



House Bill No. 5058

Public Act No. 24-83

AN ACT ADOPTING THE NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On and after October 1, 2025, until January 1, 2028, the Nurse Licensure Compact is hereby enacted into law and entered into by the state of Connecticut with any and all jurisdictions legally joining therein in accordance with its terms. The compact is substantially as follows:

NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT

ARTICLE I

FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

(a) The party states find that:

(1) The health and safety of the public are affected by the degree of compliance with and the effectiveness of enforcement activities related to state nurse licensure laws;

(2) Violations of nurse licensure and other laws regulating the practice of nursing may result in injury or harm to the public;

(3) The expanded mobility of nurses and the use of advanced

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communication technologies as part of our nation's health care delivery system require greater coordination and cooperation among states in the areas of nurse licensure and regulation;

(4) New practice modalities and technology make compliance with individual state nurse licensure laws difficult and complex;

(5) The current system of duplicative licensure for nurses practicing in multiple states is cumbersome and redundant for both nurses and states; and

(6) Uniformity of nurse licensure requirements throughout the states promotes public safety and public health benefits.

(b) The general purposes of the compact are to:

(1) Facilitate the states' responsibility to protect the public's health and safety;

(2) Ensure and encourage the cooperation of party states in the areas of nurse licensure and regulation;

(3) Facilitate the exchange of information between party states in the areas of nurse regulation, investigation and adverse actions;

(4) Promote compliance with the laws governing the practice of nursing in each jurisdiction;

(5) Invest all party states with the authority to hold a nurse accountable for meeting all state practice laws in the state in which the patient is located at the time care is rendered through the mutual recognition of party state licenses;

(6) Decrease redundancies in the consideration and issuance of nurse licenses; and

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(7) Provide opportunities for interstate practice by nurses who meet uniform licensure requirements.

ARTICLE II

DEFINITIONS

As used in the compact:

(1) "Adverse action" means any administrative, civil, equitable or criminal action permitted by a state's laws that is imposed by a licensing board or other authority against a nurse, including actions against an individual's license or multistate licensure privilege, including, but not limited to, revocation, suspension, probation, monitoring of the licensee, limitation on the licensee's practice or any other encumbrance on licensure affecting a nurse's authorization to practice, including, but not limited to, issuance of a cease and desist action.

(2) "Alternative program" means a nondisciplinary monitoring program approved by a licensing board.

(3) "Compact" means the Nurse Licensure Compact enacted into law and entered into by the state pursuant to this section.

(4) "Coordinated licensure information system" means an integrated process for collecting, storing and sharing information on nurse licensure and enforcement activities related to nurse licensure laws that is administered by a nonprofit organization composed of and controlled by licensing boards.

(5) "Current significant investigative information" means:

(A) Investigative information that a licensing board, after a preliminary inquiry that includes notification and an opportunity for the nurse to respond, if required by state law, has reason to believe is not groundless and, if proved true, would indicate more than a minor

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infraction; or

(B) Investigative information that indicates that the nurse represents an immediate threat to public health and safety regardless of whether the nurse has been notified and had an opportunity to respond.

(6) "Encumbrance" means a revocation or suspension of, or any limitation on, the full and unrestricted practice of nursing imposed by a licensing board.

(7) "Home state" means the party state that is the nurse's primary state of residence.

(8) "Licensing board" means a party state's regulatory body responsible for issuing nurse licenses.

(9) "Multistate license" means a license to practice as a registered nurse or a licensed practical/vocational nurse (LPN/VN) issued by a home state licensing board that authorizes the licensed nurse to practice in all party states under a multistate licensure privilege.

(10) "Multistate licensure privilege" means a legal authorization associated with a multistate license permitting the practice of nursing as either a registered nurse (RN) or (LPN/VN) in a remote state.

(11) "Nurse" means a registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical/vocational nurse (LPN/VN), as such terms are defined by each party state's practice laws.

(12) "Party state" means any state that has adopted the compact.

(13) "Remote state" means a party state, other than the home state.

(14) "Single-state license" means a nurse license issued by a party state that authorizes practice only within the issuing state and does not include a multistate licensure privilege to practice in any other party

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state.

(15) "State" means a state, territory or possession of the United States and the District of Columbia.

(16) "State practice laws" means a party state's laws, rules and regulations that govern the practice of nursing, define the scope of nursing practice and create the methods and grounds for imposing discipline. "State practice laws" does not include requirements necessary to obtain and retain a license, except qualifications or requirements of the home state.

ARTICLE III

GENERAL PROVISIONS AND JURISDICTION

(a) A multistate license to practice registered or licensed practical/vocational nursing issued by a home state to a resident in such state shall be recognized by each party state as authorizing a nurse to practice as a registered nurse (RN) or as a licensed practical/vocational nurse (LPN/VN), under a multistate licensure privilege, in each party state.

(b) A state shall implement procedures for considering the criminal history records of applicants for initial multistate license or licensure by endorsement. Such 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 such state's criminal records.

(c) Each party state shall require the following for an applicant to obtain or retain a multistate license in the home state:

(1) The applicant meets the home state's qualifications for licensure

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or renewal of licensure, including all other applicable state laws;

(2) The applicant (A) graduated or is eligible to graduate from a licensing board-approved RN or LPN/VN prelicensure education program, (B) graduated from a foreign RN or LPN/VN prelicensure education program that is (i) approved by the authorized accrediting body in the applicable country, and (ii) verified by an independent credentials review agency to be comparable to a licensing board-approved prelicensure education program, (C) if a graduate of a foreign prelicensure education program, has not taught in English or, if English is not the individual's native language, successfully passed an English proficiency examination that includes the components of reading, speaking, writing and listening, (D) successfully passed a National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses or a National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses administered by the National Council of the State Boards of Nursing, or a nationally recognized predecessor to said examinations, as applicable, (E) is eligible for or holds an active, unencumbered license, (F) submitted, in connection with an application for initial licensure or licensure by endorsement, fingerprints or other biometric data for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the agency responsible for retaining such state's criminal records, (G) has not been convicted or found guilty, or has entered into an agreed disposition, of a felony offense under applicable state or federal criminal law, (H) has not been convicted or found guilty, or has entered into an agreed disposition, of a misdemeanor offense related to the practice of nursing as determined on a case-by-case basis, (I) is not enrolled in an alternative program, (J) is subject to self-disclosure requirements regarding current participation in an alternative program, and (K) has a valid Social Security number.

(d) Any party state may, in accordance with existing state due process law, take adverse action against a nurse's multistate licensure privilege,

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including, but not limited to, revocation, suspension, probation or any other action that affects a nurse's authorization to practice under a multistate licensure privilege, including, but not limited to, a cease and desist action. If a party state takes such action, it shall promptly notify the administrator of the coordinated licensure information system. The administrator of the coordinated licensure information system shall promptly notify the home state of any such actions by a remote state.

(e) A nurse practicing in a party state shall comply with the state practice laws of the state in which the client is located at the time service is provided. The practice of nursing is not limited to patient care and shall include all nursing practice as defined by the state practice laws of the party state in which the client is located. The practice of nursing in a party state under a multistate licensure privilege shall subject a nurse to the jurisdiction of the licensing board, the courts and the laws of the party state in which the client is located at the time service is provided.

(f) Any individual not residing in a party state shall continue to be able to apply for a party state's single-state license as provided under the laws of each party state, except the single-state license granted to such individual shall not be recognized as granting the privilege to practice nursing in any other party state. Nothing in the compact shall affect the requirements established by a party state for the issuance of a single-state license.

(g) Any nurse holding a home state multistate license on the effective date of the compact may retain and renew the multistate license issued by the nurse's then-current home state, provided:

(1) A nurse who changes primary state of residence after the compact's effective date shall meet all applicable requirements of subsection (c) of this article of the compact to obtain a multistate license from a new home state;

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(2) A nurse who fails to satisfy the multistate licensure requirements of subsection (c) of this article of the compact due to a disqualifying event occurring after the compact's effective date shall be ineligible to retain or renew a multistate license, and the nurse's multistate license shall be revoked or deactivated in accordance with applicable rules adopted by the Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators established pursuant to Article VII of the compact.

ARTICLE IV

APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE IN A PARTY STATE

(a) Upon application for a multistate license, the licensing board in the issuing party state shall ascertain, through the coordinated licensure information system, whether the applicant has ever held, or is the holder of, a license issued by any other state, whether there are any encumbrances on any license or multistate licensure privilege held by the applicant, whether any adverse action has been taken against any license or multistate licensure privilege held by the applicant and whether the applicant is currently participating in an alternative program.

(b) A nurse may hold a multistate license issued by the home state in only one party state at a time.

(c) If a nurse changes primary state of residence by moving from one party state to another party state, the nurse shall apply for licensure in the new home state, and the multistate license issued by the prior home state shall be deactivated in accordance with applicable rules adopted by the Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators established pursuant to Article VII of the compact.

(1) The nurse may apply for licensure in advance of a change in primary state of residence.

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(2) A multistate license shall not be issued by the new home state until the nurse provides satisfactory evidence of a change in primary state of residence to the new home state and satisfies all applicable requirements to obtain a multistate license from the new home state.

(d) If a nurse changes primary state of residence by moving from a party state to a non-party state, the multistate license issued by the prior home state shall convert to a single-state license that is valid only in the former home state.

ARTICLE V

ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES INVESTED IN PARTY STATE
LICENSING BOARDS

(a) In addition to the other powers conferred by state law, a licensing board shall have the authority to:

(1) Take adverse action against a nurse's multistate licensure privilege to practice within the licensing board's party state, provided:

(A) Only the home state shall have the power to take adverse action against a nurse's license issued by such home state; and

(B) For purposes of taking adverse action, the home state licensing board shall give the same priority and effect to reported conduct received from a remote state as it would if such conduct had occurred within the home state. In so doing, the home state shall apply its own state laws to determine appropriate action;

(2) Issue a cease and desist order or impose an encumbrance on a nurse's authority to practice within such party state;

(3) Complete any pending investigation of a nurse who changes such nurse's primary state of residence during the course of such investigation. The licensing board may take any appropriate action and

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shall promptly report the conclusions of any such investigation to the administrator of the coordinated licensure information system. The administrator of the coordinated licensure information system shall promptly notify the new home state of any such action;

(4) Issue a subpoena for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and testimony of witnesses, including, but not limited to, for the production of evidence. A subpoena issued by a licensing board in a party state for the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of evidence from another party state shall be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent jurisdiction according to the practice and procedure of such court applicable to subpoenas issued in a proceeding pending before such court. The issuing 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 located;

(5) Obtain and submit, for each nurse licensure applicant, fingerprint or other biometric-based information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for criminal background checks, receive the results of the Federal Bureau of Investigation record search on criminal background checks and use the results in making licensure decisions;

(6) If otherwise permitted by state law, recover from the affected nurse the costs of any investigation and the disposition of any case resulting from any adverse action taken against such nurse; and

(7) Take adverse action based on the factual findings of the remote state, provided the licensing board follows its own procedures for taking such adverse action.

(b) If adverse action is taken by the home state against a nurse's multistate license, the nurse's multistate licensure privilege to practice in all other party states shall be deactivated until all encumbrances have

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been removed from the multistate license. All home state disciplinary orders that impose adverse action against a nurse's multistate license shall include a statement that the nurse's multistate licensure privilege is deactivated in all party states during the pendency of the order.

(c) Nothing in the compact shall override a party state's decision that participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action. The home state licensing board shall deactivate the multistate licensure privilege under the multistate license of any nurse for the duration of the nurse's participation in an alternative program.

ARTICLE VI

COORDINATED LICENSURE INFORMATION SYSTEM AND
EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

(a) All party states shall participate in a coordinated licensure information system of all licensed RNs and licensed LPNs/VNs. Such system shall include information on the licensure and disciplinary history of each nurse, as submitted by party states, to assist in the coordination of nurse licensure and enforcement efforts.

(b) The Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators established pursuant to Article VII of the compact, in consultation with the administrator of the coordinated licensure information system, shall formulate necessary and proper procedures for the identification, collection and exchange of information under the compact.

(c) All licensing boards shall promptly report to the coordinated licensure information system any adverse action, significant investigative information, denials of applications, including, but not limited to, the reasons for such denials, and nurse participation in alternative programs known to the licensing board regardless of whether such participation is deemed nonpublic or confidential under

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state law.

(d) Any significant investigative information and participation in nonpublic or confidential alternative programs reported pursuant to subsection (c) of this article of the compact shall be transmitted through the coordinated licensure information system only to party state licensing boards.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all party state licensing boards contributing information to the coordinated licensure information system may designate information that shall not be shared with non-party states or disclosed to other entities or individuals without the express permission of the contributing state.

(f) Any personally identifiable information obtained from the coordinated licensure information system by a party state licensing board shall not be shared with non-party states or disclosed to other entities or individuals except to the extent permitted by the laws of the party state contributing the information.

(g) Any information contributed to the coordinated licensure information system that is subsequently required to be expunged by the laws of the party state contributing such information shall also be expunged from the coordinated licensure information system.

(h) The compact administrator of each party state shall furnish a uniform data set to the compact administrator of each other party state that shall include, at a minimum:

- (1) Identifying information;
- (2) Licensure data;
- (3) Information related to alternative program participation; and
- (4) Other information that may facilitate the administration of the

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compact, as determined by rules of the Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators established pursuant to Article VII of the compact.

(i) The compact administrator of a party state shall provide all investigative documents and information requested by another party state.

ARTICLE VII

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION OF
NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT ADMINISTRATORS

(a) The party states hereby create and establish a joint public entity known as the Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) The commission is an instrumentality of the party states;

(2) 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 it adopts or consents to participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings; and

(3) Nothing in the compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity.

(b) Membership, voting and meetings:

(1) Each party state shall have and be limited to one administrator. The head of the state licensing board or designee shall be the administrator of the compact for each party state. Any administrator may be removed or suspended from office as provided by the law of the state from which the administrator is appointed. Any vacancy occurring

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in the commission shall be filled in accordance with the laws of the party state in which the vacancy exists.

(2) Each administrator shall be entitled to one vote with regard to the promulgation of rules and creation of bylaws and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the business and affairs of the commission. An administrator shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for an administrator's participation in meetings by telephone or other means of communication.

(3) The commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. Additional meetings shall be held as set forth in the bylaws or rules of the commission.

(4) All meetings shall be open to the public and public notice of meetings shall be given in the same manner as required under the rulemaking provisions in Article VIII of the compact.

(5) The commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting if the commission is discussing any of the following:

(A) Noncompliance of a party state with such state's obligations under the compact;

(B) The employment, compensation, discipline or other personnel matters, practices or procedures related to specific employees or other matters related to the commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;

(C) Ongoing, threatened or reasonably anticipated litigation;

(D) Negotiation of a contract for the purchase or sale of goods, services or real estate;

(E) Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;

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(F) Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential;

(G) Disclosure of information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(H) Disclosure of investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes;

(I) Disclosure of information related to any reports prepared by or on behalf of the commission for the purpose of investigation of compliance with the compact; or

(J) Any matter specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or state statute.

(6) If a meeting or portion of a meeting is closed pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection, the commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and shall reference each relevant exempting provision. The commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, including, but not limited to, the reasons for such actions and a description of the views expressed at the meeting. All documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release by a majority vote of the commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(c) The commission shall, by a majority vote of the administrators, prescribe bylaws or rules to govern its conduct as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes and exercise the powers of the compact, including, but not limited to:

(1) Establishing the fiscal year of the commission;

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(2) Providing reasonable standards and procedures:

(A) For the establishment and meetings of other committees; and

(B) Governing any general or specific delegation of any authority or function of the commission;

(3) Providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting meetings of the commission, ensuring reasonable advance notice of all meetings and providing an opportunity for attendance of such meetings by interested parties, with enumerated exceptions designed to protect the public's interest, privacy of individuals and proprietary information, including, but not limited to, trade secrets. The commission may meet in closed session only after a majority of the administrators vote to close a meeting in whole or in part. As soon as practicable, the commission shall make public a copy of the vote to close the meeting revealing the vote of each administrator, with no proxy votes allowed;

(4) Establishing the titles, duties and authority and reasonable procedures for the election of the officers of the commission;

(5) Providing reasonable standards and procedures for the establishment of the personnel policies and programs of the commission. Notwithstanding any civil service or other similar law of any party state, the bylaws shall exclusively govern the personnel policies and programs of the commission; and

(6) Providing a mechanism for winding up the operations of the commission and the equitable disposition of any surplus funds that may exist after the termination of the compact after the payment or reserving of all of its debts and obligations.

(d) The commission shall publish its bylaws and rules and any amendments to such bylaws and rules in a convenient form on the Internet web site of the commission.

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(e) The commission shall maintain its financial records in accordance with such bylaws.

(f) The commission shall meet and take such actions that are consistent with the provisions of the compact and such bylaws.

(g) The commission shall have the following powers:

(1) To promulgate uniform rules, which shall have the force and effect of law and be binding in all party states, to facilitate and coordinate implementation and administration of the compact;

(2) To bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the commission, provided the standing of any licensing board to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected;

(3) To purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

(4) To borrow, accept or contract for services of personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a party state or nonprofit organizations;

(5) To cooperate with other organizations that administer state compacts related to the regulation of nursing, including, but not limited to, sharing administrative or staff expenses, office space or other resources;

(6) To 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;

(7) To accept any and all appropriate donations, grants and gifts of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services, and receive, utilize and dispose of such donations, grants and gifts of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services, provided the commission shall avoid

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at all times any appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest;

(8) To lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise own, hold, improve or use, any property, whether real, personal or mixed, provided the commission shall avoid at all times any appearance of impropriety;

(9) To sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon or otherwise dispose of any property, whether real, personal or mixed;

(10) To establish a budget and make expenditures;

(11) To borrow money;

(12) To appoint committees, including advisory committees comprised of administrators, state nursing regulators, state legislators or their representatives, consumer representatives and other such interested persons;

(13) To provide to and receive information from and cooperate with law enforcement agencies;

(14) To adopt and use an official seal; and

(15) To perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of the compact consistent with the state regulation of nurse licensure and practice.

(h) Financing of the commission:

(1) The commission shall pay or provide for the payment of the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization and ongoing activities.

(2) The commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each party state to cover the cost of its operations, activities and

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staff in its annual budget as approved each year. The aggregate annual assessment amount, if any, shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the commission, which shall promulgate a rule that is binding upon all party states.

(3) The commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same or pledge the credit of any of the party states, except by and with the authority of such party state.

(4) The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. All receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the commission.

(i) Qualified immunity, defense and indemnification:

(1) The administrators, officers, executive director, employees and representatives of the commission shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or 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 nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to protect any such person from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury or liability caused by the intentional, wilful or wanton misconduct of such person.

(2) The commission shall defend any administrator, officer, executive director, employee or representative of the commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act,

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error or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, 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 (A) nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit such person from retaining such person's own counsel, and (B) the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from such person's intentional, wilful or wanton misconduct.

(3) The commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any administrator, officer, executive director, employee or representative of the commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against such person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that such person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, provided the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from the intentional, wilful or wanton misconduct of such person.

ARTICLE VIII

RULEMAKING

(a) The Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators established pursuant to Article VII of the compact shall exercise its rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this article and the rules adopted pursuant to this article. Each rule and amendment shall become binding as of the date specified in such rule or amendment and shall have the same force and effect as provisions of the compact.

(b) Each rule and each amendment to a rule shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the commission.

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(c) Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule by the commission, and at least sixty days in advance of the meeting at which such rule will be considered and voted upon, the commission shall file a notice of proposed rulemaking:

(1) On the Internet web site of the commission; and

(2) On the Internet web site of each licensing board or the publication in which each state would otherwise publish proposed rules.

(d) The notice of proposed rulemaking shall include:

(1) The proposed time, date and location of the meeting in which the rule will be considered and voted upon;

(2) The text of the proposed rule or amendment, and the reason for the proposed rule or amendment;

(3) A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person; and

(4) The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the commission of their intention to attend the public hearing and any written comments.

(e) Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the commission shall allow persons to submit written data, facts, opinions and arguments, which shall be made available to the public.

(f) The commission shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing before it adopts a rule or amendment.

(g) The commission shall publish the place, time and date of the scheduled public hearing.

(1) Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each person

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who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in writing. All hearings shall be recorded, and a copy of the recording shall be made available upon request.

(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require a separate hearing on each rule. Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the commission at a hearing required by this subsection.

(h) If no one appears at the public hearing, the commission may proceed with promulgation of the proposed rule.

(i) Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close of business on the scheduled hearing date if the hearing was not held, the commission shall consider all written and oral comments received.

(j) The commission shall, by majority vote of all administrators, take final action on the proposed rule and shall determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the rulemaking record and the full text of the rule.

(k) Upon determination that an emergency exists, the commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule without prior notice, opportunity for comment or hearing, provided the usual rulemaking procedures provided in the compact shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, but in no event later than ninety days after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this subsection, an emergency rule is one that shall be adopted immediately in order to:

(1) Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety or welfare;

(2) Prevent a loss of commission or party state funds; or

(3) Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is required by federal law or rule.

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(l) The commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule or amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format, errors in consistency or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revision shall be posted on the Internet web site of the commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any person for a period of thirty days after posting of such revision. The revision may be challenged only on the ground 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.

ARTICLE IX

OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT

(a) Oversight:

(1) Each party state shall enforce the compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate the compact's purposes and intent.

(2) The Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators established pursuant to Article VII of the compact may receive service of process in any proceeding that may affect the powers, responsibilities or actions of the commission and shall have standing to intervene in such proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide service of process in such proceeding to the commission shall render a judgment or order void as to the commission, compact or promulgated rules.

(b) Default, technical assistance and termination:

(1) If the commission determines that a party state has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under the compact

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or the promulgated rules, the commission shall:

(A) Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other party states of the nature of the default, the proposed means of curing the default or any other action to be taken by the commission; and

(B) Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance regarding the default.

(2) If a state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting state's membership in the compact may be terminated upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the administrators, and all rights, privileges and benefits conferred by the compact may be terminated on the effective date of termination. A cure of the default shall not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of default.

(3) Termination of membership in the 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 of the defaulting state and to the executive officer of the defaulting state's licensing board and each of the party states.

(4) A state whose membership in the compact has been terminated shall be responsible for all assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination, including, but not limited to, an obligation that extends beyond the effective date of termination.

(5) The commission shall not bear any costs related to a state that is found to be in default or whose membership in the compact has been terminated unless agreed upon in writing between the commission and the defaulting state.

(6) The defaulting state may appeal the action of the commission by

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petitioning the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district in which the commission has its principal offices. The prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.

(c) Dispute resolution:

(1) Upon request by a party state, the commission shall attempt to resolve disputes related to the compact that arise among party states and between party and non-party states.

(2) The commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes, as appropriate.

(3) In the event the commission cannot resolve disputes among party states arising under the compact:

(A) The party states may submit the issues in dispute to an arbitration panel that shall be comprised of individuals appointed by the compact administrator in each of the affected party states and an individual mutually agreed upon by the compact administrators of all the party states involved in the dispute; and

(B) The decision of a majority of the arbitrators shall be final and binding.

(d) Enforcement:

(1) The commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the provisions and rules of the compact.

(2) By majority vote, the commission may initiate legal action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district in which the commission has its principal offices against a party state that is in default to enforce compliance with the provisions of the compact and its promulgated rules and bylaws. The relief sought may

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include both injunctive relief and damages. If judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.

(3) The remedies set forth in the compact shall not be the exclusive remedies of the commission. The commission may pursue any other remedies available under federal or state law.

ARTICLE X

EFFECTIVE DATE, WITHDRAWAL AND AMENDMENT

(a) The compact shall become effective and binding on the date of legislative enactment of the compact into law by not less than twenty-six states or December 31, 2018, whichever is earlier. All party states to the compact that also were parties to the previous Nurse Licensure Compact (Prior Compact) that is superseded by the compact shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Prior Compact not later than six months after the effective date of the compact adopted pursuant to this section.

(b) Each party state to the compact shall continue to recognize a nurse's multistate licensure privilege to practice in such party state issued under the Prior Compact until such party state has withdrawn from the Prior Compact.

(c) Any party state may withdraw from the compact by enacting a statute repealing the compact. A party state's withdrawal shall not take effect until six months after enactment of the repealing statute.

(d) A party state's withdrawal or termination shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing or terminated state's licensing board to report adverse actions and significant investigations occurring prior to the effective date of such withdrawal or termination.

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(e) Nothing contained in the compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any nurse licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a party state and a non-party state that is made in accordance with the other provisions of the compact.

(f) The compact may be amended by the party states. No amendment to the compact shall become effective and binding upon the party states unless and until it is enacted into the laws of all party states.

(g) Representatives of non-party states to the compact shall be invited to participate in the activities of the Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators established pursuant to Article VII of the compact, on a nonvoting basis, prior to the adoption of the compact by all states.

ARTICLE XI

CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

The compact shall be liberally construed to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of the compact shall be severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of the compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any party state or of the United States, or if the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of the compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If the compact is determined to be contrary to the constitution of any party state, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining party states and in full force and effect as to the party state affected as to all severable matters.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On and after October 1, 2025, until January 1, 2028, the Commissioner of Public Health shall require each person applying to the Department of Public Health for a

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multistate license, as defined in section 1 of this act, to submit to a state and national fingerprint-based criminal history records check pursuant to section 29-17a of the general statutes.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, "home state", "licensing board", "multistate license" and "single-state license" have the same meanings as provided in section 1 of this act.

(b) Nothing in section 1 of this act shall prohibit a home state licensing board, upon request from a person with a multistate license, from converting a multistate license to a single-state license that is only valid in the home state.

Sec. 4. Section 19a-12d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) On or before the last day of January, April, July and October in each year, the Commissioner of Public Health shall certify the amount of revenue received as a result of any fee increase in the amount of five dollars (1) that took effect October 1, 2015, pursuant to sections 19a-88, 19a-515, 20-65k, 20-74bb, 20-74h, 20-74s, 20-149, 20-162o, 20-162bb, 20-191a, 20-195c, 20-195o, 20-195cc, 20-201, 20-206b, 20-206n, 20-206r, 20-206bb, 20-206ll, 20-222a, 20-275, 20-395d, 20-398 and 20-412, (2) that took effect October 1, 2021, pursuant to section 20-185k, and (3) that took effect July 1, 2021, pursuant to section 20-12j, and transfer such amount to the professional assistance program account established in section 19a-12c.

(b) On and after October 1, 2025, until January 1, 2028, in addition to the transfers made pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the commissioner shall transfer an additional two dollars from each license renewed pursuant to subdivision (1) or (3) of subsection (c) of section 19a-88 to the professional assistance program account established pursuant to section 19a-12c. Transfers made pursuant to this subsection

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shall occur at the same times and frequency as the transfers made pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the Office of the Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health and a representative of the professional assistance program for regulated professions established pursuant to section 19a-12a of the general statutes, shall convene a working group to evaluate the implementation of the Nurse Licensure Compact enacted pursuant to section 1 of this act.

(b) The working group convened pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall assess whether the state's continued participation in such compact is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of its citizens. At a minimum, the working group shall:

(1) Review any long-term effects of the state's participation in such compact;

(2) Review educational outreach and training materials developed to support implementation of such compact; and

(3) Help inform an evaluation on whether the state should remain a party to such compact.

(c) Not later than January 1, 2027, the working group shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health regarding its findings.

Approved May 30, 2024