



House Bill No. 6835

Public Act No. 23-195

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Health care facility" means an outpatient surgical facility, as defined in section 19a-493b of the general statutes, or a hospital, as defined in in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, but does not include a chronic disease hospital, as defined in section 19a-550 of the general statutes;

(2) "Health care provider" means a person or an entity that is licensed, certified or registered by the Department of Public Health to provide health care services pursuant to title 20 of the general statutes;

(3) "Surgical technologist" means a person who performs surgical technology services who is not a health care provider;

(4) "Surgical technology services" means surgical patient care including, but not limited to, one or more of the following:

(A) Preparing an operating room and the sterile operating field for surgical procedures by ensuring that surgical equipment is functioning

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properly and safely and using sterile techniques to prepare surgical supplies, instruments and equipment;

(B) Intraoperative anticipation and response to the needs of a surgeon and other surgical team members by monitoring the sterile operating field in an operating room and providing the required instruments or supplies; and

(C) Performance of tasks at the sterile operating field, as directed, in an operating room setting, including: (i) Passing surgical supplies, instruments and equipment directly to a health care provider; (ii) sponging or suctioning an operative site; (iii) preparing and cutting suture material; (iv) transferring and irrigating with fluids; (v) transferring, but not administering, drugs within the sterile field; and (vi) handling surgical specimens.

(b) A health care facility shall not employ or otherwise retain any person to perform surgical technology services unless such person meets one or more of the following requirements:

(1) Successfully completed a nationally accredited surgical technology program and holds and maintains certification as a surgical technologist from a national certifying body that certifies surgical technologists recognized by the Department of Public Health;

(2) (A) Successfully completed an accredited surgical technologist program, (B) has not, as of the date of hire, obtained certification as a surgical technologist from a national certifying body that certifies surgical technologists recognized by the Department of Public Health, and (C) obtains such certification not later than eighteen months after completion of such program;

(3) Performed surgical technology services as a surgical technologist in a health care facility on or before October 1, 2023, provided the health care facility employing or retaining such person as a surgical

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technologist under this subsection obtains proof of such person's prior experience as a surgical technologist from such person and makes it available to the Department of Public Health upon request of the department;

(4) Successfully completed a training program for surgical technology in the armed forces of the United States, the National Guard or in the United States Public Health Services; or

(5) Has been designated by the health care facility as being competent to perform surgical technology services based on specialized training or specific experience, including, but not limited to, as a phlebotomist, nuclear medical technologist, ultrasound technologist or central service technician, provided the health care facility retains a list of such designations deemed by such facility to be competent to perform such services.

(c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a person from performing surgical technology services if such person is acting within the scope of such person's license, certification, registration, permit or designation, or is a student or intern under the direct supervision of a health care provider.

(d) Any health care facility that employs or retains a surgical technologist shall submit to the Department of Public Health, upon request of the department, documentation demonstrating that the surgical technologist is in compliance with the requirements set forth in this section.

Sec. 2. Section 20-14s of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

A prescribing practitioner, as defined in section 20-14c, who prescribes an opioid drug, as defined in section 20-14o, for the treatment of pain for a patient for a duration greater than twelve weeks shall

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establish a treatment agreement with the patient or discuss a care plan for the chronic use of opioids with the patient. The treatment agreement or care plan shall, at a minimum, include treatment goals, risks of using opioids, urine drug screens and expectations regarding the continuing treatment of pain with opioids, such as situations requiring discontinuation of opioid treatment and, to the extent possible, nonopioid treatment options, including, but not limited to, manipulation, chiropractic, spinal cord stimulation, massage therapy, acupuncture, physical therapy and other treatment regimens or modalities. A record of the treatment agreement or care plan shall be recorded in the patient's medical record.

Sec. 3. Subdivision (1) of section 17b-307a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(1) "Collaborative Care Model" or "CoCM" means the integrated delivery of behavioral health and primary care services by a primary care team that includes a primary care provider, a behavioral care manager, a psychiatric consultant and a [data base] database used by the behavioral care manager to track patient progress;

Sec. 4. Subsection (g) of section 20-195n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(g) The commissioner shall notify each applicant who is approved to take an examination required under subsection (b), (c), (d) or (e) of this section that such applicant may be eligible for testing accommodations pursuant to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC 12101 et seq., as amended from time to time, or other accommodations, as determined by the Association of Social Work Boards, or its successor organization, which may include the use of a dictionary while taking such examination and additional time within which to take such

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examination.

Sec. 5. Subdivisions (104) and (105) of subsection (a) of section 10-29a of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(104) [Maternal Mental Health Month.] The Governor shall proclaim the month of May of each year to be Maternal Mental Health Month, to raise awareness of issues surrounding maternal mental health. Suitable exercises may be held in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the Governor designates for the observance of the month.

(105) [Maternal Mental Health Day.] The Governor shall proclaim May fifth of each year to be Maternal Mental Health Day, to raise awareness of issues surrounding maternal mental health. Suitable exercises may be held in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the Governor designates for the observance of the day.

Sec. 6. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 17a-476 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) Any general hospital, municipality or nonprofit organization in Connecticut may apply to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for funds to establish, expand or maintain psychiatric or mental health services. The application for funds shall be submitted on forms provided by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and shall be accompanied by (1) a definition of the towns and areas to be served; (2) a plan by means of which the applicant proposes to coordinate its activities with those of other local agencies presently supplying mental health services or contributing in any way to the mental health of the area; (3) a description of the services to be provided, and the methods through which these services will be provided; and (4) indication of the methods that will be employed to

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effect a balance in the use of state and local resources so as to foster local initiative, responsibility and participation. In accordance with subdivision (4) of section 17a-480, as amended by this act, the regional behavioral health action organization serving the mental health region in which the applicant is located shall review each such application with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and make recommendations to the department with respect to each such application.

(b) Upon receipt of the application with the recommendations of the regional behavioral health action organization and approval by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the department shall grant such funds by way of a contract or grant-in-aid within the appropriation for any annual fiscal year. No funds authorized by this section shall be used for the construction or renovation of buildings.

Sec. 7. Section 17a-480 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in consultation with regional behavioral health action organizations, established pursuant to section 17a-484f, (1) may purchase services from other public agencies and from municipal and private agencies, (2) shall supervise, plan and coordinate mental health services with the goal of improving and expanding existing services and providing new ones, (3) shall develop joint programs in conformity with Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services standards, (4) shall make recommendations concerning all requests for grants and all contract proposals emanating from the regions, (5) shall evaluate mental health service delivery and monitor such services to insure that they are in conformity with the plans and policies of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and (6) shall report annually to the Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services on the status of programs and needs of the regions.

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Sec. 8. Section 17a-482 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

As used in this section, subsection (a) of section 17a-476, as amended by this act, sections 17a-478 to 17a-480, inclusive, as amended by this act, [and sections 17a-482] and section 17a-483, unless the context otherwise requires: "Catchment area" means any geographical area within the state established as such by the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the boundaries of which may be redesignated by said commissioner when deemed necessary to equalize the population of each area and in such manner as is consistent with the boundaries of the municipalities therein, provided such boundaries of any catchment area shall be entirely within the boundaries of a mental health region established under section 17a-478; "council" means the catchment area council established under section 17a-483; "regional behavioral health action organization" means the organization established pursuant to section 17a-484f; and "provider" means any person who receives income from private practice or any public or private agency which delivers mental health services.

Sec. 9. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 19a-70 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(3) "HIV infection" means infection with the human immunodeficiency virus or any other related virus identified as a probable causative agent of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Public Health Service;

Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 20-90 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

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(a) The Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing shall have the following duties: (1) Hear and decide matters concerning suspension or revocation of licensure; (2) adjudicate complaints filed against practitioners licensed under this chapter and impose sanctions where appropriate; (3) approve schools of nursing in the state that prepare persons for examination under the provisions of this chapter; and (4) consult, where possible, with [national] nationally recognized accrediting agencies when approving schools pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection. The board may adopt a seal.

Sec. 11. Subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of section 53-344 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(2) In determining whether a seller or seller's agent or employee has proven the affirmative defense provided by subdivision (1) of this [section] subsection, the trier of fact in such prosecution shall consider that reasonable reliance upon the identification presented and the completed transaction scan may require a seller or seller's agent or employee to exercise reasonable diligence and that the use of a transaction scan device does not excuse a seller or seller's agent or employee from exercising such reasonable diligence to determine the following: (A) Whether a person to whom the seller or seller's agent or employee sells, gives away or otherwise distributes cigarettes or a tobacco product is twenty-one years of age or older; and (B) whether the description and picture appearing on the driver's license or identity card presented by a cardholder is that of the cardholder.

Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Counseling Compact is hereby enacted into law and entered into by the state of Connecticut with any and all jurisdictions legally joining therein in accordance with its terms. The compact is substantially as follows:

"COUNSELING COMPACT

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SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the compact is to facilitate interstate practice of licensed professional counselors with the goal of improving public access to professional counseling services. The practice of professional counseling occurs in the state where the client is located at the time of the counseling services. The compact preserves the regulatory authority of states to protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure. The compact is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- (1) Increase public access to professional counseling services by providing for the mutual recognition of other member state licenses;
- (2) Enhance the states' ability to protect public health and safety;
- (3) Encourage the cooperation of member states in regulating multistate practice for licensed professional counselors;
- (4) Support spouses of relocating active duty military personnel;
- (5) Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative and disciplinary information among member states;
- (6) Allow for the use of telehealth technology to facilitate increased access to professional counseling services;
- (7) Support the uniformity of professional counseling licensure requirements throughout the member states to promote public safety and public health benefits;
- (8) Invest all member states with the authority to hold a licensed professional counselor accountable for meeting all state practice laws in the state in which the client is located at the time care is rendered through the mutual recognition of member state licenses;

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(9) Eliminate the necessity for licenses in multiple states; and

(10) Provide opportunities for interstate practice by licensed professional counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

As used in the compact, except as otherwise provided, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Active duty military" means full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including, but not limited to, members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 USC 1209 and 10 USC 1211.

(2) "Adverse action" means any administrative, civil, equitable or criminal action permitted by a state's laws that is imposed by a licensing board or other authority against a licensed professional counselor, including actions against an individual's license or privilege to practice such as revocation, suspension, probation, monitoring of the licensee, limitation on the licensee's practice or any other encumbrance on licensure affecting a licensed professional counselor's authorization to practice, including issuance of a cease and desist action.

(3) "Alternative program" means a nondisciplinary monitoring or practice remediation process approved by a professional counseling licensing board to address impaired practitioners.

(4) "Continuing competence or education" means a requirement, as a condition of license renewal, to provide evidence of participation in, or completion of, educational and professional activities relevant to practice or area of work.

(5) "Counseling Compact Commission" or "commission" means the national administrative body whose membership consists of all states

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that have enacted the compact.

(6) "Current significant investigative information" means:

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

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

(7) "Data system" means a repository of information about licensees, including, but not limited to, continuing education, examination, licensure, investigative, privilege to practice and adverse action information.

(8) "Encumbered license" means a license in which an adverse action restricts the practice of licensed professional counseling by the licensee and such adverse action has been reported to the National Practitioners Data Bank.

(9) "Encumbrance" means a revocation or suspension of, or any limitation on, the full and unrestricted practice of licensed professional counseling by a licensing board.

(10) "Executive committee" means a group of directors elected or appointed to act on behalf of, and within the powers granted to them by, the commission.

(11) "Home state" means the member state that is the licensee's primary state of residence.

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(12) "Impaired practitioner" means an individual who has a condition that may impair the individual's ability to practice as a licensed professional counselor without some type of intervention and may include, but is not limited to, alcohol and drug dependence, mental health impairment and neurological or physical impairments.

(13) "Investigative information" means information, records and documents received or generated by a professional counseling licensing board pursuant to an investigation.

(14) "Jurisprudence requirement" means any assessment required by a member state of an individual's knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of professional counseling in a state.

(15) "Licensed professional counselor" means a counselor licensed by a member state, regardless of the title used by the member state, to independently assess, diagnose and treat behavioral health conditions.

(16) "Licensee" means an individual who currently holds an authorization from the state to practice as a licensed professional counselor.

(17) "Licensing board" means the agency of a member state, or the equivalent, that is responsible for the licensing and regulation of licensed professional counselors.

(18) "Member state" means a state that has enacted the compact.

(19) "Privilege to practice" means a legal authorization equivalent to a license that permits the practice of professional counseling in a remote state.

(20) "Professional counseling" means the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of behavioral health conditions by a licensed professional counselor.

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(21) "Remote state" means a member state, other than the home state, where a licensee is exercising or seeking to exercise the privilege to practice.

(22) "Rule" means a regulation promulgated by the commission that has the force of law.

(23) "Single state license" means a licensed professional counselor license issued by a member state that authorizes practice only within the issuing state and does not include a privilege to practice in any other member state.

(24) "State" means any state, commonwealth, district or territory of the United States that regulates the practice of professional counseling.

(25) "Telehealth" means the application of telecommunication technology to deliver professional counseling services remotely to assess, diagnose and treat behavioral health conditions.

(26) "Unencumbered license" means a license that authorizes a licensed professional counselor to engage in the full and unrestricted practice of professional counseling.

SECTION 3. STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT

(a) To participate in the compact, a state shall currently:

(1) License and regulate licensed professional counselors;

(2) Require licensees to pass a nationally recognized exam approved by the commission;

(3) Require licensees to have a sixty semester-hour or ninety quarter-hour master's degree in counseling or sixty semester hours or ninety quarter-hours of graduate course work, including the following topic areas:

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- (A) Professional counseling orientation and ethical practice;
 - (B) Social and cultural diversity;
 - (C) Human growth and development;
 - (D) Career development;
 - (E) Counseling and helping relationships;
 - (F) Group counseling and group work;
 - (G) Diagnosis and treatment;
 - (H) Assessment and testing;
 - (I) Research and program evaluation; and
 - (J) Other areas as determined by the commission;
- (4) Require licensees to complete a supervised postgraduate professional experience as defined by the commission; and
- (5) Have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints about licensees.
- (b) A member state shall:
- (1) Participate fully in the commission's data system, including using the commission's unique identifier as defined in rules;
 - (2) Notify the commission, in compliance with the terms of the compact and rules, of any adverse action or the availability of investigative information regarding a licensee;
 - (3) Implement or utilize procedures for considering the criminal history records of applicants for an initial privilege to practice, including the submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based information by

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applicants for the purpose of obtaining an applicant's criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the agency responsible for retaining the state's criminal records, provided (A) a member state shall fully implement a criminal background check requirement, within a time frame established by rule, by receiving the results of the Federal Bureau of Investigation record search and shall use the results in making licensure decisions; and (B) communication between a member state, the commission and among member states regarding the verification of eligibility for licensure through the compact shall not include any information received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation relating to a federal criminal records check performed by a member state under the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1973, P.L. 92-544;

(4) Comply with the rules of the commission;

(5) Require an applicant to obtain or retain a license in the home state and meet the home state's qualifications for licensure or renewal of licensure, as well as all other applicable state laws;

(6) Grant the privilege to practice to a licensee holding a valid unencumbered license in another member state in accordance with the terms of the compact and rules; and

(7) Provide for the attendance of the state's commissioner to the Counseling Compact Commission meetings.

(c) A member state may charge a fee for granting the privilege to practice under the compact.

(d) An individual not residing in a member state may apply for a member state's single state license to practice professional counseling as provided under the laws of each member state.

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(e) The single state license to practice professional counseling granted to an individual not residing in a member state shall not be recognized as granting a privilege to practice in any other member state.

(f) Nothing in the compact shall affect the requirements established by a member state for the issuance of a single state license to practice professional counseling.

(g) A license issued to a licensed professional counselor by a home state to a resident of such home state shall be recognized by each member state as authorizing a licensed professional counselor to practice professional counseling, under a privilege to practice, in each member state.

SECTION 4. PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE

(a) To exercise the privilege to practice under the terms and provisions of the compact, a licensee shall:

(1) Hold a license in the home state;

(2) Have a valid Social Security number or National Practitioner Identifier;

(3) Be eligible for a privilege to practice in any member state in accordance with subsections (d), (g) and (h) of this section of the compact;

(4) Have not had any encumbrance or restriction against any license or privilege to practice within the previous two years;

(5) Notify the commission that the licensee is seeking the privilege to practice within a remote state;

(6) Pay any applicable fees, including any state fee, for the privilege to practice;

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(7) Meet any continuing competence or education requirements established by the home state;

(8) Meet any jurisprudence requirements established by each remote state in which the licensee is seeking a privilege to practice; and

(9) Report to the commission any adverse action, encumbrance or restriction on license taken by any non-member state not later than thirty days after the date on which the action is taken.

(b) The privilege to practice shall be valid until the expiration date of the home state license. The licensee shall comply with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section of the compact to maintain the privilege to practice in the remote state.

(c) A licensee providing professional counseling in a remote state under the privilege to practice shall adhere to the laws and regulations of the remote state.

(d) A licensee providing professional counseling services in a remote state shall be subject to the remote state's regulatory authority. A remote state may, in accordance with due process and such state's laws, remove a licensee's privilege to practice in the remote state for a specific period of time, impose fines or take any other necessary action to protect the health and safety of its citizens. The licensee may be ineligible for a privilege to practice in any member state until the specific time for removal has passed and all fines are paid.

(e) If a home state license is encumbered, the licensee shall lose the privilege to practice in any remote state until the following occur:

(1) The home state license is no longer encumbered; and

(2) The licensee has not had any encumbrance or restriction against any license or privilege to practice within the previous two years.

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(f) After an encumbered license in the home state is restored to good standing, the licensee shall meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section of the compact to obtain a privilege to practice in any remote state.

(g) If a licensee's privilege to practice in any remote state is removed, the individual may lose the privilege to practice in all other remote states until the following occur:

(1) The specific period of time for which the privilege to practice was removed has ended;

(2) All fines have been paid; and

(3) The licensee has not had any encumbrance or restriction against any license or privilege to practice within the previous two years.

(h) When the requirements of subsection (g) of this section of the compact have been met, the licensee shall meet the requirements in subsection (a) of this section of the compact to obtain a privilege to practice in a remote state.

SECTION 5. OBTAINING A NEW HOME STATE LICENSE BASED ON A PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE

(a) A licensed professional counselor may hold a home state license that allows for a privilege to practice in other member states in only one member state at a time.

(b) If a licensed professional counselor changes the primary state of residence by moving between two member states:

(1) The licensed professional counselor shall file an application for obtaining a new home state license based on a privilege to practice, pay all applicable fees and notify the current and new home state in accordance with applicable rules adopted by the commission.

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(2) Upon receipt of an application to obtain a new home state license by virtue of a privilege to practice, the new home state shall verify that the licensed professional counselor meets the pertinent criteria outlined in section 4 of the compact via the data system, without need for primary source verification, except:

(A) A Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint based criminal background check if not previously performed or updated pursuant to applicable rules adopted by the commission in accordance with the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1973, P.L. 92-544;

(B) Any other criminal background check as required by the new home state; and

(C) Completion of any requisite jurisprudence requirements of the new home state.

(3) The former home state shall convert the former home state license into a privilege to practice once the new home state has activated the new home state license in accordance with applicable rules adopted by the commission.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of the compact, if the licensed professional counselor cannot meet the criteria in section 4 of the compact, the new home state may apply its requirements for issuing a new single state license.

(5) The licensed professional counselor shall pay all applicable fees to the new home state in order to be issued a new home state license.

(c) If a licensed professional counselor changes the primary state of residence by moving from a member state to a non-member state, or from a non-member state to a member state, the state criteria shall apply for issuance of a single state license in the new state.

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(d) Nothing in the compact shall interfere with a licensee's ability to hold a single state license in multiple states. For the purposes of the compact, a licensee shall have only one home state license.

(e) Nothing in the compact shall affect the requirements established by a member state for the issuance of a single state license.

SECTION 6. ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL OR THEIR SPOUSES

Active duty military personnel, or the spouse of an active duty military personnel, shall designate a home state where such personnel or such spouse has a current license in good standing. Such personnel or such spouse may retain the home state designation during the period the service member is on active duty. Subsequent to designating a home state, such personnel or such spouse shall only change such personnel's or such spouse's home state through application for licensure in the new state, or through the process described in section 5 of the compact.

SECTION 7. COMPACT PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE TELEHEALTH

(a) A member state shall recognize the right of a licensed professional counselor, licensed by a home state in accordance with section 3 of the compact and under rules promulgated by the commission, to practice professional counseling in any member state via telehealth under a privilege to practice as provided in the compact and rules promulgated by the commission.

(b) A licensee providing professional counseling services in a remote state under the privilege to practice shall adhere to the laws and regulations of the remote state.

SECTION 8. ADVERSE ACTIONS

(a) In addition to the other powers conferred by state law, a remote

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state shall have the authority, in accordance with existing state due process law, to:

(1) Take adverse action against a licensed professional counselor's privilege to practice within such member state;

(2) Issue a subpoena for a hearing or an investigation that requires the attendance and testimony of a witness and the production of evidence. A subpoena issued by a licensing board in a member state for the attendance and testimony of a witness or the production of evidence from another member state shall be enforced in the latter member state by any court of competent jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure of that court applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before it;

(3) The authority issuing a subpoena under subdivision (2) of this subsection shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage and other fees required by the service laws of the state in which the witnesses or evidence are located; and

(4) Only the home state shall have the power to take adverse action against a licensed professional counselor's license issued by the home state.

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

(c) The home state shall complete any pending investigation of a licensed professional counselor who changes primary state of residence during the course of the investigation. The home state shall also have the authority to take appropriate action and shall promptly report the conclusion of the investigations to the administrator of the data system.

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The administrator of the coordinated licensure information system shall promptly notify the new home state of any adverse action.

(d) A member state, if otherwise permitted by state law, may recover from the affected licensed professional counselor the costs of investigations and dispositions of cases resulting from any adverse action taken against such licensed professional counselor.

(e) A member state may take adverse action based on the factual findings of the remote state, provided the member state follows its own procedures for taking the adverse action.

(f) (1) In addition to the authority granted to a member state by its respective professional counseling practice act or other applicable state law, any member state may participate with another member state in a joint investigation of a licensee.

(2) A member state shall share any investigative, litigation or compliance materials in furtherance of any joint or individual investigation initiated under the compact.

(g) If adverse action is taken by the home state against the license of a licensed professional counselor, the licensed professional counselor's privilege to practice in all other member states shall be deactivated until all encumbrances have been removed from the state license.

(h) A home state disciplinary order that imposes adverse action against the license of a licensed professional counselor shall include a statement that the licensed professional counselor's privilege to practice is deactivated in all member states during the pendency of the order.

(i) If a member state takes adverse action, it shall promptly notify the administrator of the data system. The administrator of the data system shall promptly notify the home state of any adverse action by a remote state.

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(j) Nothing in the compact shall override a member state's decision that participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action.

SECTION 9. ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNSELING COMPACT COMMISSION

(a) The member states hereby create and establish a joint public agency known as the Counseling Compact Commission:

(1) The commission is an instrumentality 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 office of the commission is located. The commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

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

(b) Membership, Voting and Meetings:

(1) Each member state shall have and be limited to one delegate selected by that member state's licensing board.

(2) The delegate shall be either:

(A) A current member of the licensing board at the time of appointment, who is a licensed professional counselor or public member; or

(B) An administrator of the licensing board.

(3) Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office as

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provided by the law of the state from which the delegate is appointed.

(4) The member state licensing board shall fill any vacancy occurring on the commission not later than sixty days after the vacancy occurs.

(5) Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote with regard to the promulgation of rules and creation of bylaws and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the business and affairs of the commission.

(6) A delegate shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates' participation in meetings by telephone or other means of communication.

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

(8) The commission shall by rule establish a term of office for delegates and may by rule establish term limits.

(c) The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) Establish the fiscal year of the commission;

(2) Establish bylaws;

(3) Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws;

(4) Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the provisions of the compact and the bylaws;

(5) Promulgate rules that shall be binding to the extent and in the manner provided for in the compact;

(6) Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the commission, provided the standing of any state licensing board to

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sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected;

(7) Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

(8) Borrow, accept or contract for services of personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a member state;

(9) 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;

(10) Accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services, and to receive, utilize and dispose of the same provided the commission at all times shall avoid any appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest;

(11) Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve or use, any property, real, personal or mixed, provided the Commission avoids, at all times, any appearance of impropriety;

(12) Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon or otherwise dispose of any property real, personal or mixed;

(13) Establish a budget and make expenditures;

(14) Borrow money;

(15) Appoint committees, including standing committees composed of members, state regulators, state legislators or their representatives, consumer representatives and such other interested persons as may be designated in the compact and the bylaws;

(16) Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law

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enforcement agencies;

(17) Establish and elect an executive committee; and

(18) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of the compact consistent with the state regulation of professional counseling licensure and practice.

(d) The executive committee:

(1) The executive committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the commission according to the terms of the compact.

(2) The executive committee shall be composed of up to eleven members, including the following:

(A) Seven voting members who are elected by the commission from the current membership of the commission; and

(B) Up to four ex-officio, nonvoting members from different recognized national professional counselor organizations, who shall be selected by their respective organizations.

(3) The commission may remove any member of the executive committee as provided in bylaws.

(4) The executive committee shall meet at least annually.

(5) The executive committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(A) Recommend to the entire commission changes to the rules or bylaws, changes to the compact legislation, fees paid by compact member states, such as annual dues, and any commission compact fee charged to licensees for the privilege to practice;

(B) Ensure compact administration services are appropriately

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provided, contractual or otherwise;

(C) Prepare and recommend the budget;

(D) Maintain financial records on behalf of the commission;

(E) Monitor compact compliance of member states and provide compliance reports to the commission;

(F) Establish additional committees as necessary; and

(G) Other duties as provided in rules or bylaws.

(e) Meetings of the commission:

(1) All meetings shall be open to the public, and public notice of meetings shall be given in the same manner as required under the rulemaking provisions in section 11 of the compact.

(2) The commission or the executive committee or other committees of the commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting, provided the commission or executive committee or other committees of the commission discuss:

(A) Noncompliance of a member state with its obligations under the compact;

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

(C) Current, threatened or reasonably anticipated litigation;

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

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

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

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

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

(I) Disclosure of 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; or

(J) Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or member state statute.

(3) If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, the commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and shall reference each relevant exempting provision.

(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 therefor, 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 by a majority vote of the commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(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

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activities.

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

(3) The commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each member state or impose fees on other parties 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 shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the commission, which shall promulgate a rule binding upon all member states.

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

(g) Qualified immunity, defense and indemnification:

(1) The members, officers, executive director, employees and representatives of the commission shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission

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that occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, provided nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to protect any such person from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury or liability caused by the intentional or wilful or wanton misconduct of that person.

(2) The commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director, employee or representative of the commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of the commission's employment, duties or responsibilities, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of the commission's employment, duties or responsibilities, provided (A) nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit such person from retaining his or her own counsel, and (B) the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from such person's intentional or wilful or wanton misconduct.

(3) The commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer, executive director, employee or 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 the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from the intentional or wilful or wanton misconduct of such person.

SECTION 10. DATA SYSTEM

(a) The commission shall provide for the development, maintenance, operation and utilization of a coordinated database and reporting

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system containing licensure, adverse action and investigative information on all licensed individuals in member states.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of state law, a member state shall submit a uniform data set to the data system on all individuals to whom the compact is applicable as required by the rules of the commission, including:

(1) Identifying information;

(2) Licensure data;

(3) Any adverse action against a license or privilege to practice;

(4) Nonconfidential information related to alternative program participation;

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

(6) Current significant investigative information; and

(7) Other information that may facilitate the administration of the compact, as determined by the rules of the commission.

(c) Investigative information pertaining to a licensee in any member state shall only be available to other member states.

(d) The commission shall promptly notify all member states of any adverse action taken against a licensee or an individual applying for a license. Adverse action information pertaining to a licensee in any member state shall be available to any other member state.

(e) A member state contributing information to the data system may designate information that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of the contributing state.

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(f) Any information submitted to the data system that is subsequently required to be expunged by the laws of the member state contributing the information shall be removed from the data system.

SECTION 11. RULEMAKING

(a) The commission shall promulgate reasonable rules to effectively and efficiently achieve the purpose of the compact. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event the commission exercises its rulemaking authority in a manner that is beyond the scope of the purpose of the compact, or the powers granted hereunder, then such an action by the Commission shall be invalid and have no force or effect.

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

(c) If a majority of the legislatures of the member states rejects a rule, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the compact not later than four years after the date of adoption of the rule, such rule shall have no further force and effect in any member state.

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

(e) Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule by the commission, and not less than thirty days prior to the meeting at which the rule will be considered and voted upon, the commission shall file a notice of proposed rulemaking:

(1) On the Internet web site of the commission or other publicly accessible platform; and

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(2) On the Internet web site of each member state professional counseling licensing board or other publicly accessible platform or the publication in which each state would otherwise publish proposed rules.

(f) The notice of proposed rulemaking shall include:

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

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

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

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

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

(h) The commission shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing before it adopts a rule or amendment if a hearing is requested by:

(1) At least twenty-five persons;

(2) A state or federal governmental subdivision or agency; or

(3) An association having at least twenty-five members.

(i) If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, the commission shall publish the place, time and date of the scheduled public hearing. If the hearing is held via electronic means, the

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commission shall publish the mechanism for access to the electronic hearing.

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

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

(3) Each hearing shall be recorded. A copy of the recording shall be made available on request.

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

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

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

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

(m) Upon determination that an emergency exists, the commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule without prior notice, opportunity for comment, or hearing, provided the usual rulemaking

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procedures described in the compact shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible and in no event later than ninety days after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this subsection, "emergency rule" means a rule that shall be adopted immediately in order to:

- (1) Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety or welfare;
- (2) Prevent a loss of commission or member state funds;
- (3) Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is established by federal law or rule; or
- (4) Protect public health and safety.

(n) The commission or an authorized committee of the commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule or amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format, errors in consistency or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be posted on the Internet web site of the commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any person for a period of thirty days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the revision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made in writing and delivered to the chair of the commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision shall take effect without further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision may not take effect without the approval of the commission.

SECTION 12. OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT

(a) Oversight:

(1) The executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government in each member state shall enforce the compact and take all

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actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate the compact's purposes and intent. The provisions of the compact and the rules promulgated under the compact 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 member state pertaining to the subject matter of the compact which may affect the powers, responsibilities or actions of the commission.

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

(b) Default, technical assistance and termination:

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

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

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

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

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(d) Termination of membership in the compact shall be imposed only after all other means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be given by the commission to the governor, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature and each of the member states.

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

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

(g) The defaulting state may appeal the action of the commission by petitioning the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the commission has its principal offices. The prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.

(h) Dispute Resolution:

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

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

(i) Enforcement:

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

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(2) By majority vote, the commission may initiate legal action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the commission has its principal offices against a member state in default to enforce compliance with the provisions of the compact and its promulgated rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such 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 COUNSELING COMPACT COMMISSION AND ASSOCIATED RULES, WITHDRAWAL AND AMENDMENT

(a) The compact shall come into effect on the date on which the compact statute is enacted into law in the tenth member state. The provisions, which become effective at that time, shall be limited to the powers granted to the commission relating to assembly and the promulgation of rules. Thereafter, the commission shall meet and exercise rulemaking powers necessary to the implementation and administration of the compact.

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

(c) Any member state may withdraw from the compact by enacting a statute repealing the compact.

(1) A member state's withdrawal shall not take effect until six months

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after enactment of the repealing statute.

(2) Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing state's professional counseling licensing board to comply with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of the compact prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

(d) Nothing in the compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any professional counseling licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a member state and a non-member state that does not conflict with the provisions of the compact.

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

SECTION 14. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

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

SECTION 15. BINDING EFFECT OF COMPACT AND OTHER LAWS

(a) A licensee providing professional counseling services in a remote

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state under the privilege to practice shall adhere to the laws and regulations, including scope of practice, of the remote state.

(b) Nothing in the compact shall prevent the enforcement of any other law of a member state that is not inconsistent with the compact.

(c) Any laws in a member state in conflict with the compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.

(d) Any lawful actions of the commission, including all rules and bylaws properly promulgated by the commission, are binding upon the member states.

(e) All permissible agreements between the commission and the member states are binding in accordance with their terms.

(f) In the event any provision of the compact exceeds the constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of any member state, the provision shall be ineffective to the extent of the conflict with the constitutional provision in question in such member state."

Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Commissioner of Public Health shall require each person applying for licensure as a professional counselor to submit to a state and national fingerprint-based criminal history records check pursuant to section 29-17a of the general statutes. For the purposes of this section, "professional counselor" means an individual licensed for the independent practice of professional counseling and "licensure" means authorization by a state professional counseling regulatory authority to engage in the independent practice of professional counseling, the practice of which would be unlawful without such authorization.

Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Appointment of the medical staff or an individual medical staff member of a hospital, as defined in the regulations of Connecticut state agencies and licensed pursuant to

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subsection (a) of section 19a-491 of the general statutes, may be biennial or triennial and consistent with the federal Medicare conditions of participation and standards and with the requirements of approved national accreditation organizations in accordance with 42 CFR 488.8.

(b) The Commissioner of Public Health may amend existing regulations adopted pursuant to section 19a-14 of the general statutes as necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) For each stillborn child for which a fetal death certificate will be issued pursuant to section 7-60 of the general statutes, a hospital shall provide the mother of the stillborn child written notification of the burial and cremation arrangement options for such child (1) when practicable, upon admission to the hospital if the mother expects to deliver a stillborn child, or (2) if notification is not practicable upon admission or the mother did not expect to deliver a stillborn child, not less than twenty-four hours after the delivery of the stillborn child, provided a health care provider responsible for the mother's care agrees it is appropriate to provide such notification to the mother.

(b) Consistent with the provisions of subdivision (3) of subsection (d) of section 45a-318 of the general statutes, a mother who has received notification pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and the other parent of the stillborn child, if known, shall inform the hospital, in writing, of their decision regarding the disposition of the stillborn child at any time during hospitalization and prior to discharge, provided the mother and other parent, if known, shall have a minimum of twenty-four hours after receipt of the written notification from the hospital to inform the hospital in writing of such decision.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a health care provider or a hospital from providing the notification described in subsection (a) of this section to a family member or friend of the mother

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consistent with the privacy provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended from time to time, or from referring the mother and other parent, if known, to a licensed funeral director for additional information regarding disposition options.

Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) It is hereby declared that homelessness constitutes a public health crisis in this state and will continue to constitute a public health crisis until the right of homeless persons to receive emergency medical care, as guaranteed pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 1-500 of the general statutes, is adequately safeguarded and protected.

Sec. 17. Section 20-195c of the general statutes, as amended by section 51 of public act 23-31 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(a) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist shall present to the department satisfactory evidence that such applicant has: (1) Completed a graduate degree program specializing in marital and family therapy offered by a regionally accredited college or university or an accredited postgraduate clinical training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher education; (2) completed a supervised practicum or internship with emphasis in marital and family therapy supervised by the program granting the requisite degree or by an accredited postgraduate clinical training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education and offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher education; (3) completed twelve months of relevant postgraduate experience, including (A) a minimum of one thousand hours of direct client contact offering marital and family therapy services subsequent to being awarded a master's degree or doctorate or subsequent to the training year specified in subdivision (2)

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of this subsection, and (B) one hundred hours of postgraduate clinical supervision provided by a licensed marital and family therapist; and (4) passed an examination prescribed by the department. The fee shall be three hundred fifteen dollars for each initial application.

(b) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist associate shall present to the department [(1)] satisfactory evidence that such applicant has completed a graduate degree program specializing in marital and family therapy offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher education or an accredited postgraduate clinical training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education and offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher education. [, and (2) verification from a supervising licensed marital and family therapist that the applicant is working toward completing the postgraduate experience required for licensure as a marital and family therapist under subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section.] The fee shall be one hundred twenty-five dollars for each initial application.

(c) The department may grant licensure without examination, subject to payment of fees with respect to the initial application, to any applicant who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and family therapist or a marital and family therapist associate in another state, territory or commonwealth of the United States, provided such state, territory or commonwealth maintains licensure or certification standards which, in the opinion of the department, are equivalent to or higher than the standards of this state. No license shall be issued under this section to any applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an unresolved complaint.

(d) (1) A license issued to a marital and family therapist issued under this section may be renewed annually in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88. The fee for such renewal shall be three hundred

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twenty dollars. Each licensed marital and family therapist applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having participated in continuing education programs. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to (A) define basic requirements for continuing education programs, which shall include not less than one contact hour of training or education each registration period on the topic of cultural competency and, on and after January 1, 2016, not less than two contact hours of training or education during the first renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less than once every six years thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans, including (i) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (ii) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (iii) suicide prevention training, (B) delineate qualifying programs, (C) establish a system of control and reporting, and (D) provide for waiver of the continuing education requirement for good cause.

(2) A license issued to a marital and family therapist associate shall expire on or before twenty-four months after the date on which such license was issued and may be renewed ~~[once for an additional]~~ for twenty-four months in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88. The fee for such renewal shall be two hundred twenty dollars. Each licensed marital and family therapist associate applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of ~~[working toward completing the postgraduate experience required for licensure as a marital and family therapist under subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section and the potential for successful completion of such experience prior to the expiration of the twenty-four month renewal period]~~ having satisfied the continuing education requirements prescribed in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

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(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an applicant who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and family therapist in another state, territory or commonwealth of the United States that does not maintain standards for licensure or certification that are equivalent to or higher than the standards in this state may substitute three years of licensed or certified work experience in the practice of marital and family therapy, as defined in section 20-195a, in lieu of the requirements of subdivisions (2) and (3) of subsection (a) of this section.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a person who is a graduate of a graduate degree program or a postgraduate clinical training program described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section may practice marital and family therapy for a period not greater than one hundred twenty calendar days after the date such person completed such program, provided such person works under the clinical supervision of a licensed marital family therapist.

Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) On and after February 1, 2024, the Department of Public Health may issue a temporary permit to an applicant for licensure as a doctoral-level psychology provider who holds a doctoral degree in psychology or the equivalent from an education program, as described in section 20-189 of the general statutes, but who has not yet completed such applicant's supervised postdoctoral work experience or taken the licensure examination prescribed pursuant to section 20-188 of the general statutes. Such temporary permit shall (1) authorize the holder to practice as a doctoral-level psychology provider under the supervision of a licensed psychologist, (2) be valid for a period not to exceed one year after the date of attaining such doctoral degree or the equivalent, and (3) not be renewable. Such permit shall become void and shall not be reissued if the applicant fails to pass the licensure examination. The fee for a temporary permit shall be one hundred dollars. As used in this section,

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"doctoral-level psychology provider" includes a postdoctoral resident or fellow who provides psychological services.