



# 2024 South Dakota Legislature

## House Bill 1015

Introduced by: **Representative** Mulder and **Senator** Tobin at the request of the Committee on Sustainable Models for Long Term Care

1 **An Act to adopt the social work licensure compact.**

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

3 **Section 1. That a NEW SECTION be added to title 36:**

4 SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT

5 SECTION 1: PURPOSE

6 The purpose of this Compact is to facilitate interstate practice of Regulated Social  
7 Workers by improving public access to competent Social Work Services. The Compact  
8 preserves the regulatory authority of States to protect public health and safety through  
9 the current system of State licensure.

10 This Compact is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- 11 A. Increase public access to Social Work Services;  
12 B. Reduce overly burdensome and duplicative requirements associated with holding  
13 multiple licenses;  
14 C. Enhance the Member States' ability to protect the public's health and safety;  
15 D. Encourage the cooperation of Member States in regulating multistate practice;  
16 E. Promote mobility and address workforce shortages by eliminating the necessity for  
17 licenses in multiple states by providing for the mutual recognition of other Member  
18 State licenses;  
19 F. Support military families;  
20 G. Facilitate the exchange of licensure and disciplinary information among Member  
21 States;  
22 H. Authorize all Member States to hold a Regulated Social Worker accountable for  
23 abiding by a Member State's laws, regulations, and applicable professional  
24 standards in the Member State in which the client is located at the time care is  
25 rendered; and

1 I. Allow for the use of telehealth to facilitate increased access to Regulated Social  
2 Work Services.

3 SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 F. "Current significant investigative information" means:

27 1. Investigative information that a Licensing Authority, after a preliminary  
28 inquiry that includes notification and an opportunity for the Regulated Social  
29 Worker to respond has reason to believe is not groundless and, if proved  
30 true, would indicate more than a minor infraction as may be defined by the  
31 Commission; or

32 2. Investigative information that indicates that the Regulated Social Worker  
33 represents an immediate threat to public health and safety, as may be  
34 defined by the Commission, regardless of whether the Regulated Social  
35 Worker has been notified and has had an opportunity to respond;

- 1     G. "Data system" means a repository of information about Licensees, including,  
2     continuing education, examination, licensure, Current Significant Investigative  
3     Information, Disqualifying Event, Multistate License(s) and Adverse Action  
4     information or other information as required by the Commission;
- 5     H. "Domicile" means the jurisdiction in which the Licensee resides and intends to  
6     remain indefinitely;
- 7     I. "Disqualifying Event" means any Adverse Action or incident which results in an  
8     Encumbrance that disqualifies or makes the Licensee ineligible to either obtain,  
9     retain or renew a Multistate License;
- 10    J. "Encumbrance" means a revocation or suspension of, or any limitation on, the full  
11    and unrestricted practice of Social Work licensed and regulated by a Licensing  
12    Authority;
- 13    K. "Executive Committee" means a group of delegates elected or appointed to act on  
14    behalf of, and within the powers granted to them by, the compact and Commission;
- 15    L. "Home State" means the Member State that is the Licensee's primary Domicile;
- 16    M. "Impairment" means a condition(s) that may impair a practitioner's ability to  
17    engage in full and unrestricted practice as a Regulated Social Worker without some  
18    type of intervention and may include, but are not limited to, alcohol and drug  
19    dependence, mental health impairment, and neurological or physical impairments;
- 20    N. "Licensee(s)" means an individual who currently holds a license from a State to  
21    practice as a Regulated Social Worker;
- 22    O. "Licensing authority" means the board or agency of a Member State, or equivalent,  
23    that is responsible for the licensing and regulation of Regulated Social Workers;
- 24    P. "Member State" means a state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United  
25    States of America that has enacted this Compact;
- 26    Q. "Multistate Authorization to Practice" means a legally authorized privilege to  
27    practice, which is equivalent to a license, associated with a Multistate License  
28    permitting the practice of Social Work in a Remote State;
- 29    R. "Multistate License" means a license to practice as a Regulated Social Worker  
30    issued by a Home State Licensing Authority that authorizes the Regulated Social  
31    Worker to practice in all Member States under Multistate Authorization to Practice;
- 32    S. "Qualifying National Exam" means a national licensing examination approved by  
33    the Commission;
- 34    T. "Regulated Social Worker" means any clinical, master's or bachelor's Social Worker  
35    licensed by a Member State regardless of the title used by that Member State;

- 1 U. "Remote State" means a Member State other than the Licensee's Home State;  
2 V. "Rule(s)" or "Rule(s) of the Commission" means a regulation or regulations duly  
3 promulgated by the Commission, as authorized by the Compact, that has the force  
4 of law;  
5 W. "Single State License" means a Social Work license issued by any State that  
6 authorizes practice only within the issuing State and does not include Multistate  
7 Authorization to Practice in any Member State;  
8 X. "Social Work" or "Social Work Services" means the application of social work  
9 theory, knowledge, methods, ethics, and the professional use of self to restore or  
10 enhance social, psychosocial, or biopsychosocial functioning of individuals, couples,  
11 families, groups, organizations, and communities through the care and services  
12 provided by a Regulated Social Worker as set forth in the Member State's statutes  
13 and regulations in the State where the services are being provided;  
14 Y. "State" means any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States  
15 of America that regulates the practice of Social Work; and  
16 Z. "Unencumbered License" means a license that authorizes a Regulated Social  
17 Worker to engage in the full and unrestricted practice of Social Work.

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

- 19 A. To be eligible to participate in the compact, a potential Member State must  
20 currently meet all of the following criteria:  
21 1. License and regulate the practice of Social Work at either the clinical,  
22 master's, or bachelor's category;  
23 2. Require applicants for licensure to graduate from a program that is:  
24 a. Operated by a college or university recognized by the Licensing  
25 Authority;  
26 b. Accredited, or in candidacy by an institution that subsequently  
27 becomes accredited, by an accrediting agency recognized by either:  
28 i. the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or its  
29 successor; or  
30 ii. the United States Department of Education; and  
31 c. Corresponds to the licensure sought as outlined in Section 4;  
32 3. Require applicants for clinical licensure to complete a period of supervised  
33 practice;  
34 4. Have a mechanism in place for receiving, investigating, and adjudicating  
35 complaints about Licensees.

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

- 2 1. Require that applicants for a Multistate License pass a Qualifying National  
3 Exam for the corresponding category of Multistate License sought as  
4 outlined in Section 4;  
5 2. Participate fully in the Commission's Data System, including using the  
6 Commission's unique identifier as defined in Rules;  
7 3. Notify the Commission, in compliance with the terms of the Compact and  
8 Rules, of any Adverse Action or the availability of Current Significant  
9 Investigative Information regarding a Licensee;  
10 4. Implement procedures for considering the criminal history records of  
11 applicants for a Multistate License. Such procedures shall include the  
12 submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based information by  
13 applicants for the purpose of obtaining an applicant's criminal history record  
14 information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the agency  
15 responsible for retaining that State's criminal records;  
16 5. Comply with the Rules of the Commission;  
17 6. Require an applicant to obtain or retain a license in the Home State and  
18 meet the Home State's qualifications for licensure or renewal of licensure,  
19 as well as all other applicable Home State laws;  
20 7. Authorize a Licensee holding a Multistate License in any Member State to  
21 practice in accordance with the terms of the Compact and Rules of the  
22 Commission; and  
23 8. Designate a delegate to participate in the Commission meetings.

24 C. A Member State meeting the requirements of Section 3.A. and 3.B of this Compact  
25 shall designate the categories of Social Work licensure that are eligible for issuance  
26 of a Multistate License for applicants in such Member State. To the extent that any  
27 Member State does not meet the requirements for participation in the Compact at  
28 any particular category of Social Work licensure, such Member State may choose,  
29 but is not obligated to, issue a Multistate License to applicants that otherwise meet  
30 the requirements of Section 4 for issuance of a Multistate License in such category  
31 or categories of licensure.

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

33 SECTION 4. SOCIAL WORKER PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT

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

1. Hold or be eligible for an active, Unencumbered License in the Home State;
  2. Pay any applicable fees, including any State fee, for the Multistate License;
  3. Submit, in connection with an application for a Multistate License,  
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 that State's criminal records;
  4. Notify the Home State of any Adverse Action, Encumbrance, or restriction  
on any professional license taken by any Member State or non-Member  
State within 30 days from the date the action is taken;
  5. Meet any continuing competence requirements established by the Home  
State;
  6. Abide by the laws, regulations, and applicable standards in the Member  
State where the client is located at the time care is rendered.
- B. An applicant for a clinical-category Multistate License must meet all of the following  
requirements:
1. Fulfill a competency requirement, which shall be satisfied by either:
    - a. Passage of a clinical-category Qualifying National Exam; or
    - b. Licensure of the applicant in their Home State at the clinical  
category, beginning prior to such time as a Qualifying National Exam  
was required by the Home State and 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 foregoing competency  
requirements 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:
      - i. The Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its  
successor; or
      - ii. The United States Department of Education.
  3. Fulfill a practice requirement, which shall be satisfied by demonstrating  
completion of either:

- 1                   a. A period of postgraduate supervised clinical practice equal to a  
2                   minimum of three thousand hours; or  
3                   b. A minimum of two years of full-time postgraduate supervised clinical  
4                   practice; or  
5                   c. The substantial equivalency of the foregoing practice requirements  
6                   which the Commission may determine by Rule.  
7       C. An applicant for a master's-category Multistate License must meet all of the  
8       following requirements:  
9           1. Fulfill a competency requirement, which shall be satisfied by either:  
10           a. Passage of a masters-category Qualifying National Exam;  
11           b. Licensure of the applicant in their Home State at the master's  
12           category, beginning prior to such time as a Qualifying National Exam  
13           was required by the Home State at the master's category and  
14           accompanied by a continuous period of Social Work licensure  
15           thereafter, all of which may be further governed by the Rules of the  
16           Commission; or  
17           c. The substantial equivalency of the foregoing competency  
18           requirements which the Commission may determine by Rule.  
19           2. Attain at least a master's degree in Social Work from a program that is:  
20           a. Operated by a college or university recognized by the Licensing  
21           Authority; and  
22           b. Accredited, or in candidacy that subsequently becomes accredited,  
23           by an accrediting agency recognized by either:  
24           i. The Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its  
25           successor; o  
26           ii. The United States Department of Education.  
27       D. An applicant for a bachelor's-category Multistate License must meet all of the  
28       following requirements:  
29           1. Fulfill a competency requirement, which shall be satisfied by either:  
30           a. Passage of a bachelor's-category Qualifying National Exam;  
31           b. Licensure of the applicant in their Home State at the  
32           bachelor'scategory, beginning prior to such time as a Qualifying  
33           National Exam was required by the Home State and accompanied by  
34           a period of continuous Social Work licensure thereafter, all of which  
35           may be further governed by the Rules of the Commission; or

- 1                   c. The substantial equivalency of the foregoing competency  
2                   requirements which the Commission may determine by Rule.
- 3           2. Attain at least a bachelor's degree in Social Work from a program that is:
- 4           a. Operated by a college or university recognized by the Licensing  
5           Authority; and
- 6           b. Accredited, or in candidacy that subsequently becomes accredited,  
7           by an accrediting agency recognized by either:
- 8           i. The Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its  
9           successor; or
- 10           ii. The United States Department of Education.
- 11   E. The Multistate License for a Regulated Social Worker is subject to the renewal  
12   requirements of the Home State. The Regulated Social Worker must maintain  
13   compliance with the requirements of Section 4(A) to be eligible to renew a  
14   Multistate License.
- 15   F. The Regulated Social Worker's services in a Remote State are subject to that  
16   Member State's regulatory authority. A Remote State may, in accordance with due  
17   process and that Member State's laws, remove a Regulated Social Worker's  
18   Multistate Authorization to Practice in the Remote State for a specific period of  
19   time, impose fines, and take any other necessary actions to protect the health and  
20   safety of its citizens.
- 21   G. If a Multistate License is encumbered, the Regulated Social Worker's Multistate  
22   Authorization to Practice shall be deactivated in all Remote States until the  
23   Multistate License is no longer encumbered.
- 24   H. If a Multistate Authorization to Practice is encumbered in a Remote State, the  
25   regulated Social Worker's Multistate Authorization to Practice may be deactivated  
26   in that State until the Multistate Authorization to Practice is no longer encumbered.

#### 27                   SECTION 5: ISSUANCE OF A MULTISTATE LICENSE

- 28   A. Upon receipt of an application for Multistate License, the Home State Licensing  
29   Authority shall determine the applicant's eligibility for a Multistate License in  
30   accordance with Section 4 of this Compact.
- 31   B. If such applicant is eligible pursuant to Section 4 of this Compact, the Home State  
32   Licensing Authority shall issue a Multistate License that authorizes the applicant or  
33   Regulated Social Worker to practice in all Member States under a Multistate  
34   Authorization to Practice.



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

4 D. A Multistate License issued by a Home State to a resident in that State shall be  
5 recognized by all Compact Member States as authorizing Social Work Practice  
6 under a Multistate Authorization to Practice corresponding to each category of  
7 licensure regulated in each Member State.

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

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

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

17 C. Nothing in this Compact, nor any Rule of the Commission, shall be construed to  
18 limit, restrict, or in any way reduce the ability of a Member State to take Adverse  
19 Action against a Licensee's Single State License to practice Social Work in that  
20 State.

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

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

28 SECTION 7: REISSUANCE OF A MULTISTATE LICENSE BY A NEW HOME STATE

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

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

- 32 1. The Licensee shall immediately apply for the reissuance of their Multistate  
33 License in their new Home State. The Licensee shall pay all applicable fees  
34 and notify the prior Home State in accordance with the Rules of the  
35 Commission.

- 1           2.     Upon receipt of an application to reissue a Multistate License, the new Home  
2                 State shall verify that the Multistate License is active, unencumbered and  
3                 eligible for reissuance under the terms of the Compact and the Rules of the  
4                 Commission. The Multistate License issued by the prior Home State will be  
5                 deactivated and all Member States notified in accordance with the applicable  
6                 Rules adopted by the Commission.
- 7           3.     Prior to the reissuance of the Multistate License, the new Home State shall  
8                 conduct procedures for considering the criminal history records of the  
9                 Licensee. Such procedures shall include the submission of fingerprints or  
10                other biometric-based information by applicants for the purpose of  
11                obtaining an applicant's criminal history record information from the Federal  
12                Bureau of Investigation and the agency responsible for retaining that State's  
13                criminal records.
- 14          4.     If required for initial licensure, the new Home State may require completion  
15                 of jurisprudence requirements in the new Home State.
- 16          5.     Notwithstanding any other provision of this Compact, if a Licensee does not  
17                 meet the requirements set forth in this Compact for the reissuance of a  
18                 Multistate License by the new Home State, then the Licensee shall be  
19                 subject to the new Home State requirements for the issuance of a Single  
20                 State License in that State.
- 21        C.     If a Licensee changes their primary State of residence by moving from a Member  
22                 State to a non-Member State, or from a non-Member State to a Member State,  
23                 then the Licensee shall be subject to the State requirements for the issuance of a  
24                 Single State License in the new Home State.
- 25        D.     Nothing in this Compact shall interfere with a Licensee's ability to hold a Single  
26                 State License in multiple States; however, for the purposes of this Compact, a  
27                 Licensee shall have only one Home State, and only one Multistate License.
- 28        E.     Nothing in this Compact shall interfere with the requirements established by a  
29                 Member State for the issuance of a Single State License.

#### 30                               SECTION 8. MILITARY FAMILIES

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

#### 34                               SECTION 9. ADVERSE ACTIONS

- 1     A. In addition to the other powers conferred by State law, a Remote State shall have  
2     the authority, in accordance with existing State due process law, to:
- 3         1. Take Adverse Action against a Regulated Social Worker's Multistate  
4         Authorization to Practice only within that Member State, and issue  
5         subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance  
6         and testimony of witnesses as well as the production of evidence.  
7         Subpoenas issued by a Licensing Authority in a Member State for the  
8         attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of evidence from  
9         another Member State shall be enforced in the latter State by any court of  
10        competent jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure of that court  
11        applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before it. The issuing  
12        Licensing Authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage,  
13        and other fees required by the service statutes of the State in which the  
14        witnesses or evidence are located.
- 15        2. Only the Home State shall have the power to take Adverse Action against a  
16        Regulated Social Worker's Multistate License.
- 17     B. For purposes of taking Adverse Action, the Home State shall give the same priority  
18     and effect to reported conduct received from a Member State as it would if the  
19     conduct had occurred within the Home State. In so doing, the Home State shall  
20     apply its own State laws to determine appropriate action.
- 21     C. The Home State shall complete any pending investigations of a Regulated Social  
22     Worker who changes their Home State during the course of the investigations. The  
23     Home State shall also have the authority to take appropriate action(s) and shall  
24     promptly report the conclusions of the investigations to the administrator of the  
25     Data System. The administrator of the Data System shall promptly notify the new  
26     Home State of any Adverse Actions.
- 27     D. A Member State, if otherwise permitted by State law, may recover from the  
28     affected Regulated Social Worker the costs of investigations and dispositions of  
29     cases resulting from any Adverse Action taken against that Regulated Social  
30     Worker.
- 31     E. A Member State may take Adverse Action based on the factual findings of another  
32     Member State, provided that the Member State follows its own procedures for  
33     taking the Adverse Action.
- 34     F. Joint Investigations:

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

5           2.       Member States shall share any investigative, litigation, or compliance  
6                   materials in furtherance of any joint or individual investigation initiated  
7                   under the Compact.

8       G.       If Adverse Action is taken by the Home State against the Multistate License of a  
9                   Regulated Social Worker, the Regulated Social Worker's Multistate Authorization to  
10                  Practice in all other Member States shall be deactivated until all Encumbrances  
11                  have been removed from the Multistate License. All Home State disciplinary orders  
12                  that impose Adverse Action against the license of a Regulated Social Worker shall  
13                  include a statement that the Regulated Social Worker's Multistate Authorization to  
14                  Practice is deactivated in all Member States until all conditions of the decision,  
15                  order or agreement are satisfied.

16       H.       If a Member State takes Adverse Action, it shall promptly notify the administrator  
17                   of the Data System. The administrator of the Data System shall promptly notify  
18                   the Home State and all other Member States of any Adverse Actions by Remote  
19                   States.

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

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

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

28       SECTION 10. ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT COMMISSION

29       A.       The Compact Member States hereby create and establish a joint government  
30                   agency whose membership consists of all Member States that have enacted the  
31                   compact known as the Social Work Licensure Compact Commission. The  
32                   Commission is an instrumentality of the Compact States acting jointly and not an  
33                   instrumentality of any one State. The Commission shall come into existence on or  
34                   after the effective date of the Compact as set forth in Section 14.

35       B.       Membership, Voting, and Meetings

- 1        1. Each Member State shall have and be limited to one (1) delegate selected
- 2        by that Member State's Licensing Authority.
- 3        2. The delegate shall be either:
- 4        a. A current member of the Licensing Authority at the time of
- 5        appointment, who is a Regulated Social Worker or public member of
- 6        the State Licensing Authority; or
- 7        b. An administrator of the Licensing Authority or their designee.
- 8        3. The Commission shall by Rule or bylaw establish a term of office for
- 9        delegates and may by Rule or bylaw establish term limits.
- 10       4. The Commission may recommend removal or suspension of any delegate
- 11       from office.
- 12       5. A Member State's Licensing Authority shall fill any vacancy of its delegate
- 13       occurring on the Commission within 60 days of the vacancy.
- 14       6. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote on all matters before the
- 15       Commission requiring a vote by Commission delegates.
- 16       7. A delegate shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in the
- 17       bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates to meet by
- 18       telecommunication, videoconference, or other means of communication.
- 19       8. The Commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year.
- 20       Additional meetings may be held as set forth in the bylaws. The Commission
- 21       may meet by telecommunication, video conference, or other similar
- 22       electronic means.
- 23       C. The Commission shall have the following powers:
- 24       1. Establish the fiscal year of the Commission;
- 25       2. Establish code of conduct and conflict of interest policies;
- 26       3. Establish and amend Rules and bylaws;
- 27       4. Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws;
- 28       5. Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the provisions of this
- 29       Compact, the Commission's Rules, and the bylaws;
- 30       6. Initiate and conclude legal proceedings or actions in the name of the
- 31       Commission, provided that the standing of any Licensing Authority to sue
- 32       or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected;
- 33       7. Maintain and certify records and information provided to a Member State as
- 34       the authenticated business records of the Commission, and designate an
- 35       agent to do so on the Commission's behalf;

8. Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;
9. Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a Member State;
10. Conduct an annual financial review;
11. Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant such individuals appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the Compact, and establish the Commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel, and other related personnel matters;
12. Assess and collect fees;
13. Accept any and all appropriate gifts, donations, grants of money, other sources of revenue, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, and receive, utilize, and dispose of the same; provided that at all times the Commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest;
14. Lease, purchase, retain, own, hold, improve, or use any property, real, personal, or mixed, or any undivided interest therein;
15. Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property real, personal, or mixed;
16. Establish a budget and make expenditures;
17. Borrow money;
18. Appoint committees, including standing committees, composed of members, State regulators, State legislators or their representatives, and consumer representatives, and such other interested persons as may be designated in this Compact and the bylaws;
19. Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law enforcement agencies;
20. Establish and elect an Executive Committee, including a chair and a vice chair;
21. Determine whether a State's adopted language is materially different from the model compact language such that the State would not qualify for participation in the Compact; and
22. Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this Compact.

D. The Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall 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. Oversee the day-to-day activities of the administration of the compact including enforcement and compliance with the provisions of the compact, its Rules and bylaws, and other such duties as deemed necessary;
  - b. Recommend to the Commission changes to the Rules or bylaws, changes to this Compact legislation, fees charged to Compact Member States, fees charged to Licensees, and other fees;
  - c. Ensure Compact administration services are appropriately provided, including by contract;
  - d. Prepare and recommend the budget;
  - e. Maintain financial records on behalf of the Commission;
  - f. Monitor Compact compliance of Member States and provide compliance reports to the Commission;
  - g. Establish additional committees as necessary;
  - h. Exercise the powers and duties of the Commission during the interim between Commission meetings, except for adopting or amending Rules, adopting or amending bylaws, and exercising any other powers and duties expressly reserved to the Commission by Rule or bylaw; and
  - i. Other duties as provided in the Rules or bylaws of the Commission.
2. The Executive Committee shall be composed of up to eleven (11) members:
  - a. The chair and vice chair of the Commission shall be voting members of the Executive Committee; and
  - b. The Commission shall elect five voting members from the current membership of the Commission.
  - c. Up to four (4) ex-officio, nonvoting members from four (4) recognized national Social Work organizations.
  - d. The ex-officio members will be selected by their respective organizations.
3. The Commission may remove any member of the Executive Committee as provided in the Commission's bylaws.
4. The Executive Committee shall meet at least annually.

- 1           a. Executive Committee meetings shall be open to the public, except  
2           that the Executive Committee may meet in a closed, non-public  
3           meeting as provided in subsection F.2 below.
- 4           b. The Executive Committee shall give seven (7) days' notice of its  
5           meetings, posted on its website and as determined to provide notice  
6           to persons with an interest in the business of the Commission.
- 7           c. The Executive Committee may hold a special meeting in accordance  
8           with subsection F.1.b. below.
- 9       E. The Commission shall adopt and provide to the Member States an annual report.
- 10      F. Meetings of the Commission
- 11           1. All meetings shall be open to the public, except that the Commission may  
12           meet in a closed, non-public meeting as provided in subsection F.2 below.
- 13           a. Public notice for all meetings of the full Commission of meetings shall  
14           be given in the same manner as required under the Rulemaking  
15           provisions in Section 12, except that the Commission may hold a  
16           special meeting as provided in subsection F.1.b below.
- 17           b. The Commission may hold a special meeting when it must meet to  
18           conduct emergency business by giving 48 hours' notice to all  
19           commissioners, on the Commission's website, and other means as  
20           provided in the Commission's Rules. The Commission's legal counsel  
21           shall certify that the Commission's need to meet qualifies as an  
22           emergency.
- 23           2. The Commission or the Executive Committee or other committees of the  
24           Commission may convene in a closed, non-public meeting for the  
25           Commission or Executive Committee or other committees of the  
26           Commission to receive legal advice or to discuss:
- 27           a. Non-compliance of a Member State with its obligations under the  
28           Compact;
- 29           b. The employment, compensation, discipline or other matters,  
30           practices or procedures related to specific employees;
- 31           c. Current or threatened discipline of a Licensee by the Commission or  
32           by a Member State's Licensing Authority;
- 33           d. Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation;
- 34           e. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or sale of goods,  
35           services, or real estate;



- f. Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;
- g. Trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential;
- h. Information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- i. Investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes;
- j. 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 the Compact;
- k. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or Member State law; or
- l. Other matters as promulgated by the Commission by Rule.

3. 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 such reference shall be recorded in the minutes.

4. 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 therefore, including a description of the views expressed. 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 only by a majority vote of the Commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

#### G. 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 accept any and all appropriate revenue sources as provided in subsection C(13).

3. The Commission may levy on and collect an annual 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 must be in a total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved each year for which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount for

1 Member States shall be allocated based upon a formula that the  
2 Commission shall promulgate by Rule.

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

7 5. The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and  
8 disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the Commission shall be  
9 subject to the financial review and accounting procedures established under  
10 its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the  
11 Commission shall be subject to an annual financial review by a certified or  
12 licensed public accountant, and the report of the financial review shall be  
13 included in and become part of the annual report of the Commission.

14 H. Qualified Immunity, Defense, and Indemnification

15 1. The members, officers, executive director, employees and representatives  
16 of the Commission shall be immune from suit and liability, both personally  
17 and in their official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property  
18 or personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual  
19 or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that the person against  
20 whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within  
21 the scope of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided  
22 that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to protect any such person  
23 from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the  
24 intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person. The procurement  
25 of insurance of any type by the Commission shall not in any way  
26 compromise or limit the immunity granted hereunder.

27 2. The Commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director,  
28 employee, and representative of the Commission in any civil action seeking  
29 to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission  
30 that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or  
31 responsibilities, or as determined by the Commission that the person  
32 against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing  
33 occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or  
34 responsibilities; provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit  
35 that person from retaining their own counsel at their 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.

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

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

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

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

#### SECTION 11. DATA SYSTEM

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

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

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

1. Identifying information;

2. Licensure data;

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

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

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

- 1           6.       The presence of Current Significant Investigative Information; and  
2           7.       Other information that may facilitate the administration of this Compact or  
3               the protection of the public, as determined by the Rules of the Commission.  
4       D.       The records and information provided to a Member State pursuant to this Compact  
5               or through the Data System, when certified by the Commission or an agent thereof,  
6               shall constitute the authenticated business records of the Commission, and shall  
7               be entitled to any associated hearsay exception in any relevant judicial, quasi-  
8               judicial or administrative proceedings in a Member State.  
9       E.       Current Significant Investigative Information pertaining to a Licensee in any  
10              Member State will only be available to other Member States.  
11           1.       It is the responsibility of the Member States to report any Adverse Action  
12               against a Licensee and to monitor the database to determine whether  
13               Adverse Action has been taken against a Licensee. Adverse Action  
14               information pertaining to a Licensee in any Member State will be available  
15               to any other Member State.  
16       F.       Member States contributing information to the Data System may designate  
17               information that may not be shared with the public without the express permission  
18               of the contributing State.  
19       G.       Any information submitted to the Data System that is subsequently expunged  
20               pursuant to federal law or the laws of the Member State contributing the  
21               information shall be removed from the Data System.

#### 22                               SECTION 12. RULEMAKING

- 23       A.       The Commission shall promulgate reasonable Rules in order to effectively and  
24               efficiently implement and administer the purposes and provisions of the Compact.  
25               A Rule shall be invalid and have no force or effect only if a court of competent  
26               jurisdiction holds that the Rule is invalid because the Commission exercised its  
27               rulemaking authority in a manner that is beyond the scope and purposes of the  
28               Compact, or the powers granted hereunder, or based upon another applicable  
29               standard of review.  
30       B.       The Rules of the Commission shall have the force of law in each Member State,  
31               provided however that where the Rules of the Commission conflict with the laws of  
32               the Member State that establish the Member State's laws, regulations, and  
33               applicable standards that govern the practice of Social Work as held by a court of  
34               competent jurisdiction, the Rules of the Commission shall be ineffective in that  
35               State to the extent of the conflict.

- 1     C.     The Commission shall exercise its Rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set  
2     forth in this Section and the Rules adopted thereunder. Rules shall become binding  
3     on the day following adoption or the date specified in the rule or amendment,  
4     whichever is later.
- 5     D.     If a majority of the legislatures of the Member States rejects a Rule or portion of a  
6     Rule, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt  
7     the Compact within four (4) years of the date of adoption of the Rule, then such  
8     Rule shall have no further force and effect in any Member State.
- 9     E.     Rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the Commission.
- 10    F.     Prior to adoption of a proposed Rule, the Commission shall hold a public hearing  
11    and allow persons to provide oral and written comments, data, facts, opinions, and  
12    arguments.
- 13    G.     Prior to adoption of a proposed Rule by the Commission, and at least thirty (30)  
14    days in advance of the meeting at which the Commission will hold a public hearing  
15    on the proposed Rule, the Commission shall provide a Notice of Proposed  
16    Rulemaking:
- 17        1.     On the website of the Commission or other publicly accessible platform;  
18        2.     To persons who have requested notice of the Commission's notices of  
19        proposed rulemaking, and  
20        3.     In such other way(s) as the Commission may by Rule specify.
- 21    H.     The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking shall include:
- 22        1.     The time, date, and location of the public hearing at which the Commission  
23        will hear public comments on the proposed Rule and, if different, the time,  
24        date, and location of the meeting where the Commission will consider and  
25        vote on the proposed Rule;  
26        2.     If the hearing is held via telecommunication, video conference, or other  
27        electronic means, the Commission shall include the mechanism for access  
28        to the hearing in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking;  
29        3.     The text of the proposed Rule and the reason therefor;  
30        4.     A request for comments on the proposed Rule from any interested person;  
31        and  
32        5.     The manner in which interested persons may submit written comments.
- 33    I.     All hearings will be recorded. A copy of the recording and all written comments and  
34    documents received by the Commission in response to the proposed Rule shall be  
35    available to the public.

- 1     J. Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a separate hearing on each  
2     Rule. Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the Commission at hearings  
3     required by this section.
- 4     K. The Commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take final action on the  
5     proposed Rule based on the Rulemaking record and the full text of the Rule.
- 6         1. The Commission may adopt changes to the proposed Rule provided the  
7         changes do not enlarge the original purpose of the proposed Rule.
- 8         2. The Commission shall provide an explanation of the reasons for substantive  
9         changes made to the proposed Rule as well as reasons for substantive  
10        changes not made that were recommended by commenters.
- 11        3. The Commission shall determine a reasonable effective date for the Rule.  
12        Except for an emergency as provided in Section 12.L, the effective date of  
13        the rule shall be no sooner than 30 days after issuing the notice that it  
14        adopted or amended the Rule.
- 15     L. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the Commission may consider and  
16     adopt an emergency Rule with 48 hours' notice, with opportunity to comment,  
17     provided that the usual Rulemaking procedures provided in the Compact and in  
18     this section shall be retroactively applied to the Rule as soon as reasonably  
19     possible, in no event later than ninety (90) days after the effective date of the  
20     Rule. For the purposes of this provision, an emergency Rule is one that must be  
21     adopted immediately in order to:
- 22         1. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;  
23         2. Prevent a loss of Commission or Member State funds;  
24         3. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of a Rule that is established by federal  
25         law or rule; or
- 26         4. Protect public health and safety.
- 27     M. The Commission or an authorized committee of the Commission may direct  
28     revisions to a previously adopted Rule for purposes of correcting typographical  
29     errors, errors in format, errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice  
30     of any revisions shall be posted on the website of the Commission. The revision  
31     shall be subject to challenge by any person for a period of thirty (30) days after  
32     posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the revision results  
33     in a material change to a Rule. A challenge shall be made in writing and delivered  
34     to the Commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made,

1 the revision will take effect without further action. If the revision is challenged, the  
2 revision may not take effect without the approval of the Commission.

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

4 SECTION 13. OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AND ENFORCEMENT

5 A. Oversight

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

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

17 3. The Commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any  
18 proceeding regarding the enforcement or interpretation of the Compact and  
19 shall have standing to intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes.  
20 Failure to provide the Commission service of process shall render a  
21 judgment or order void as to the Commission, this Compact, or promulgated  
22 Rules.

23 B. Default, Technical Assistance, and Termination

24 1. If the Commission determines that a Member State has defaulted in the  
25 performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this Compact or the  
26 promulgated Rules, the Commission shall provide written notice to the  
27 defaulting State. The notice of default shall describe the default, the  
28 proposed means of curing the default, and any other action that the  
29 Commission may take, and shall offer training and specific technical  
30 assistance regarding the default.

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

33 C. If a State in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting State may be terminated  
34 from the Compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates of the  
35 Member States, and all rights, privileges and benefits conferred on that State by

1 this Compact may be terminated on the effective date of termination. A cure of the  
2 default does not relieve the offending State of obligations or liabilities incurred  
3 during the period of default.

4 D. Termination of membership in the Compact shall be imposed only after all other  
5 means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend  
6 or terminate shall be given by the Commission to the governor, the majority and  
7 minority leaders of the defaulting State's legislature, the defaulting State's State  
8 Licensing Authority and each of the Member States' Licensing Authority.

9 E. A State that has been terminated is responsible for all assessments, obligations,  
10 and liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination, including  
11 obligations that extend beyond the effective date of termination.

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

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

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

24 I. Dispute Resolution

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

28 2. The Commission shall promulgate a Rule providing for both mediation and  
29 binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.

30 J. Enforcement

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



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

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

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

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

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

18 1. On or after the effective date of the Compact, the Commission shall convene  
19 and review the enactment of each of the first seven Member States  
20 ("Charter Member States") to determine if the statute enacted by each such  
21 Charter Member State is materially different than the model Compact  
22 statute.

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

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

30 2. Member States enacting the Compact subsequent to the seven initial  
31 Charter Member States shall be subject to the process set forth in Section  
32 10(C)(21) to determine if their enactments are materially different from the  
33 model Compact statute and whether they qualify for participation in the  
34 Compact.

1           3. All actions taken for the benefit of the Commission or in furtherance of the  
2           purposes of the administration of the Compact prior to the effective date  
3           of the Compact or the Commission coming into existence shall be  
4           considered to be actions of the Commission unless specifically repudiated  
5           by the Commission.

6           4. Any State that joins the Compact subsequent to the Commission's initial  
7           adoption of the Rules and bylaws shall be subject to the Rules and bylaws  
8           as they exist on the date on which the Compact becomes law in that State.  
9           Any Rule that has been previously adopted by the Commission shall have  
10          the full force and effect of law on the day the Compact becomes law in that  
11          State.

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

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

16           2. Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing  
17           State's Licensing Authority to comply with the investigative and Adverse  
18           Action reporting requirements of this Compact prior to the effective date of  
19           withdrawal.

20           3. Upon the enactment of a statute withdrawing from this compact, a State  
21           shall immediately provide notice of such withdrawal to all Licensees within  
22           that State. Notwithstanding any subsequent statutory enactment to the  
23           contrary, such withdrawing State shall continue to recognize all licenses  
24           granted pursuant to this compact for a minimum of 180 days after the date  
25           of such notice of withdrawal.

26           C. Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to invalidate or  
27           prevent any licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement  
28           between a Member State and a non-Member State that does not conflict  
29           with the provisions of this Compact.

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

#### 33           SECTION 15. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

34        A. This Compact and the Commission's rulemaking authority shall be liberally  
35        construed so as to effectuate the purposes, and the implementation and

1 administration of the Compact. Provisions of the Compact expressly authorizing or  
2 requiring the promulgation of Rules shall not be construed to limit the  
3 Commission's rulemaking authority solely for those purposes.

4 B. The provisions of this Compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause,  
5 sentence, or provision of this Compact is held by a court of competent jurisdiction  
6 to be contrary to the constitution of any Member State, a State seeking  
7 participation in the Compact, or of the United States, or the applicability thereof to  
8 any government, agency, person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional by  
9 a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of this Compact and  
10 the applicability thereof to any other government, agency, person or circumstance  
11 shall not be affected thereby.

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

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

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

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

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

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