program that is: (a) operated by a college or university recognized by the licensing authority; and
of the commission; or (c) the substantial equivalency of the competency requirements established in this paragraph, which the commission may determine by rule; and (2) attain at least a master's degree in social work from a program that is: (a) operated by a college or university recognized by the licensing authority; and (b) accredited, or in candidacy that
of the commission; or (c) the substantial equivalency of the competency requirements established in this paragraph, which the commission may determine by rule; and (2) attain at least a master's degree in social work from a program that is: (a) operated by a college or university recognized by the licensing authority; and (b) accredited, or in candidacy that subsequently becomes accredited, by an accrediting agency

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2	multistate license shall:
3	(1) fulfill a competency requirement, which
4	shall be satisfied by:
5	(a) passage of a bachelor's-category
6	qualifying national exam;
7	(b) licensure of the applicant in the
8	applicant's home state at the bachelor's category before the
9	qualifying national exam was required by the home state,
10	accompanied by a period of continuous social work licensure
11	thereafter, all of which may be further governed by the rules
12	of the commission; or
13	(c) the substantial equivalency of the
14	competency requirements established in this paragraph, which
15	the commission may determine by rule; and
16	(2) attain at least a bachelor's degree in
17	social work from a program that is:
18	(a) operated by a college or university
19	recognized by the licensing authority; and
20	(b) accredited, or in candidacy that
21	subsequently becomes accredited, by an accrediting agency
22	recognized by either the: 1) council for higher education
23	accreditation, or its successor; or 2) United States departmen
24	of education.
25	E. The multistate license for a regulated social

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D. An applicant for a bachelor's-category

worker is subject to the renewal requirements of the home
state. The regulated social worker shall maintain compliance
with the requirements of Subsection A of this section to be
eligible to renew a multistate license.

F. A regulated social worker's services in a remote
state are subject to that member state's regulatory authority.

A remote state may, in accordance with due process and that

- state are subject to that member state's regulatory authority. A remote state may, in accordance with due process and that member state's laws, remove a regulated social worker's multistate authorization to practice in the remote state for a specific period of time, impose fines and take any other necessary actions to protect the health and safety of its citizens.
- G. If a multistate license is encumbered, the regulated social worker's multistate authorization to practice shall be deactivated in all remote states until the multistate license is no longer encumbered.
- H. If a multistate authorization to practice is encumbered in a remote state, the regulated social worker's multistate authorization to practice may be deactivated in that state until the multistate authorization to practice is no longer encumbered.
- SECTION 6. [NEW MATERIAL] ISSUANCE OF A MULTISTATE LICENSE.--
- A. Upon receipt of an application for a multistate license, the home state licensing authority shall determine an .228862.1

applicant's eligibility for a multistate license in accordance with Section 5 of the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact.

- B. If an applicant is eligible for a multistate license, the home state licensing authority shall issue a multistate license that authorizes the applicant to practice in all member states under a multistate authorization to practice.
- C. Upon issuance of a multistate license, the home state licensing authority shall designate whether the regulated social worker holds a multistate license in the bachelor's, master's or clinical category of social work.
- D. A multistate license issued by a home state to a resident in that state shall be recognized by all member states as authorizing social work practice under a multistate authorization to practice corresponding to each category of licensure regulated in each member state.
- SECTION 7. [NEW MATERIAL] AUTHORITY OF COMPACT COMMISSION
 AND MEMBER STATE LICENSING AUTHORITIES.--
- A. Nothing in the Social Work Licensure Interstate 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 the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact.

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- В. Nothing in the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact shall affect the requirements established by a member state for the issuance of a single state license.
- Nothing in the Social Work Licensure Interstate 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.
- Nothing in the Social Work Licensure Interstate 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.
- Nothing in the Social Work Licensure Interstate 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.
- [NEW MATERIAL] REISSUANCE OF A MULTISTATE SECTION 8. LICENSE BY A NEW HOME STATE. --
- A licensee can hold a multistate license issued by the licensee's home state in only one member state at any given time.
- If a licensee changes the licensee's home state .228862.1

by moving between two member states:

- (1) the licensee shall immediately apply for the reissuance of the licensee's multistate license in the licensee's new home state. The licensee shall pay all applicable fees and notify the prior home state in accordance with the rules of the commission:
- a multistate license, the new home state shall verify that the multistate license is active, unencumbered and eligible for reissuance under the terms of the compact and the rules of the commission. The multistate license issued by the prior home state shall be deactivated, and all member states shall be notified in accordance with the applicable rules adopted by the commission;
- (3) prior to the reissuance of the multistate license, the new home state shall conduct procedures for considering the criminal history records of the licensee. The procedures shall include the submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based information by applicants for the purpose of obtaining an applicant's criminal history record information from the federal bureau of investigation and the agency responsible for retaining that state's criminal records;
- (4) if required for initial licensure, the new home state may require completion of jurisprudence requirements in the new home state; and

- (5) notwithstanding any other provision of this compact, if a licensee does not meet the requirements set forth in this compact for the reissuance of a multistate license by the new home state, the licensee shall be subject to the new home state requirements for the issuance of a single state license in that state.
- C. If a licensee changes the licensee's primary state of residence by moving from a member state to a non-member state, or from a non-member state to a member state, then the licensee shall be subject to the state requirements for the issuance of a single state license in the new home state.
- D. Nothing in the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact shall interfere with a licensee's ability to hold a single state license in multiple states; provided that, for the purposes of the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact, a licensee shall have only one home state and only one multistate license.
- E. Nothing in the Social Work Licensure Interstate
 Compact shall interfere with the requirements established by a
 member state for the issuance of a single state license.
- SECTION 9. [NEW MATERIAL] MILITARY FAMILIES.--An active military member or the spouse of an active military member shall designate a home state where the individual has a multistate license. The active military member or the spouse .228862.1

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of an active military member may retain the home state designation during the period the service member is on active duty.

SECTION 10. [NEW MATERIAL] ADVERSE ACTIONS.--

In addition to the powers conferred by state law, a remote state shall have the authority, in accordance with state due process law, to take adverse action against a regulated social worker's multistate authorization to practice only within the member state and issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and testimony of witnesses as well as the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a licensing authority in a member state for the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of evidence from another member state shall be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure of that court applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before it. The issuing licensing authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage and other fees required by the service statutes of the state in which the witnesses or evidence are Only the home state shall have the power to take adverse action against a regulated social worker's multistate license.

B. For purposes of taking adverse action, the home state shall give the same priority and effect to reported .228862.1

conduct received from a member state as it would if the conduct had occurred within the home state. The home state shall apply its own state laws to determine the appropriate action.

- C. The home state shall complete any pending investigations of a regulated social worker who changes the regulated social worker's home state during the course of the investigations. The home state shall also have the authority to take appropriate action and shall promptly report the conclusions of the investigations to the administrator of the data system. The administrator of the data system shall promptly notify the new home state of any adverse actions.
- D. A member state, if otherwise permitted by state law, may recover from the affected regulated social worker the costs of investigation and dispositions of cases resulting from any adverse action taken against that regulated social worker.
- E. A member state may take adverse action based on the factual findings of another member state; provided that the member state follows its own procedures for taking the adverse action.
- F. In addition to the authority granted to a member state by the member state's respective social work practice act or other applicable state law, any member state may participate with other member states in joint investigation of licensees.

 Member states shall share any investigative, litigation or compliance materials in furtherance of any joint or individual .228862.1

investigation initiated under this compact.

- G. If adverse action is taken by the home state against the multistate license of a regulated social worker, the regulated social worker's multistate authorization to practice in all other member states shall be deactivated until all encumbrances have been removed from the multistate license. All home state disciplinary orders that impose adverse action against the license of a regulated social worker shall include a statement that the regulated social worker's multistate authorization to practice is deactivated in all member states until all conditions of the decision, order or agreement are satisfied.
- H. If a member state takes adverse action, it shall promptly notify the administrator of the data system. The administrator of the data system shall promptly notify the home state and all other member states of any adverse actions by remote states.
- I. Nothing in the Social Work Licensure Interstate

 Compact shall override a member state's decision that

 participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of

 adverse action.
- J. Nothing in the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact shall authorize a member state to demand the issuance of subpoenas for attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of evidence from another member state for lawful .228862.1

actions within that member state.

K. Nothing in the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact shall authorize a member state to impose discipline against a regulated social worker who holds a multistate authorization to practice for lawful actions within another member state.

SECTION 11. [NEW MATERIAL] ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT COMMISSION.--

A. The member states hereby create and establish the "social work licensure compact commission" as a joint government agency whose membership consists of all member states. The commission is an instrumentality of the member states acting jointly and not an instrumentality of any one state. The commission shall come into existence on or after the effective date of this compact as set forth in Section 15 of the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact.

- B. The commission shall satisfy each of the following requirements with respect to membership, voting and meetings:
- (1) each member state shall have and be limited to one delegate selected by the member state's licensing authority. The delegate shall be either:
- (a) a current member of the state licensing authority at the time of appointment who is a regulated social worker or public member of the state licensing .228862.1

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- (b) an administrator of the state licensing authority or the administrator's designee;
- the commission shall by rule establish a term of office for delegates and term limits;
- (3) the commission may recommend removal or suspension of any delegate from office;
- a member state's licensing authority shall fill any vacancy of its delegate within sixty days of the vacancy;
- each delegate shall be entitled to one vote on all matters before the commission requiring a vote by commission delegates;
- a delegate shall vote in person or by (6) other means as provided by the commission's bylaws. The commission may allow delegates to meet by telecommunication, video conference or other means of communication; and
- the commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. Additional meetings may be held as set forth in the commission's bylaws. The commission may meet by telecommunication, video conference or other similar electronic means.
 - The commission shall have the power to:
- (1) establish the fiscal year of the commission;

1	(2) establish a code of conduct and conflict
2	of interest policies;
3	(3) establish and amend rules and bylaws;
4	(4) maintain the commission's financial
5	records in accordance with the bylaws;
6	(5) meet and take actions that are consistent
7	with the provisions of this compact, the commission's rules and
8	the bylaws;
9	(6) initiate and conclude legal proceedings or
10	actions in the name of the commission; provided that the
11	standing of any state licensing board to sue or be sued under
12	applicable law shall not be affected;
13	(7) maintain and certify records and
14	information provided to a member state as the authenticated
15	business records of the commission and designate an agent to do
16	so on the commission's behalf;
17	(8) purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;
18	(9) borrow, accept or contract for services of
19	personnel, including employees of a member state;
20	(10) conduct an annual financial review;
21	(11) hire employees, elect or appoint
22	officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant persons
23	appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of this compact
24	and establish the commission's personnel policies and programs
25	relating to conflicts of interest, qualification of personnel
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1	and other related personnel matters;
2	(12) assess and collect fees;
3	(13) accept any and all appropriate gifts,
4	donations, grants of money, other sources of revenue,
5	equipment, supplies, materials and services and receive,
6	utilize and 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,
10	improve or use any property real, personal or mixed or any
11	undivided interest therein;
12	(15) sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease,
13	exchange, abandon or otherwise dispose of any property real,
14	personal or mixed;
15	(16) establish a budget and make expenditures;
16	(17) borrow money;
17	(18) appoint committees, including standing
18	committees, composed of members, state regulators, state
19	legislators or their representatives, consumer representatives
20	and other interested persons as may be designated in this
21	compact and the commission's bylaws;
22	(19) provide and receive information from, and
23	cooperate with, law enforcement agencies;
24	(20) establish and elect an executive
25	committee, including a chair and a vice chair;
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(2	21) determin	e whether a	state's	adopted
language is materi	ally differen	nt from the	model co	mpact
language such that	the state wo	ould not qua	alify for	
participation in t	the compact: a	and		

- (22) perform other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this compact.
- D. The executive committee established by the commission shall:
- (1) have the power to act on behalf of the commission according to the terms of this compact. The powers, duties and responsibilities of the executive committee shall include:
- (a) overseeing the day-to-day activities of the administration of the compact, including enforcement and compliance with the provisions of this compact, the commission's rules and bylaws and other duties as deemed necessary;
- (b) recommending to the commission changes to the rules or bylaws, changes to this compact legislation, fees charged to member states, fees charged to licensees and other fees;
- (c) ensuring compact administration services are appropriately provided, including by contract;
 - (d) preparing and recommending the

1	commission's budget;
2	(e) maintaining financial records on
3	behalf of the commission;
4	(f) monitoring compact compliance of
5	member states and providing reports to the commission;
6	(g) establishing additional committees
7	as necessary;
8	(h) exercising the powers and duties of
9	the commission during the interim between commission meetings,
10	except for adopting or amending rules, adopting or amending
11	bylaws and exercising any other powers and duties expressly
12	reserved to the commission by rule or bylaw; and
13	(i) other duties a provided in the rules
14	or bylaws of the commission;
15	(2) be composed of up to eleven members, as
16	follows:
17	(a) the chair and vice chair of the
18	commission shall be voting members of the executive committee;
19	(b) the commission shall elect five
20	voting members from the current membership of the commission;
21	(c) up to four ex-officio, nonvoting
22	members from four recognized social work organizations. The
23	ex-officio members shall be selected by their respective
24	organizations; and
25	(d) the commission may remove any member
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of the executive committee as provided in the commission's bylaws; and

- (3) meet at least annually, and:
- (a) executive committee meetings shall be open to the public, except that the executive committee may meet in a closed, nonpublic meeting as provided in Subsection G of this section;
- (b) the executive committee shall give seven days' notice of its meetings, posted on the committee's website and as determined to provide notice to persons with an interest in the business of the commission; and
- (c) the executive committee may hold a special meeting in accordance with Paragraph (2) of Subsection F of this section.
- E. The commission shall adopt and provide an annual report to the member states.
- F. All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public, except that the commission may meet in a closed, nonpublic meeting as provided in Subsection G of this section. The commission:
- (1) shall provide public notice for all meetings in the same manner as required for notice of rulemaking under the provisions of Section 13 of the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact, except that the commission may hold a special meeting as provided in Paragraph (2) of this .228862.1

subsection; and

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- (2) may hold a special meeting when it must meet to conduct emergency business by giving forty-eight hours' notice to all commissioners on the commission's website and by other means as provided in the commission's rules. commission's legal counsel shall certify that the commission's need to meet qualifies as an emergency.
- The commission, executive committee or other committees of the commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting for the commission, executive committee or other committee of the commission to receive legal advice or to discuss:
- noncompliance of a member state with its (1) obligations under the compact;
- the employment, compensation, discipline or other matters, practices or procedures related to specific employees;
- current or threatened discipline of a licensee by the commission or by a member state's licensing authority;
- current, threatened or reasonably (4) anticipated litigation;
- (5) negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease or sale of goods, services or real estate;
- accusing any person of a crime or formally .228862.1

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- (7) trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential;
- (8) investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes;
- (9) information related to any investigative reports prepared by or on behalf of or for use of the commission or other committee charged with responsibility of investigation or determination of compliance issues pursuant to this compact;
- (10) matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or member state law; or
- (11) other matters as promulgated by the commission by rule.
- H. If a meeting or portion of a meeting is closed, the presiding officer shall state that the meeting will be closed and reference each relevant exempting provision, and the reference shall be recorded in the minutes.
- I. The commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken and the reasons for taking the actions, including a description of the views expressed. All documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in the minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject .228862.1

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to release only by a majority vote of the commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

- With respect to financing, the commission:
- shall pay or provide for the payment of the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization and ongoing activities;
- (2) may accept any and all appropriate revenue sources as provided in Paragraph (13) of Subsection C of this section;
- may levy on and collect an annual (3) assessment from each member state and impose fees on licensees of member states to whom it grants a multistate license to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the commission and its staff, which shall be in a total amount sufficient to cover the commission's annual budget for which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount for member states shall be allocated based upon a formula that the commission shall promulgate by rule;
- shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the obligations; nor shall the commission pledge the credit of any of the member states, except by and with the authority of the member state; and
- (5) shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of .228862.1

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the commission shall be subject to the financial review and accounting procedures established under the commission's bylaws. All receipts and disbursements of funds shall be subject to an annual financial review by a certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the financial review shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the commission.

- K. With respect to qualified immunity, defense and indemnification:
- employees and representatives of the commission shall be immune from suit and liability, both personally and in their official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to protect any person from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury or liability caused by the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person. The procurement of insurance of any type by the commission shall not in any way compromise or limit the immunity granted herein;
- (2) the commission shall defend any member, .228862.1

officer, executive director, employee and representative of the commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or as determined by the commission that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit that person from retaining that person's own counsel at that person's own expense; and provided further that the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from that person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct;

harmless any member, officer, executive director, employee and representative of the commission for the amount of any settlement or judgement obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person;

(4) nothing in this compact shall be construed as a limitation on the liability of any licensee for professional malpractice or misconduct, which shall be governed .228862.1

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solely by any other applicable state laws;

- 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 federal Sherman Act, the federal Clayton Act or any other state or federal antitrust or anticompetitive law or regulation; and
- nothing in this compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity by the member states or by the commission.

SECTION 12. [NEW MATERIAL] DATA SYSTEM. --

- The commission shall provide for the development, maintenance, operation and utilization of a coordinated data system.
- The commission shall assign each applicant for a multistate license a unique identifier, as determined by the rules of the commission.
- 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 persons to whom this compact is applicable as required by the rules of the commission, including:
 - identifying information; (1)
 - (2) licensure data;
 - adverse actions against a license and (3)

information related to the adverse actions;

- (4) non-confidential information related to alternative program participation, the beginning and ending dates of the alternative program participation and other information related to alternative program participation not made confidential under member state law;
- (5) any denial of application for licensure and the reasons for the denial;
- (6) the presence of current significant investigative information; and
- (7) other information that may facilitate the administration of this compact or the protection of the public, as determined by the rules of the commission.
- D. The records and information provided to a member state pursuant to this compact or through the data system, when certified by the commission or an agent thereof, shall constitute the authenticated business records of the commission and shall be entitled to any associated hearsay exception in any relevant judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative proceedings in a member state.
- E. Current significant investigative information pertaining to a licensee in any member state will only be available to other member states. It is the responsibility of the member states to report any adverse action against a licensee and to monitor the database to determine whether .228862.1

adverse action has been taken against a licensee. Adverse action information pertaining to a licensee in any member state will be available to any other member state.

- F. Member states contributing information to the data system may designate information that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of the contributing state.
- G. Any information submitted to the data system that is subsequently expunsed pursuant to federal law or the laws of the member state contributing the information shall be removed from the data system.

SECTION 13. [NEW MATERIAL] RULEMAKING.--

- A. The commission shall promulgate reasonable rules in order to effectively and efficiently implement and administer the purposes and provisions of the this compact. A rule shall be invalid and have no force or effect only if a court of competent jurisdiction holds that the rule is invalid because the commission exercised its rulemaking authority in a manner that is beyond the scope and purposes of this compact, or the powers granted hereunder, or based upon another applicable standard of review.
- B. The rules of the commission shall have the force of law in each member state; provided that where the rules of the commission conflict with the laws of the member state that establish the member state's laws, regulations and applicable .228862.1

standards that govern the practice of social work as held by a court of competent jurisdiction, the rules of the commission shall be ineffective in that state to the extent of the conflict.

- C. The commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this section and the rules adopted thereunder. Rules shall become binding on the day following adoption or the date specified in the rule or amendment, whichever is later.
- D. If a majority of the legislatures of member states rejects a rule or portion of a rule by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt this compact within four years of the date of adoption of the rule, then the rule shall have no further force or effect in any member state.
- E. Rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the commission.
- F. Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the commission shall hold a public hearing and allow persons to provide oral and written comments, data, facts, opinions and arguments.
- G. Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, and at least thirty days in advance of the meeting at which the commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed rule, the commission shall provide a notice of proposed rulemaking:

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- on the commission's website or on another (1) publicly accessible platform;
- (2) to persons who have requested notice of the commission's notices of proposed rulemaking; and
- in any other ways that the commission may (3) specify by rule.
 - The notice of proposed rulemaking shall include:
- the time, date and location of the public (1) hearing at which the commission will hear public comments on the proposed rule and, if different, the time, date and location of the meeting where the commission will consider and vote on the proposed rule;
- if the hearing is held via telecommunication, video conference or other electronic means, the commission shall include the mechanism for access to the hearing in the notice of proposed rulemaking;
- the text of the proposed rule and the (3) reason therefor;
- a request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person; and
- the manner in which interested persons may (5) submit written comments.
- All hearings shall 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 .228862.1

available to the public.

J. Nothing i

- 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.
- K. The commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take final action on a proposed rule based on the rulemaking record and the full text of the rule. The commission:
- (1) may adopt changes to the proposed rule; provided that the changes do not enlarge the original purpose of the proposed rule;
- (2) 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; and
- (3) shall determine a reasonable effective date for the rule. Except for an emergency as provided in Subsection L of this section, the effective date of the rule shall be no sooner than thirty days after issuing the notice that the commission adopted or amended the rule.
- L. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule with forty-eight-hours' notice, with opportunity to comment; provided that the usual rulemaking procedures provided in this compact and in .228862.1

this section shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than ninety days after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this provision, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted immediately in order to:

- (1) meet an imminent threat to public health, safety or welfare;
- (2) prevent a loss of commission or member
 state funds;
- (3) meet a deadline for the promulgation of a rule that is established by federal law or rule; or
 - (4) protect public health and safety.
- M. The commission or an authorized committee of the commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format, errors in consistency or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be posted on the commission's website. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any person for a period of thirty days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the revision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made in writing and delivered to the commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision shall take effect without further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision shall not take effect without the

approval of the commission.

N. No member state's rulemaking requirements shall apply under this compact.

SECTION 14. [NEW MATERIAL] OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION
AND ENFORCEMENT.--

- A. The executive and judicial branches of state government in each member state shall enforce this compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to implement the compact.
- B. Except as otherwise provided in this compact, venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the commission is located. The commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent that it adopts or consents to participate in an alternative dispute resolution proceeding. Nothing in this section shall affect or limit the selection or propriety of venue in any action against a licensee for professional malpractice, misconduct or any similar matter.
- C. The commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any proceeding regarding the enforcement or interpretation of the compact and shall have standing to intervene in the proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide the commission service of process shall render a .228862.1

judgement or order void as to the commission, this compact or promulgated rules.

- D. If the commission determines that a member state has defaulted in the performance of its obligation or responsibilities under this compact or the promulgated rules, the commission shall provide written notice to the defaulting state. The notice of default shall describe the default, the proposed means of curing the default and any other action that the commission may take and shall offer training and specific technical assistance regarding the default. The commission shall provide a copy of the notice of default to the other member states.
- E. If a member state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting state may be terminated from the compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates of the member states, and all rights, privileges and benefits conferred on that state by this compact may be terminated on the effective date of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of default.
- F. Termination of membership in this compact shall be imposed only after all other means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be given by the commission to the governor, the majority and minority floor leaders of the defaulting state's

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legislature, the defaulting state's licensing authority and each of the member states' licensing authority.

- G. A state that has been terminated is responsible for all assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination, including obligations that extend beyond the effective date of the termination.
- Upon the termination of a state's membership Η. from this compact, that state shall immediately provide notice to all licensees within that state of the termination. terminated state shall continue to recognize all licenses granted pursuant to this compact for a minimum of six months after the date of termination.
- The commission shall not bear any costs related to a state that is found to be in default or that has been terminated from the compact, unless agreed upon in writing between the commission and the defaulting state.
- A defaulting member state may appeal an action of the commission by petitioning the United States district court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the commission has its principal offices. The prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of the litigation, including reasonable attorney fees.
- Upon request by a member state, the commission shall attempt to resolve disputes related to the compact that .228862.1

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arise among member states and between member and non-member states. The commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate. By majority vote as provided by rule, the

commission may initiate legal action against a member state in default in the United States district court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the commission has its principal offices to enforce compliance with the provisions of this compact and the commission's promulgated rules. relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of the litigation, including reasonable attorney fees. The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the commission. The commission may pursue any other remedies available under federal or the defaulting member state's law.

A member state may initiate legal action against the commission in the United States district court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the commission has its principal offices to enforce compliance with the provisions of this compact and the commission's promulgated rules. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, and damages. the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of the

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litigation, including reasonable attorney fees.

N. No entity other than a member state shall enforce this compact against the commission.

SECTION 15. [NEW MATERIAL] EFFECTIVE DATE, WITHDRAWAL AND AMENDMENT.--

- A. This compact shall come into effect on the date on which the compact statute is enacted into law in the seventh member state.
- B. On or after the effective date of this compact, the commission shall convene and review the enactment of each of the first seven member states to determine if the statute enacted by each charter member state is materially different than the model compact statute.
- C. A charter member state whose enactment is found to be materially different from the model compact statute shall be entitled to the default process set forth in Section 14 of the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact. If a member state is later found to be in default, or is terminated or withdraws from the compact, the commission shall remain in existence, and the compact shall remain in effect even if the number of member states is less than seven.
- D. Member states enacting this compact subsequent to the seven initial charter member state shall be subject to the process set forth in Paragraph (21) of Subsection C of Section 11 of the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact to .228862.1

determine if the enactments are materially different from the model compact statute and whether the states qualify for participation in this compact.

- E. All action taken for the benefit of the commission or in furtherance of the purposes of the administration of the compact prior to the effective date of the compact or the commission coming into existence shall be considered to be actions of the commission unless specifically repudiated by the commission.
- F. Any state that joins the compact subsequent to the commission's initial adoption of the rules and bylaws shall be subject to the rules and bylaws as they exist on the date on which the compact becomes law in that state. Any rule that has been previously adopted by the commission shall have the full force and effect of law on the day the compact becomes law in that state.
- G. Any member state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the compact statute. A member state's withdrawal shall not take effect until one hundred eighty days after enactment of the repealing statute.
- H. Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing state's licensing authority to comply with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of this compact prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

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I. Upon the enactment of a statute withdrawing from					
this compact, a state shall immediately provide notice of the					
withdrawal to all licensees with that state. Notwithstanding					
any subsequent statutory enactment to the contrary, the					
withdrawing state shall continue to recognize all licenses					
granted pursuant to this compact for a minimum of one hundred					
eighty days after the date of the notice of withdrawal.					

- J. Nothing contained in this compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a member state and a non-member state that does not conflict with the provisions of this compact.
- K. This compact may be amended by the member states. No amendment to this compact shall become effective and binding upon any member state until it is enacted into the laws of all member states.

SECTION 16. [NEW MATERIAL] CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY.--

- A. This compact and the commission's rulemaking authority shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes, implementation and administration of this compact. Provisions of this compact expressly authorizing or requiring the promulgation of rules shall not be construed to limit the commission's rulemaking authority solely for those purposes.
- B. The provisions of this compact shall be .228862.1

severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this compact is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to the constitution of any member state, a state seeking participation in the compact or the United States, or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any other government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected.

C. Notwithstanding Subsection B of this section, the commission may deny a state's participation in the compact or, in accordance with the requirements of Section 14 of the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact, terminate a member state's participation in the compact if the commission determines that a constitutional requirement of a member state is a material departure from the compact. Otherwise, if this compact shall be held to be contrary to the constitution of any member state, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining member states and in full force and effect as to the member state affected as to all severable matters.

SECTION 17. [NEW MATERIAL] CONSISTENT EFFECT AND CONFLICT WITH OTHER STATE LAWS.--

A. A licensee providing services in a remote state under a multistate authorization to practice shall adhere to the laws and regulations, including laws, regulations and .228862.1

applicable standards, of the remote state where a client is located at the time care is rendered.

- Nothing in the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact shall prevent or inhibit the enforcement of any other law of a member state that is not inconsistent with the compact.
- Any laws, statutes, regulation or other legal requirements in a member state in conflict with the compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.
- All permissible agreements between the commission and the member states are binding in accordance with the terms of those agreements.

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