- 1 SB61
- 2 203095-2
- 3 By Senator Jones
- 4 RFD: Healthcare
- 5 First Read: 04-FEB-20
- 6 PFD: 01/30/2020

203095-2:n:01/23/2020:PMG/tqw LSA2019-2445R1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 SYNOPSIS: This bill would establish the Psychology 8 Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT). 9 10 This bill would allow day-to-day 11 psychological practice using telecommunication 12 technologies by licensed psychologists among 13 compact states. 14 This bill would allow temporary in-person, 15 face-to-face practice of psychology by licensed 16 psychologists for no more than 30 days per year 17 among compact states. 18 This bill would authorize state psychology 19 regulatory authorities in compact states, which 20 would include the Alabama Board of Examiners in 21 Psychology, to legally recognize, in a manner 22 consistent with terms of the compact, psychologists 23 licensed within those states. 24 This bill would provide eligibility 25 requirements for licensed psychologists to practice 26 pursuant to the compact.

1This bill would provide for a coordinated2licensure information system, investigations, and3disciplinary actions.

This bill would establish the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission, and would provide for membership, powers, and duties.

7 This bill would also provide for rulemaking 8 functions of the commission, oversight of the 9 compact, enforcement of the compact, default 10 procedures, dispute resolution, withdrawal of 11 compact states, and dissolution of the compact.

13A BILL14TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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17 Relating to the licensed practice of psychology; to 18 provide and adopt the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact to allow licensed psychologists to practice among compact 19 20 states in a limited manner; to provide eligibility 21 requirements for licensed psychologists to practice pursuant 22 to the compact; to provide for a coordinated licensure 23 information system, joint investigations, and disciplinary 24 actions; to establish the Psychology Interjurisdictional 25 Compact Commission, and to provide for membership, powers, and 26 duties, and provide for rulemaking functions of the commission; and to provide for oversight of the compact, 27

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enforcement of the compact, default procedures, dispute resolution, withdrawal of compact states, and dissolution of the compact.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. PURPOSE

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6 Whereas, states license psychologists in order to 7 protect the public through verification of education, 8 training, and experience and ensure accountability for 9 professional practice; and

Whereas, this compact is intended to regulate the day-to-day practice of telepsychology (i.e., the provision of psychological services using telecommunication technologies) by psychologists across state boundaries in the performance of their psychological practice as assigned by an appropriate authority; and

Whereas, this compact is intended to regulate the temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology by psychologists across state boundaries for 30 days within a calendar year in the performance of their psychological practice as assigned by an appropriate authority; and

21 Whereas, this compact is intended to authorize state 22 psychology regulatory authorities to afford legal recognition, 23 in a manner consistent with the terms of the compact, to 24 psychologists licensed in another state; and

25 Whereas, this compact recognizes that states have a 26 vested interest in protecting the public's health and safety 27 through their licensing and regulation of psychologists and 1 that such state regulation will best protect public health and 2 safety; and

3 Whereas, this compact does not apply when a 4 psychologist is licensed in both the home and receiving 5 states; and

6 Whereas, this compact does not apply to permanent 7 in-person, face-to-face practice; however, it does allow for 8 authorization of temporary psychological practice.

9 Consistent with these principles, this compact is 10 designed to achieve the following purposes and objectives:

Increase public access to professional
 psychological services by allowing for telepsychological
 practice across state lines as well as temporary in-person,
 face-to-face services into a state in which the psychologist
 is not licensed to practice psychology.

2. Enhance the ability of the compact states to
 protect the public's health and safety, especially
 client/patient safety.

Encourage the cooperation of compact states in
 the areas of psychology licensure and regulation.

4. Facilitate the exchange of information between
compact states regarding psychologist licensure, adverse
actions, and disciplinary history.

24 5. Promote compliance with the laws governing
25 psychological practice in each compact state.

Page 4

6. Invest all compact states with the authority to
 hold licensed psychologists accountable through the mutual
 recognition of compact state licenses.

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Section 2. DEFINITIONS

5 As used in this section, the following terms have 6 the following meanings:

7 (1) ADVERSE ACTION. Any action taken by a state
8 psychology regulatory authority which finds a violation of a
9 law or regulation that is identified by the state psychology
10 regulatory authority as discipline and is a matter of public
11 record.

(2) ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND PROVINCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
 BOARDS (ASPPB). The recognized membership organization
 composed of state and provincial psychology regulatory
 authorities responsible for the licensure and registration of
 psychologists throughout the United States and Canada.

17 (3) AUTHORITY TO PRACTICE INTERJURISDICTIONAL
 18 TELEPSYCHOLOGY. A licensed psychologist's authority to
 19 practice telepsychology, within the limits authorized under
 20 this compact, in another compact state.

(4) BYLAWS. Those bylaws established by the
Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission pursuant to
Section 10 for its governance, or for directing and
controlling its actions and conduct.

(5) CLIENT/PATIENT. The recipient of psychological
 services, whether psychological services are delivered in the

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context of health care, corporate, supervision, or consulting
 services.

3 (6) COMMISSIONER. The voting representative
4 appointed by each state psychology regulatory authority
5 pursuant to Section 10.

6 (7) COMPACT STATE. A state, the District of 7 Columbia, or United States territory that has enacted this 8 compact legislation and that has not withdrawn pursuant to 9 Section 13, subsection (c) or been terminated pursuant to 10 Section 12, subsection (b).

(8) COORDINATED LICENSURE INFORMATION SYSTEM or COORDINATED DATABASE. An integrated process for collecting, storing, and sharing information on psychologists' licensure and enforcement activities related to psychology licensure laws, which is administered by the recognized membership organization composed of state and provincial psychology regulatory authorities.

(9) CONFIDENTIALITY. The principle that data or
 information is not made available or disclosed to unauthorized
 persons or processes.

(10) DAY. Any part of a day in which psychologicalwork is performed.

(11) DISTANT STATE. The compact state where a
 psychologist is physically present, not through the use of
 telecommunications technologies, to provide temporary
 in-person, face-to-face psychological services.

(12) E.PASSPORT. A certificate issued by the
 Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB)
 that promotes the standardization in the criteria of
 interjurisdictional telepsychology practice and facilitates
 the process for licensed psychologists to provide
 telepsychological services across state lines.

7 (13) EXECUTIVE BOARD. A group of directors elected
8 or appointed to act on behalf of, and within the powers
9 granted to them by, the commission.

10 (14) HOME STATE. A compact state where a psychologist is licensed to practice psychology. If the 11 12 psychologist is licensed in more than one compact state and is 13 practicing under the authorization to practice 14 interjurisdictional telepsychology, the home state is the 15 compact state where the psychologist is physically present when the telepsychological services are delivered. If the 16 17 psychologist is licensed in more than one compact state and is 18 practicing under the temporary authorization to practice, the home state is any compact state where the psychologist is 19 20 licensed.

(15) IDENTITY HISTORY SUMMARY. A summary of
information retained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation,
or other designee with similar authority, in connection with
arrests and, in some instances, federal employment,
naturalization, or military service.

(16) IN-PERSON, FACT-TO-FACE. Interactions in which
 the psychologist and the client/patient are in the same

physical space and which does not include interactions that
 may occur through the use of telecommunication technologies.

3 (17) INTERJURISDICTIONAL PRACTICE CERTIFICATE. A
4 certificate issued by the Association of State and Provincial
5 Psychology Boards (ASPPB) that grants temporary authority to
6 practice based on notification to the state psychology
7 regulatory authority of intention to practice temporarily, and
8 verification of one's gualifications for such practice.

9 (18) LICENSE. Authorization by a state psychology 10 regulatory authority to engage in the independent practice of 11 psychology, which would be unlawful without the authorization.

12 (19) NON-COMPACT STATE. Any state which is not at13 the time a compact state.

14 (20) PSYCHOLOGIST. An individual licensed for the15 independent practice of psychology.

16 (21) PSYCHOLOGY INTERJURISDICTIONAL COMPACT
 17 COMMISSION or COMMISSION. The national administration of which
 18 all compact states are members.

19 (22) RECEIVING STATE. A compact state where the
 20 client/patient is physically located when the
 21 telepsychological services are delivered.

(23) RULE. A written statement by the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission adopted pursuant to Section 11 of the compact that is of general applicability, implements, interprets, or prescribes a policy or provision of the compact, or an organizational, procedural, or practice requirement of the commission, and has the force and effect of

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statutory law in a compact state, and includes the amendment, repeal, or suspension of an existing rule.

3 (24) SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATORY INFORMATION. Either4 of the following:

a. Investigative information that a state psychology regulatory authority, after a preliminary inquiry that includes notification and an opportunity to respond if required by state law, has reason to believe, if proven true, would indicate more than a violation of state law or ethics code that would be considered more substantial than minor infraction.

b. Investigative information that indicates that the psychologist represents an immediate threat to public health and safety regardless of whether the psychologist has been notified and/or had an opportunity to respond.

16 (25) STATE. A state, commonwealth, territory, or
 17 possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia.

18 (26) STATE PSYCHOLOGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY. The
 19 board, office, or other agency with the legislative mandate to
 20 license and regulate the practice of psychology.

(27) TELEPSYCHOLOGY. The provision of psychological
 services using telecommunication technologies.

(28) TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE. A licensed
 psychologist's authority to conduct temporary in-person,
 face-to-face practice, within the limits authorized under this
 compact, in another compact state.

1 (29) TEMPORARY IN-PERSON, FACE-TO-FACE PRACTICE. 2 Where a psychologist is physically present, not through the 3 use of telecommunications technologies, in the distant state 4 to provide for the practice of psychology for 30 days within a 5 calendar year and based on notification to the distant state.

Section 3. HOME STATE LICENSURE

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7 (a) The home state shall be a compact state where a
8 psychologist is licensed to practice psychology.

9 (b) A psychologist may hold one or more compact 10 state licenses at a time. If the psychologist is licensed in 11 more than one compact state, the home state is the compact 12 state where the psychologist is physically present when the 13 services are delivered as authorized by the authority to 14 practice interjurisdictional telepsychology under the terms of 15 this compact.

(c) Any compact state may require a psychologist not previously licensed in a compact state to obtain and retain a license to be authorized to practice in the compact state under circumstances not authorized by the authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology under the terms of this compact.

(d) Any compact state may require a psychologist to
 obtain and retain a license to be authorized to practice in a
 compact state under circumstances not authorized by temporary
 authorization to practice under the terms of this compact.

(e) A home state's license authorizes a psychologist
to practice in a receiving state under the authority to

practice interjurisdictional telepsychology only if the compact state:

3 (1) Currently requires the psychologist to hold an 4 active E.Passport;

5 (2) Has a mechanism in place for receiving and
6 investigating complaints about licensed individuals;

7 (3) Notifies the commission, in compliance with the
8 terms herein, of any adverse action or significant
9 investigatory information regarding a licensed individual;

(4) Requires an identity history summary of all
applicants at initial licensure, including the use of the
results of fingerprints or other biometric data checks
compliant with the requirements of the Federal Bureau of
Investigation, or other designee with similar authority, no
later than 10 years after activation of the compact; and

16 (5) Complies with the bylaws and rules of the17 commission.

18 (f) A home state's license grants temporary 19 authorization to practice to a psychologist in a distant state 20 only if the compact state:

(1) Currently requires the psychologist to hold an
 active IPC;

(2) Has a mechanism in place for receiving and
 investigating complaints about licensed individuals;

(3) Notifies the commission, in compliance with the
 terms herein, of any adverse action or significant
 investigatory information regarding a licensed individual;

(4) Requires an identity history summary of all 1 2 applicants at initial licensure, including the use of the results of fingerprints or other biometric data checks 3 compliant with the requirements of the Federal Bureau of 4 5 Investigation, or other designee with similar authority, no later than 10 years after activation of the compact; and 6 7 (5) Complies with the bylaws and rules of the commission. 8 Section 4. COMPACT PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE 9 10 TELEPSYCHOLOGY (a) Compact states shall recognize the right of a 11 psychologist, licensed in a compact state in conformance with 12 13 Section 3, to practice telepsychology in other compact states in which the psychologist is not licensed, under the authority 14 15 to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology as provided in 16 the compact. 17 (b) To exercise the authority to practice 18 interjurisdictional telepsychology under the terms and provisions of this compact, a psychologist licensed to 19 20 practice in a compact state must: 21 (1) Hold a graduate degree in psychology from an 22 institute of higher education that was, at the time the degree 23 was awarded: 24 a. Regionally accredited by an accrediting body

25 recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to grant
26 graduate degrees, or authorized by provincial statute or royal
27 charter to grant doctoral degrees; or

b. A foreign college or university deemed to be 1 2 equivalent to paragraph a. by a foreign credential evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of 3 Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) or by a recognized 4 5 foreign credential evaluation service; and 6 (2) Hold a graduate degree in psychology that meets 7 all of the following criteria: a. The program, wherever it may be administratively 8 housed, must be clearly identified and labeled as a psychology 9 10 program. Such a program must specify in pertinent institutional catalogues and brochures its intent to educate 11 12 and train professional psychologists. 13 b. The psychology program must stand as a 14 recognizable, coherent, organizational entity within the 15 institution. 16 c. There must be a clear authority and primary 17 responsibility for the core and specialty areas whether or not 18 the program cuts across administrative lines. d. The program must consist of an integrated, 19 20 organized sequence of study. 21 e. There must be an identifiable psychology faculty 22 sufficient in size and breadth to carry out its 23 responsibilities. 24 f. The designated director of the program must be a 25 psychologist and a member of the core faculty. 26 g. The program must have an identifiable body of 27 students who are matriculated in that program for a degree.

h. The program must include supervised practicum,
 internship, or field training appropriate to the practice of
 psychology.

i. The curriculum shall encompass a minimum of three
academic years of full-time graduate study for a doctoral
degree and a minimum of one academic year of full-time
graduate study for a master's degree.

g. The program includes an acceptable residency asg. defined by the rules of the commission.

10 (3) Possess a current, full, and unrestricted 11 license to practice psychology in a home state which is a 12 compact state;

13 (4) Have no history of adverse action that violates14 the rules of the commission;

15 (5) Have no criminal record history reported on an 16 identity history summary that violates the rules of the 17 commission;

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(6) Possess a current, active E.Passport;

(7) Provide attestations in regard to areas of intended practice, conformity with standards of practice, competence in telepsychology technology, criminal background, and knowledge and adherence to legal requirements in the home and receiving states, and provide a release of information to allow for primary source verification in a manner specified by the commission; and

26 (8) Meet other criteria as defined by the rules of27 the commission.

(c) The home state maintains authority over the
 license of any psychologist practicing into a receiving state
 under the authority to practice interjurisdictional
 telepsychology.

5 (d) A psychologist practicing into a receiving state 6 under the authority to practice interjurisdictional 7 telepsychology will be subject to the receiving state's scope of practice. A receiving state, in accordance with that 8 9 state's due process law, may limit or revoke a psychologist's 10 authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology in the receiving state and may take any other necessary actions 11 under the receiving state's applicable law to protect the 12 13 health and safety of the receiving state's citizens. If a receiving state takes action, the state shall promptly notify 14 15 the home state and the commission.

(e) If a psychologist's license in any home state,
another compact state, or any authority to practice
interjurisdictional telepsychology in any receiving state, is
restricted, suspended, or otherwise limited, the E.Passport
shall be revoked and therefore the psychologist shall not be
eligible to practice telepsychology in a compact state under
the authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology.

23 Section 5. COMPACT TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION TO24 PRACTICE

(a) Compact states shall also recognize the right of
a psychologist, licensed in a compact state in conformance
with Section 3, to practice temporarily in other compact

states (distant states) in which the psychologist is not
 licensed, as provided in the compact.

3 (b) To exercise the temporary authority to practice 4 under the terms and provisions of this compact, a psychologist 5 licensed to practice in a compact state must:

6 (1) Hold a graduate degree in psychology from an 7 institute of higher education that was, at the time the degree 8 was awarded:

9 a. Regionally accredited by an accrediting body 10 recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to grant 11 graduate degrees, or authorized by provincial statute or royal 12 charter to grant doctoral degrees; or

b. A foreign college or university deemed to be
equivalent to paragraph a. by a foreign credential evaluation
service that is a member of the National Association of
Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) or by a recognized
foreign credential evaluation service; and

18 (2) Hold a graduate degree in psychology that meets19 all of the following criteria:

a. The program, wherever it may be administratively
housed, must be clearly identified and labeled as a psychology
program. Such a program must specify in pertinent
institutional catalogues and brochures its intent to educate
and train professional psychologists.

b. The psychology program must stand as a
 recognizable, coherent, organizational entity within the
 institution.

c. There must be a clear authority and primary 1 2 responsibility for the core and specialty areas whether or not the program cuts across administrative lines. 3 d. The program must consist of an integrated, 4 5 organized sequence of study. e. There must be an identifiable psychology faculty 6 7 sufficient in size and breadth to carry out its 8 responsibilities. 9 f. The designated director of the program must be a 10 psychologist and a member of the core faculty. g. The program must have an identifiable body of 11 12 students who are matriculated in that program for a degree. 13 h. The program must include supervised practicum, 14 internship, or field training appropriate to the practice of 15 psychology. 16 i. The curriculum shall encompass a minimum of three 17 academic years of full-time graduate study for a doctoral 18 degree and a minimum of one academic year of full-time graduate study for a master's degree. 19 20 j. The program includes an acceptable residency as 21 defined by the rules of the commission. 22 (3) Possess a current, full, and unrestricted 23 license to practice psychology in a home state which is a 24 compact state; 25 (4) Have no history of adverse action that violates the rules of the commission; 26

(5) Have no criminal record history that violates
 the rules of the commission;

3

(6) Possess a current, active IPC;

4 (7) Provide attestations in regard to areas of
5 intended practice and work experience and provide a release of
6 information to allow for primary source verification in a
7 manner specified by the commission; and

8 (8) Meet other criteria as defined by the rules of9 the commission.

(c) A psychologist practicing into a distant state
under the temporary authorization to practice shall practice
within the scope of practice authorized by the distant state.

13 (d) A psychologist practicing into a distant state 14 under the temporary authorization to practice shall be subject 15 to the distant state's authority and law. A distant state, in accordance with that state's due process law, may limit or 16 17 revoke a psychologist's temporary authorization to practice in 18 the distant state and may take any other necessary actions 19 under the distant state's applicable law to protect the health and safety of the distant state's residents. If a distant 20 21 state takes action, the state shall promptly notify the home state and the commission. 22

(e) If a psychologist's license in any home state,
 another compact state, or any temporary authorization to
 practice in any distant state, is restricted, suspended, or
 otherwise limited, the IPC shall be revoked and the

1 2 psychologist shall not be eligible to practice in a compact state under the temporary authorization to practice.

3 Section 6. CONDITIONS OF TELEPSYCHOLOGY PRACTICE IN
 4 A RECEIVING STATE

5 A psychologist may practice in a receiving state 6 under the authority to practice interjurisdictional 7 telepsychology only in the performance of the scope of 8 practice for psychology as assigned by an appropriate state 9 psychology regulatory authority, as defined in the rules of 10 the commission, and under the following circumstances:

(1) The psychologist initiates a client/patient contact in a home state via telecommunications technologies with a client/patient in a receiving state.

14 (2) Other conditions regarding telepsychology as15 determined by rules adopted by the commission.

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Section 7. ADVERSE ACTIONS

(a) A home state may impose adverse action against a
psychologist's license issued by the home state. A distant
state shall have the power to take adverse action on a
psychologist's temporary authorization to practice within that
distant state.

(b) A receiving state may take adverse action on a
psychologist's authority to practice interjurisdictional
telepsychology within that receiving state. A home state may
take adverse action against a psychologist based on an adverse
action taken by a distant state regarding temporary in-person,
face-to-face practice.

1 (c) If a home state takes adverse action against a 2 psychologist's license, that psychologist's authority to 3 practice interjurisdictional telepsychology is terminated and 4 the E.Passport is revoked. Furthermore, that psychologist's 5 temporary authorization to practice is terminated and the IPC 6 is revoked.

7 (1) All home state disciplinary orders that impose
8 adverse action shall be reported to the commission in
9 accordance with the rules adopted by the commission. A compact
10 state shall report adverse actions in accordance with the
11 rules of the commission.

(2) In the event discipline is reported on a
psychologist, the psychologist shall not be eligible for
telepsychology or temporary in-person, face-to-face practice
in accordance with the rules of the commission.

16 (3) Other actions may be imposed as determined by17 the rules adopted by the commission.

(d) A home state's psychology regulatory authority shall investigate and take appropriate action with respect to reported inappropriate conduct engaged in by a licensee which occurred in a receiving state as it would if such conduct had occurred by a licensee within the home state. In such cases, the home state's law shall control in determining any adverse action against a psychologist's license.

(e) A distant state's psychology regulatory
 authority shall investigate and take appropriate action with
 respect to reported inappropriate conduct engaged in by a

psychologist practicing under temporary authorization to
practice which occurred in that distant state as it would if
such conduct had occurred by a licensee within the home state.
In such cases, the distant state's law shall control in
determining any adverse action against a psychologist's
temporary authorization to practice.

7 (f) Nothing in this compact shall override a compact 8 state's decision that a psychologist's participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action and 9 10 that such participation shall remain non-public if required by the compact state's law. Compact states must require 11 12 psychologists who enter any alternative programs to not 13 provide telepsychology services under the authority to 14 practice interjurisdictional telepsychology or provide 15 temporary psychological services under the temporary 16 authorization to practice in any other compact state during 17 the term of the alternative program.

(g) No other judicial or administrative remedies
shall be available to a psychologist in the event a compact
state imposes an adverse action pursuant to subsection (c).

Section 8. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES INVESTED IN A
 COMPACT STATE'S PSYCHOLOGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY

In addition to any other powers granted under state law, a compact state's psychology regulatory authority shall have the authority under this compact to:

(1) Issue subpoenas, for both hearings and
 investigations, which require the attendance and testimony of

witnesses and the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by 1 2 a compact state's psychology regulatory authority for the attendance and testimony of witnesses, or the production of 3 evidence from another compact state, shall be enforced in the 4 5 latter state by any court of competent jurisdiction, according 6 to that court's practice and procedure in considering subpoenas issued in its own proceedings. The issuing state 7 psychology regulatory authority shall pay any witness fees, 8 travel expenses, mileage, and other fees required by the 9 10 service statutes of the state where the witnesses or evidence are located. 11

12 (2) Issue cease and desist or injunctive relief
13 orders to revoke a psychologist's authority to practice
14 interjurisdictional telepsychology or temporary authorization
15 to practice.

(3) During the course of any investigation, a 16 17 psychologist may not change his or her home state licensure. A 18 home state psychology regulatory authority may complete any pending investigations of a psychologist and take any actions 19 appropriate under its laws. The home state psychology 20 21 regulatory authority shall promptly report the conclusions of 22 such investigations to the commission. Once an investigation 23 has been completed, and pending the outcome of the 24 investigation, the psychologist may change his or her home 25 state licensure. The commission shall promptly notify the new 26 home state of any such decisions as provided in the rules of 27 the commission. All information provided to the commission or

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distributed by compact states pursuant to the psychologist
 shall be confidential, filed under seal, and used for
 investigatory or disciplinary matters. The commission may
 create additional rules for mandated or discretionary sharing
 of information by compact states.

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Section 9. COORDINATED LICENSURE INFORMATION SYSTEM

(a) The commission shall provide for the development
and maintenance of a coordinated licensure information system
(coordinated database) and reporting system containing
licensure and disciplinary action information on all
individual psychologists to whom this compact is applicable in
all compact states as defined by the rules of the commission.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of state law
to the contrary, a compact state shall submit a uniform data
set to the coordinated database on all licensees as required
by the rules of the commission, including:

(1) Identifying information;

(2) Licensure data;

19 (3) Significant investigatory information;

20 (4) Adverse actions against a psychologist's

21 license;

(5) An indicator that a psychologist's authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology or temporary authorization to practice is revoked;

25 (6) Non-confidential information related to
 26 alternative program participation information;

(7) Any denial of application for licensure, and the
 reasons for such denial; and

3 (8) Other information that may facilitate the
4 administration of this compact, as determined by the rules of
5 the commission.

6 (c) The coordinated database administrator shall 7 promptly notify all compact states of any adverse action taken 8 against, or significant investigative information on, any 9 licensee in a compact state.

(d) Compact states reporting information to the
coordinated database may designate information that may not be
shared with the public without the express permission of the
compact state reporting the information.

(e) Any information submitted to the coordinated
database that is subsequently required to be expunged by the
law of the compact state reporting the information shall be
removed from the coordinated database.

Section 10. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PSYCHOLOGY
 INTERJURISDICTIONAL COMPACT COMMISSION

(a) The compact states create and establish a joint
 public agency known as the Psychology Interjurisdictional
 Compact Commission.

(1) The commission is a body politic and aninstrumentality of the compact 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

1 office of the commission is located. The commission may waive 2 venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or 3 consents to participate in alternative dispute resolution 4 proceedings.

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

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(b) Membership, Voting, and Meetings.

8 (1) The commission shall consist of one voting 9 representative appointed by each compact state who shall serve 10 as that state's commissioner. The state psychology regulatory 11 authority shall appoint its delegate. This delegate shall be 12 empowered to act on behalf of the compact state. This delegate 13 shall be limited to:

a. Executive director, executive secretary, orsimilar executive;

b. Current member of the state psychology regulatory authority of a compact state; or

18 c. Designee empowered with the appropriate delegate19 authority to act on behalf of the compact state.

(2) (2) Any commissioner may be removed or suspended from office as provided by the law of the state from which the commissioner is appointed. Any vacancy occurring in the commission shall be filled in accordance with the laws of the compact state in which the vacancy exists.

(3) Each commissioner shall be entitled to one vote
with regard to the adoption of rules and creation of bylaws
and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the

business and affairs of the commission. A commissioner shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for commissioners' participation in meetings by telephone or other means of communication.

6 (4) The commission shall meet at least once during 7 each calendar year. Additional meetings shall be held as set 8 forth in the bylaws.

9 (5) All meetings shall be open to the public, and 10 public notice of meetings shall be given in the same manner as 11 required under the rulemaking provisions in Section 11.

12 (6) The commission may convene in a closed,13 non-public meeting if the commission must discuss:

a. Non-compliance of a compact state with itsobligations 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;

20 c. Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated
21 litigation against the commission;

d. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase or saleof goods, services, or real estate;

e. Accusation against any person of a crime orformally censuring any person;

f. Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or
 financial information which is privileged or confidential;

- 1 g. Disclosure of information of a personal nature 2 where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted 3 invasion of personal privacy;
- h. Disclosure of investigatory records compiled for
 law enforcement purposes;
- i. Disclosure of information related to any
 investigatory reports prepared by, or on behalf of, or for use
 of, the commission or other committee charged with
 responsibility for investigation or determination of
 compliance issues pursuant to the compact; or
- j. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by
 federal and state statute.
- 13 (7) If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed 14 pursuant to this provision, the commission's legal counsel or 15 designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and shall reference each relevant exempting provision. The 16 17 commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe 18 all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, any person 19 20 participating in the meeting, and the reasons for taking the 21 actions, including a description of the views expressed. All 22 documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in the minutes. All minutes and documents of a 23 24 closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release 25 only by a majority vote of the commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction. 26

(c) The commission, by a majority vote of the
 commissioners, shall adopt bylaws or rules, or both, 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:

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(1) Establishing the fiscal year of the commission;

(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.

12 (3) Providing reasonable procedures for calling and 13 conducting meetings of the commission, ensuring reasonable advance notice of all meetings, and providing an opportunity 14 15 for attendance of such meetings by interested parties, with enumerated exceptions designed to protect the public's 16 17 interest, the privacy of individuals of such proceedings, and 18 proprietary information, including trade secrets. The commission may meet in closed session only after a majority of 19 20 the commissioners vote to close a meeting to the public in 21 whole or in part. As soon as practicable, the commission must make public a copy of the vote to close the meeting revealing 22 23 the vote of each commissioner 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 compact state, the bylaws shall exclusively
govern the personnel policies and programs of the commission;
(6) Adopting a code of ethics to address permissible

7 and prohibited activities of commission members and employees;

8 (7) Providing a mechanism for concluding the 9 operations of the commission and the equitable disposition of 10 any surplus funds that may exist after the termination of the 11 compact after the payment or reserving of all of its debts and 12 obligations;

13 (8) The commission shall publish its bylaws in a
14 convenient form and file a copy thereof and a copy of any
15 amendment thereto with the appropriate agency or officer in
16 each of the compact states;

17 (9) The commission shall maintain its financial
18 records in accordance with the bylaws; and

(10) The commission shall meet and take such actions
as are consistent with the provisions of this compact and the
bylaws.

22

(d) The commission shall have the following powers:

(1) To adopt uniform rules to facilitate and
coordinate implementation and administration of this compact.
The rules shall have the force and effect of law and shall be
binding in all compact states.

1 (2) To bring and prosecute legal proceedings or 2 actions in the name of the commission, provided that the 3 standing of any state psychology regulatory authority or other 4 regulatory body responsible for psychology licensure to sue or 5 be sued under applicable law shall not be affected.

6

(3) To purchase and maintain insurance and bonds.

7 (4) To borrow, accept, or contract for services of
8 personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a
9 compact state.

10 (5) To hire employees, elect or appoint officers, 11 fix compensation, define duties, grant such individuals 12 appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the 13 compact, and establish the commission's personnel policies and 14 programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of 15 personnel, and other related personnel matters.

16 (6) To accept any and all appropriate donations and
17 grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services,
18 and to receive, utilize, and dispose of the same, provided
19 that at all times the commission shall strive to avoid any
20 appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest.

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

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

4 (9) To establish a budget and make expenditures.

5

(10) To borrow money.

6 (11) To appoint committees, including advisory 7 committees comprised of members, state regulators, state 8 legislators or their representatives, and consumer 9 representatives, and such other interested persons as may be 10 designated in this compact and the bylaws.

(12) To provide and receive information from, and tocooperate with, law enforcement agencies.

13

(13) To adopt and use an official seal.

14 (14) To perform such other functions as may be 15 necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this 16 compact consistent with the state regulation of psychology 17 licensure, temporary in-person, face-to-face practice, and 18 telepsychology practice.

(e) The Executive Board. The elected officers shall
serve as the executive board, which shall have the power to
act on behalf of the commission according to the terms of this
compact.

23 (1) The executive board shall be comprised of six24 members:

a. Five voting members who are elected from thecurrent membership of the commission by the commission.

b. One ex officio, nonvoting member from the 1 2 recognized membership organization composed of state and provincial psychology regulatory authorities. 3 (2) The ex officio member must have served as staff 4 5 or member on a state psychology regulatory authority and be selected by its respective organization. 6 7 (3) The commission may remove any member of the executive board as provided in its bylaws. 8 (4) The executive board shall meet at least 9 10 annually. (5) The executive board shall have the following 11 duties and responsibilities: 12 13 a. Recommend to the entire commission changes to the 14 rules or bylaws, changes to this compact legislation, fees 15 paid by compact states such as annual dues, and any other 16 applicable fees. 17 b. Ensure compact administration services are 18 appropriately provided, contractual or otherwise. 19 c. Prepare and recommend the budget. 20 d. Maintain financial records on behalf of the 21 commission. 22 e. Monitor compact compliance of member states and 23 provide compliance reports to the commission. 24 f. Establish additional committees as necessary. 25 g. Other duties as provided in rules or bylaws. 26 (f) 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.

4 (2) The commission may accept any and all
5 appropriate revenue sources, donations, and grants of money,
6 equipment, supplies, materials, and services.

7 (3) The commission may levy and collect an annual 8 assessment from each compact state or impose fees on other 9 parties to cover the cost of the operations and activities of 10 the commission and its staff which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved each year 11 for which revenue is not provided by other sources. The 12 13 aggregate annual assessment amount shall be allocated based 14 upon a formula to be determined by the commission which shall 15 adopt a rule binding upon all compact states.

16 (4) The commission shall not incur obligations of 17 any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the 18 same; nor shall the commission pledge the credit of any of the 19 compact states, except by and with the authority of the 20 compact state.

(5) 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. However, 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.

3 (g) Qualified Immunity, Defense, and4 Indemnification.

(1) The members, officers, executive director, 5 employees, and representatives of the commission shall be 6 7 immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for any claim for damage to, or loss of, 8 property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by 9 10 or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom the 11 claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred 12 13 within the scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities; nothing in this subdivision shall be 14 15 construed to protect any such person from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the 16 intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person. 17

18 (2) The commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the 19 20 commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability 21 arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment, 22 duties, or responsibilities, or that the person against whom 23 24 the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing 25 occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or 26 responsibilities; nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit that person from retaining his or her own counsel, 27

provided 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 4 5 any member, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the commission for the amount of any 6 7 settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that 8 occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or 9 10 responsibilities, or that such person had a reasonable basis for believing the actual or alleged act, error, or omission 11 12 occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or 13 responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from the intentional or 14 15 willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

16

Section 11. RULEMAKING

(a) The commission shall exercise its rulemaking
powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this section and
the rules adopted pursuant to this section. Rules and
amendments shall become binding as of the date specified in
each rule or amendment.

(b) If a majority of the legislatures of the compact states rejects a rule, by enactment of a law or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the compact, then such rule shall have no further force and effect in any compact state.

26 (c) Rules or amendments to the rules shall be
 27 adopted at a regular or special meeting of the commission.

(d) Prior to adoption of a final rule or rules by 1 2 the commission, and at least 60 days in advance of the meeting at which the rule will be considered and voted upon, the 3 commission shall file a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: 4 5 (1) On the website of the commission; and (2) On the website of each compact state's 6 7 psychology regulatory authority or the publication in which each state would otherwise publish proposed rules. 8 9 (e) The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking shall include: 10 (1) The proposed time, date, and location of the meeting in which the rule will be considered and voted upon; 11 (2) The text of the proposed rule or amendment and 12 13 the reason for the proposed rule; (3) A request for comments on the proposed rule from 14 15 any interested person; and (4) The manner in which interested persons may 16 submit notice to the commission of their intention to attend 17 18 the public hearing and any written comments. (f) Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the 19 20 commission shall allow persons to submit written data, facts, 21 opinions, and arguments, which shall be made available to the public. 22 (g) The commission shall grant an opportunity for a 23 24 public hearing before it adopts a rule or amendment if a 25 hearing is requested by: 26 (1) At least 25 persons who submit comments independently of each other; 27

1

(2) A governmental subdivision or agency; or

2 (3) A duly appointed person in an association that
3 has at least 25 members.

4 (h) If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or
5 amendment, the commission shall publish the place, time, and
6 date of the scheduled public hearing.

7 (1) All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing
8 shall notify the executive director of the commission or other
9 designated member in writing of their desire to appear and
10 testify at the hearing not less than five business days before
11 the scheduled date of the hearing.

12 (2) Hearings shall be conducted in a manner
13 providing each person who wishes to comment a fair and
14 reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in writing.

15 (3) No transcript of the hearing is required, unless a written request for a transcript is made, in which case the 16 17 person requesting the transcript shall bear the cost of 18 producing the transcript. A recording may be made in lieu of a transcript under the same terms and conditions as a 19 20 transcript. This subdivision shall not preclude the commission 21 from making a transcript or recording of the hearing if it so 22 chooses.

(4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as
requiring a separate hearing on each rule. Rules may be
grouped for the convenience of the commission at hearings
required by this subsection.

1 (i) Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the 2 close of business on the scheduled hearing date if the hearing 3 was not held, the commission shall consider all written and 4 oral comments received.

5 (j) The commission, by majority vote of all members, 6 shall take final action on the proposed rule and shall 7 determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the 8 rulemaking record and the full text of the rule.

9 (k) If no written notice of intent to attend the 10 public hearing by interested parties is received, the 11 commission may proceed with adoption of the proposed rule 12 without a public hearing.

13 (1) Upon determination that an emergency exists, the 14 commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule without 15 prior notice, opportunity for comment, or hearing, provided that the usual rulemaking procedures provided in the compact 16 17 and in this section shall be retroactively applied to the rule 18 as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than 90 days after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this 19 20 subsection, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted 21 immediately in order to:

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

24 (2) Prevent a loss of commission or compact state25 funds;

(3) Meet a deadline for the adoption of an
 administrative rule that is established by federal law or
 regulation; or

4

(4) Protect public health and safety.

5 (m) The commission or an authorized committee of the commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule 6 7 or amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, 8 errors in format, errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be posted on the 9 10 website of the commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any person for a period of 30 days after posting. 11 The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the 12 13 revision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made in writing and delivered to the chair of the 14 15 commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision will take effect without 16 further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision 17 18 may not take effect without the approval of the commission.

Section 12. OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AND
 ENFORCEMENT

21

(a) Oversight.

(1) The executive, legislative, and judicial
branches of state government in each compact state shall
enforce this compact and take all actions necessary and
appropriate to effectuate the compact's purposes and intent.
This compact and the rules adopted hereunder shall have
standing as statutory law.

(2) All courts shall take judicial notice of the
 compact and the rules in any judicial or administrative
 proceeding in a compact state pertaining to the subject matter
 of this compact which may affect the powers, responsibilities,
 or actions of the commission.

6 (3) The commission shall be entitled to receive 7 service of process in any such proceeding, and shall have 8 standing to intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. 9 Failure to provide service of process to the commission shall 10 render a judgment or order void as to the commission, this 11 compact, or adopted rules.

12

(b) Default, Technical Assistance, and Termination.

(1) If the commission determines that a compact state has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this compact or the adopted rules, the commission shall:

a. Provide written notice to the defaulting state
and other compact states of the nature of the default, the
proposed means of remedying the default or any other action to
be taken by the commission; and

b. Provide remedial training and specific technicalassistance regarding the default.

(2) If a state in default fails to remedy the
default, the defaulting state may be terminated from the
compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the compact
states, and all rights, privileges, and benefits conferred by
this compact shall be terminated on the effective date of

termination. A remedy of the default does not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of default.

4 (3) Termination of membership in the compact shall
5 be imposed only after all other means of securing compliance
6 have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate
7 shall be submitted by the commission to the Governor, the
8 majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's
9 legislature, and each of the compact states.

(4) A compact state that has been terminated is
responsible for all assessments, obligations, and liabilities
incurred through the effective date of termination, including
obligations that extend beyond the effective date of
termination.

15 (5) The commission shall not bear any costs incurred 16 by the state that is found to be in default or which has been 17 terminated from the compact, unless agreed upon in writing 18 between the commission and the defaulting state.

19 (6) The defaulting state may appeal the action of 20 the commission by petitioning the U.S. District Court for the 21 State of Georgia or the federal district where the compact has 22 its principal offices. The prevailing member shall be awarded 23 all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's 24 fees.

25

(c) Dispute Resolution.

(1) Upon request by a compact state, the commissionshall attempt to resolve disputes related to the compact which

arise among compact states and between compact and non-compact
 states.

3 (2) The commission shall adopt a rule providing for
4 both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes
5 that arise before the commission.

6

(d) Enforcement.

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

10 (2) By majority vote, the commission may initiate legal action in the United States District Court for the State 11 of Georgia or the federal district where the compact has its 12 13 principal offices against a compact state in default to 14 enforce compliance with the compact and its adopted rules and 15 bylaws. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, 16 17 the prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of 18 litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.

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

Section 13. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PSYCHOLOGY
 INTERJURISDICTIONAL COMPACT COMMISSION AND ASSOCIATED RULES,
 WITHDRAWAL, AND AMENDMENTS

(a) The compact shall come into effect on the date
on which the compact is enacted into law in the seventh
compact state. The provisions which become effective at that

time shall be limited to the powers granted to the commission relating to assembly and the adoption of rules. Thereafter, the commission shall meet and exercise rulemaking powers necessary to the implementation and administration of the compact.

6 (b) Any state that joins the compact subsequent to 7 the commission's initial adoption of the rules shall be 8 subject to the rules as they exist on the date on which the 9 compact becomes law in that state. Any rule that has been 10 previously adopted by the commission shall have the full force 11 and effect of law on the day the compact becomes law in that 12 state.

13 (c) Any compact state may withdraw from this compact14 by enacting a statute repealing the same.

(1) A compact state's withdrawal shall not take
effect until six months after enactment of the repealing
statute.

18 (2) Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing
19 requirement of the withdrawing state's psychology regulatory
20 authority to comply with the investigative and adverse action
21 reporting requirements of this section prior to the effective
22 date of withdrawal.

(d) Nothing contained in this compact shall be
construed to invalidate or prevent any psychology licensure
agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a compact
state and a non-compact state which does not conflict with
this compact.

(e) This compact may be amended by the compact
 states. No amendment to this compact shall become effective
 and binding upon any compact state until it is enacted into
 the law of all compact states.

5

Section 14. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

6 This compact shall be liberally construed so as to 7 effectuate the purposes thereof. If this compact shall be held 8 contrary to the constitution of any state member thereto, the 9 compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the 10 remaining compact states.

11 Section 15. This act shall become effective on the 12 first day of the third month following its passage and 13 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.