SENATE BILL NO. 97-SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT

PREFILED FEBRUARY 2, 2023

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Enacts provisions governing the interstate practice of physical therapy. (BDR 54-402)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No. Effect on the State: Yes.

EXPLANATION - Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to physical therapy; enacting and entering into the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 The Physical Therapy Licensure Compact is an interstate compact that allows a 23456789 person who is licensed as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in a state that is a member of the Compact to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in other states that are members of the Compact. In order to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant under the Compact, the Compact requires a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant to: (1) hold a license in his or her home state; (2) have no encumbrances on his or her license; (3) be eligible to practice under the Compact; (4) have had no adverse actions taken against any license or authority to practice under the Compact within the previous 2 10years; (5) notify the Physical Therapy Compact Commission that he or she is 11 seeking to practice under the Compact in another state; (6) pay any applicable fees; 12 (7) meet any requirements in the state in which he or she seeks to practice under the 13 Compact; and (8) report any adverse action taken against him or her within 30 days 14 after the date the adverse action is taken. The Compact authorizes a member state to 15 take adverse action against a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant 16 practicing in the member state under the Compact. The Compact requires member 17 states to create and establish a joint public agency called the Physical Therapy 18 Compact Commission. The Commission is required to: (1) establish bylaws; (2) 19 make rules that facilitate and coordinate implementation and administration of the 20 21 22 23 24 25 Compact; (3) hold meetings, which may be closed under certain conditions; (4) develop, maintain and use a coordinated database and reporting system; and (5) resolve disputes related to the Compact among states that are members of the Compact. The Commission is additionally authorized to levy and collect an annual assessment from each state that is a member of the Compact. Section 2 of this bill enacts the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, thereby joining Nevada as a 26 member state.





27 Section 3 of this bill deems practicing as a physical therapist or physical 28 29 therapist assistant under the Compact to be equivalent to practicing under a license issued by the Nevada Physical Therapy Board. Section 4 of this bill requires a 30 physical therapist practicing under the Compact to display proof that he or she is 31 authorized to practice under the Compact in the same manner as a licensed physical 32 33 therapist is required to display his or her license. Sections 5-12 of this bill replace the term "registered physical therapist" with the term "licensed physical therapist" 34 to reflect current terminology used in existing law governing the practice of 35 physical therapy and this bill.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 640 of NRS is hereby amended by adding 1 2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act. 3 Sec. 2. The Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, set forth 4 in this section, is hereby enacted into law and entered into with all 5 other jurisdictions legally joining the Compact, in substantially the 6 form set forth in this section: 7 8 **PHYSICAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT** 9 ARTICLE 1. PURPOSE 10 11 12 The purpose of this Compact is to facilitate interstate practice of physical therapy with the goal of improving public access to 13 physical therapy services. The practice of physical therapy occurs 14 in the state where the patient/client is located at the time of the 15 patient/client encounter. The Compact preserves the regulatory 16 17 authority of states to protect public health and safety through the 18 current system of state licensure. 19 This Compact is designed to achieve the following objectives: Increase public access to physical therapy services by 20 1. providing for the mutual recognition of other member state 21 22 licenses: 23 2. Enhance the states' ability to protect the public's health 24 and safety; 25 Encourage the cooperation of member states in regulating **3**. 26 *multistate physical therapy practice;* 27 Support spouses of relocating military members; 4. Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative and 28 5. 29 disciplinary information between member states; and 30 Allow a remote state to hold a provider of services with a **6**. compact privilege in that state accountable to that state's practice 31 32 standards.





ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS

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

5 1. "Active Duty Military" means full-time duty status in the 6 active uniformed service of the United States, including, without 7 limitation, members of the National Guard and Reserve on active 8 duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211.

9 2. "Adverse Action" means disciplinary action taken by a 10 physical therapy licensing board based upon misconduct, 11 unacceptable performance or a combination of both.

12 3. "Alternative Program" means a nondisciplinary 13 monitoring or practice remediation process approved by a physical 14 therapy licensing board. This includes, but is not limited to, 15 substance abuse issues.

4. "Compact privilege" means the authorization granted by a remote state to allow a licensee from another member state to practice as a physical therapist or work as a physical therapist assistant in the remote state under its laws and rules. The practice of physical therapy occurs in the member state where the patient/client is located at the time of the patient/client encounter.

22 5. "Continuing competence" means a requirement, as a 23 condition of license renewal, to provide evidence of participation 24 in, and/or completion of, educational and professional activities 25 relevant to practice or area of work.

6. "Data system" means a repository of information about
licensees, including examination, licensure, investigative, compact
privilege and adverse action.

29 7. "Encumbered license" means a license that a physical 30 therapy licensing board has limited in any way.

31 8. "Executive Board" means a group of directors elected or 32 appointed to act on behalf of, and within the powers granted to 33 them by, the Commission.

9. "Home state" means the member state that is the licensee's primary state of residence.

10. "Investigative information" means information, records
and documents received or generated by a physical therapy
licensing board pursuant to an investigation.

39 11. "Jurisprudence Requirement" means the assessment of 40 an individual's knowledge of the laws and rules governing the 41 practice of physical therapy in a state.

42 **12.** *"Licensee" means an individual who currently holds an* 43 *authorization from the state to practice as a physical therapist or* 44 *to work as a physical therapist assistant.*



1 2



1 13. "Member state" means a state that has enacted the 2 Compact.

3 14. "Party state" means any member state in which a licensee 4 holds a current license or compact privilege or is applying for a 5 license or compact privilege.

6 **15.** *"Physical therapist" means an individual who is licensed* 7 *by a state to practice physical therapy.*

8 16. "Physical therapist assistant" means an individual who is 9 licensed/certified by a state and who assists the physical therapist 10 in selected components of physical therapy.

11 17. "Physical therapy," "physical therapy practice" and "the 12 practice of physical therapy" mean the care and services provided 13 by or under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical 14 therapist.

15 18. "Physical Therapy Compact Commission" or 16 "Commission" means the national administrative body whose 17 membership consists of all states that have enacted the Compact.

18 19. "Physical therapy licensing board" or "licensing board" 19 means the agency of a state that is responsible for the licensing 20 and regulation of physical therapists and physical therapist 21 assistants.

22 **20.** "Remote State" means a member state, other than the 23 home state, where a licensee is exercising or seeking to exercise 24 the compact privilege.

25 21. "Rule" means a regulation, principle or directive
26 promulgated by the Commission that has the force of law.

27 22. "State" means any state, commonwealth, district or
28 territory of the United States of America that regulates the practice
29 of physical therapy.
30

31 ARTICLE 3. STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT 32

33 A. To participate in the Compact, a state must:

1. Participate fully in the Commission's data system, *including using the Commission's unique identifier as defined in rules;*

37 2. Have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating
38 complaints about licensees;

39 3. Notify the Commission, in compliance with the terms of the 40 Compact and rules, of any adverse action or the availability of 41 investigative information regarding a licensee;

42 **4.** Fully implement a criminal background check 43 requirement, within a time frame established by rule, by receiving 44 the results of the Federal Bureau of Investigation record search





-4-

on criminal background checks and use the results in making

licensure decisions in accordance with Article 3B: 5. Comply with the rules of the Commission;

Utilize a recognized national examination as a requirement 4 6. 5 for licensure pursuant to the rules of the Commission; and

6 7. Have continuing competence requirements as a condition 7 for license renewal.

8 **B**. Upon adoption of this Compact, the member state shall have the authority to obtain biometric-based information from 9 each physical therapy licensure applicant and submit this 10 information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a criminal 11 background check in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 534 and 34 12 13 U.S.C. § 40316.

A member state shall grant the compact privilege to a 14 С. 15 licensee holding a valid unencumbered license in another member 16 state in accordance with the terms of the Compact and rules.

17 **D**. Member states may charge a fee for granting a compact 18 privilege.

19 20

1 2

3

21

25

ARTICLE 4. COMPACT PRIVILEGE

22 To exercise the compact privilege under the terms and **A**. 23 provisions of the Compact, the licensee shall: 24

Hold a license in the home state: 1.

2. Have no encumbrance on any state license;

26 3. Be eligible for a compact privilege in any member state in 27 accordance with Article 4D, G and H;

28 4. Have not had any adverse action against any license or 29 compact privilege within the previous 2 years;

30 5. Notify the Commission that the licensee is seeking the compact privilege within a remote state(s); 31

32 Pay any applicable fees, including any state fee, for the **6**. compact privilege: 33

7. Meet any jurisprudence requirements established by the 34 35 remote state(s) in which the licensee is seeking a compact 36 privilege; and

37 8. Report to the Commission adverse action taken by any 38 nonmember state within 30 days from the date the adverse action 39 is taken.

The compact privilege is valid until the expiration date of 40 **B**. the home license. The licensee must comply with the requirements 41 42 of Article 4A to maintain the compact privilege in the remote state.

43 C. A licensee providing physical therapy in a remote state 44 under the compact privilege shall function within the laws and 45 regulations of the remote state.





D. A licensee providing physical therapy in a remote state is 1 2 subject to that state's regulatory authority. A remote state may, in 3 accordance with due process and that state's laws, remove a licensee's compact privilege in the remote state for a specific 4 period of time, impose fines and/or take any other necessary 5 actions to protect the health and safety of its citizens. The licensee 6 is not eligible for a compact privilege in any state until the specific 7 time for removal has passed and all fines are paid. 8

E. If a home state license is encumbered, the licensee shall 9 10 lose the compact privilege in any remote state until the following 11 occur: 12

1. The home state license is no longer encumbered; and

13 2. Two years have elapsed from the date of the adverse 14 action.

15 F. Once an encumbered license in the home state is restored 16 to good standing, the licensee must meet the requirements of 17 Article 4A to obtain a compact privilege in any remote state.

G. If a licensee's compact privilege in any remote state is 18 removed, the individual shall lose the compact privilege in any 19 20 remote state until the following occur:

The specific period of time for which the compact privilege 21 1. 22 was removed has ended;

2. All fines have been paid; and

24 3. Two years have elapsed from the date of the adverse 25 action.

26 Once the requirements of Article 4G have been met, the **H**. 27 licensee must meet the requirements in Article 4A to obtain a 28 compact privilege in a remote state.

29

23

30 31 32

ARTICLE 5. ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY **PERSONNEL OR THEIR SPOUSES**

33 A licensee who is active duty military or is the spouse of an individual who is active duty military may designate one of the 34 35 following as the home state:

36 A. Home of record;

37 **B**. Permanent Change of Station (PCS); or

С. State of current residence if it is different from the PCS 38 39 state or home of record.

40 41 42

ARTICLE 6. ADVERSE ACTIONS

43 A. A home state shall have exclusive power to impose adverse 44 action against a license issued by the home state.





1 **B.** A home state may take adverse action based on the 2 investigative information of a remote state, so long as the home 3 state follows its own procedures for imposing adverse action.

C. Nothing in this Compact shall override a member state's 4 5 decision that participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action and that such participation shall remain 6 7 nonpublic if required by the member state's laws. Member states 8 must require licensees who enter any alternative programs in lieu of discipline to agree not to practice in any other member state 9 10 during the term of the alternative program without prior 11 authorization from such other member state.

12 D. Any member state may investigate actual or alleged 13 violations of the statutes and rules authorizing the practice of 14 physical therapy in any other member state in which a physical 15 therapist or physical therapist assistant holds a license or compact 16 privilege.

E. A remote state shall have the authority to:

18 1. Take adverse actions as set forth in Article 4D against a 19 licensee's compact privilege in the state;

20 2. Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that 21 require the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a physical therapy 22 23 licensing board in a party state for the attendance and testimony 24 of witnesses and/or the production of evidence from another party state shall be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent 25 26 jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure of that court 27 applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before it. 28 The issuing authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage and other fees required by the service statutes of the state 29 30 where the witnesses and/or evidence are located; and

31 3. If otherwise permitted by state law, recover from the 32 licensee the costs of investigations and disposition of cases 33 resulting from any adverse action taken against that licensee.

34

17

F. Joint Investigations

In addition to the authority granted to a member state by
its respective physical therapy practice act or other applicable state
law, a member state may participate with other member states in
joint investigations of licensees.

39 2. Member states shall share any investigative, litigation or 40 compliance materials in furtherance of any joint or individual 41 investigation initiated under the Compact.

- 42
- 43 44

ARTICLE 7. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PHYSICAL THERAPY COMPACT COMMISSION





1 A. The Compact member states hereby create and establish a 2 joint public agency known as the Physical Therapy Compact 3 Commission:

4 1. The Commission is an instrumentality of the Compact 5 states.

6 2. Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the 7 Commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of 8 competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the 9 Commission is located. The Commission may waive venue and 10 jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to 11 participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

12 3. Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to be a waiver 13 of sovereign immunity.

14

B. Membership, Voting and Meetings

15 1. Each member state shall have and be limited to one 16 delegate selected by that member state's licensing board.

17 2. The delegate shall be a current member of the licensing
18 board, who is a physical therapist, physical therapist assistant,
19 public member or the board administrator.

20 3. Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office as 21 provided by the law of the state from which the delegate is 22 appointed.

4. The member state board shall fill any vacancy occurring in
 the Commission.

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.

36 C. The Commission shall have the following powers and 37 duties:

38 1. Establish the fiscal year of the Commission;

39 2. Establish bylaws;

40 3. Maintain its financial records in accordance with the 41 bylaws;

42 4. Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the 43 provisions of this Compact and the bylaws;

44 5. Promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate 45 implementation and administration of this Compact. The rules





shall have the force and effect of law and shall be binding in all 1 2 *member states:*

3 6. Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the Commission, provided that the standing of any state 4 physical therapy licensing board to sue or be sued under 5 applicable law shall not be affected; 6

7. Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

8 8. Borrow, accept or contract for services of personnel, 9 including, but not limited to, employees of a member state;

10 9. Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant such individuals appropriate authority to carry 11 out the purposes of the Compact and to establish the 12 Commission's personnel policies and programs relating to 13 conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel and other related 14 15 personnel matters:

10. Accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of 16 money, equipment, supplies, materials and services, and to receive. 17 utilize and dispose of the same; provided that at all times the 18 Commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety and/or 19 20 conflict of interest;

21 11. Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, 22 or otherwise to own, hold, improve or use, any property, real, 23 personal or mixed; provided that at all times the Commission shall 24 avoid any appearance of impropriety;

25 Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon 12. 26 or otherwise dispose of any property real, personal or mixed; 27

13. Establish a budget and make expenditures;

28 14. Borrow money:

7

15. Appoint committees, including standing committees 29 composed of members, state regulators, state legislators or their 30 representatives, and consumer representatives and such other 31 32 interested persons as may be designated in this Compact and the 33 bylaws:

34 16. Provide and receive information from, and cooperate 35 with, law enforcement agencies;

17. Establish and elect an Executive Board: and 36

37 18. Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this Compact consistent 38 with the state regulation of physical therapy licensure and 39 practice. 40

The Executive Board 41 D.

42 The Executive Board shall have the power to act on behalf of 43 the Commission according to the terms of this Compact:

44 1. The Executive Board shall be composed of nine members:





a. Seven voting members who are elected by the 1 2 Commission from the current membership of the Commission; 3 b. One ex officio, nonvoting member from the recognized 4 national physical therapy professional association; and 5 c. One ex officio, nonvoting member from the recognized membership organization of the physical therapy licensing boards. 6 7 The ex officio members will be selected by their respective 2. 8 organizations. 9 The Commission may remove any member of the Executive 3. Board as provided in bylaws. 10 11 The Executive Board shall meet at least annually. 4. 12 5. The Executive Board shall have the following duties and 13 responsibilities: a. Recommend to the entire Commission changes to the 14 15 rules or bylaws, changes to this Compact legislation, fees paid by Compact member states such as annual dues, and any 16 17 Commission Compact fee charged to licensees for the compact privilege; 18 19 b. Ensure *Compact* administration services are 20 appropriately provided, contractual or otherwise; 21 c. Prepare and recommend the budget: 22 d. Maintain financial records on behalf of the Commission: 23 e. Monitor Compact compliance of member states and 24 provide compliance reports to the Commission: 25 f. Establish additional committees as necessary; and 26 g. Other duties as provided in rules or bylaws. 27 **E**. Meetings of the Commission 28 1. All meetings shall be open to the public, and public notice 29 of meetings shall be given in the same manner as required under 30 the rulemaking provisions in Article 9. 2. The Commission or the Executive Board or other 31 32 committees of the Commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic 33 meeting if the Commission or Executive Board or other committees of the Commission must discuss: 34 35 a. Noncompliance of a member state with its obligations 36 under the Compact; 37 b. The employment, compensation, discipline or other matters, practices or procedures related to specific employees or 38 other matters related to the Commission's internal personnel 39 practices and procedures; 40 c. Current, threatened or reasonably anticipated litigation; 41 42 d. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease or sale of 43 goods, services or real estate; 44 e. Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring 45 any person;





1 f. Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial 2 information that is privileged or confidential;

3 g. Disclosure of information of a personal nature where 4 disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of 5 personal privacy;

6 h. Disclosure of investigative records compiled for law 7 enforcement purposes;

8 *i.* Disclosure of information related to any investigative 9 reports prepared by or on behalf of or for use of the Commission 10 or other committee charged with responsibility of investigation or 11 determination of compliance issues pursuant to the Compact; or

12 *j. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal* 13 *or member state statute.*

14 3. If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to 15 this provision, the Commission's legal counsel or designee shall 16 certify that the meeting may be closed and shall reference each 17 relevant exempting provision.

The Commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly 18 4. describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full 19 20 and accurate summary of actions taken, and the reasons 21 therefore, including a description of the views expressed. All 22 documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed 23 24 meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release by a majority vote of the Commission or order of a court of competent 25 26 *iurisdiction*.

27

F. Financing of the Commission

28 1. The Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, 29 the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization and 30 ongoing 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 34 35 assessment from each member state or impose fees on other parties to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the 36 37 Commission and its staff, which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved each year for 38 which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate 39 annual assessment amount shall be allocated based upon a 40 formula to be determined by the Commission, which shall 41 42 promulgate a rule binding upon all member states.

43 4. The Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind 44 prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same; nor shall





the Commission pledge the credit of any of the member states,
 except by and with the authority of the member state.

The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all 3 5. receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the 4 5 Commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and 6 7 disbursements of funds handled by the Commission shall be 8 audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the 9 annual report of the Commission. 10

11

G.

Qualified Immunity, Defense and Indemnification

12 1. The members, officers, executive director, employees and 13 representatives of the Commission shall be immune from suit and 14 liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other 15 civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, 16 17 error or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom 18 the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties 19 or responsibilities; provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be 20 construed to protect any such person from suit and/or liability for 21 22 any damage, loss, injury or liability caused by the intentional or 23 willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

24 The Commission shall defend any member, officer, 2. 25 executive director, employee or representative of the Commission 26 in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any 27 actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the 28 scope of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or 29 that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission 30 employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that nothing 31 32 herein shall be construed to prohibit that person from retaining his or her own counsel; and provided further, that the actual or 33 34 alleged act, error or omission did not result from that person's 35 intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.

The Commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any 36 3. 37 member, officer, executive director, employee or representative of 38 the Commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged 39 40 act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that such 41 42 person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the 43 scope of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities, 44 provided that the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not





result from the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that 1 2 person. 3 4. Nothing in this Compact provides immunity from civil or criminal liability for any act, error or omission from negligent 4 5 conduct or intentional misconduct by any physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. 6 7 8 ARTICLE 8. DATA SYSTEM 9 10 The Commission shall provide for the development, **A**. 11 maintenance and utilization of a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action and 12 13 investigative information on all licensed individuals in member 14 states. 15 **B**. Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the contrary, a member state shall submit a uniform data set to the 16 17 data system on all individuals to whom this Compact is applicable as required by the rules of the Commission, including: 18 19 1. Identifying information; 20 2. Licensure data; 21 3. Adverse actions against a license or compact privilege; 22 Nonconfidential information related to alternative 4. 23 program participation; 24 Any denial of application for licensure and the reason(s) 5. for such denial: and 25 26 6. Other information that may facilitate the administration of 27 this Compact, as determined by the rules of the Commission. 28 C. Investigative information pertaining to a licensee in any 29 member state will only be available to other party states. 30 **D**. The Commission shall promptly notify all member states of any adverse action taken against a licensee or an individual 31 32 applying for a license. Adverse action information pertaining to a licensee in any member state will be available to any other 33 34 member state. 35 E. Member states contributing information to the data system 36 may designate information that may not be shared with the public 37 without the express permission of the contributing state. F. Any information submitted to the data system that is 38 subsequently required to be expunged by the laws of the member 39 state contributing the information shall be removed from the data 40 41 system. 42 **ARTICLE 9. RULEMAKING** 43





The Commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers 1 *A*. 2 pursuant to the criteria set forth in this article and the rules 3 adopted thereunder. Rules and amendments shall become binding as of the date specified in each rule or amendment. 4

5 If a majority of the legislatures of the member states **B**. 6 rejects a rule by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same 7 manner used to adopt the Compact within 4 years of the date of 8 adoption of the rule, then such rule shall have no further force and effect in any member state. 9

10 C. Rules or amendments to the rules shall be adopted at a 11 regular or special meeting of the Commission.

12 Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules **D**. 13 by the Commission, and at least 30 days in advance of the meeting at which the rule will be considered and voted upon, the 14 Commission shall file a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: 15

On the website of the Commission or other publicly 16 1. 17 accessible platform; and

18 2. On the website of each member state physical therapy licensing board or other publicly accessible platform or the 19 20 publication in which each state would otherwise publish proposed 21 rules. 22

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking shall include: **E**.

23 The proposed time, date and location of the meeting in 1. 24 which the rule will be considered and voted upon:

The text of the proposed rule or amendment and the reason 25 2. 26 for the proposed rule;

27 3. A request for comments on the proposed rule from any 28 interested person; and

29 4. The manner in which interested persons may submit notice 30 to the Commission of their intention to attend the public hearing 31 and any written comments.

32 **F**. Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the Commission shall allow persons to submit written data, facts, opinions and 33 arguments, which shall be made available to the public. 34

The Commission shall grant an opportunity for a public 35 *G*. hearing before it adopts a rule or amendment if a hearing is 36 37 requested by:

1. At least 25 persons; 38

A state or federal governmental subdivision or agency; or 39 2.

40 3. An association having at least 25 members.

H. If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, 41 42 the Commission shall publish the place, time and date of the 43 scheduled public hearing. If the hearing is held via electronic 44 means, the Commission shall publish the mechanism for access to 45 the electronic hearing.





1 1. All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing shall notify 2 the executive director of the Commission or other designated 3 member in writing of their desire to appear and testify at the 4 hearing not less than 5 business days before the scheduled date of 5 the hearing.

6 2. Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each
7 person who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity
8 to comment orally or in writing.

9 3. All hearings will be recorded. A copy of the recording will 10 be made available on request.

11 4. Nothing in this article shall be construed as requiring a 12 separate hearing on each rule. Rules may be grouped for the 13 convenience of the Commission at hearings required by this 14 article.

15 I. Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close of 16 business on the scheduled hearing date if the hearing was not 17 held, the Commission shall consider all written and oral comments 18 received.

19 J. If no written notice of intent to attend the public hearing 20 by interested parties is received, the Commission may proceed with 21 promulgation of the proposed rule without a public hearing.

K. 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.

26 Upon determination that an emergency exists, the L. 27 Commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule without 28 prior notice, opportunity for comment or hearing, provided that 29 the usual rulemaking procedures provided in the Compact and in 30 this article shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than 90 days after the 31 effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this provision, an 32 emergency rule is one that must be adopted immediately in order 33 34 to:

35 1. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety or 36 welfare;

37 2. Prevent a loss of Commission or member state funds;

38 3. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative
39 rule that is established by federal law or rule; or

40 **4. Protect public health and safety.**

41 M. The Commission or an authorized committee of the 42 Commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule or 43 amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors 44 in format, errors in consistency or grammatical errors. Public 45 notice of any revisions shall be posted on the website of the





Commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any 1 2 person for a period of 30 days after posting. The revision may be 3 challenged only on grounds that the revision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made in writing and 4 5 delivered to the chair of the Commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision will take effect 6 7 without further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision 8 may not take effect without the approval of the Commission.

9 10

ARTICLE 10. OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE **RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT**

11 12 13

A. **Oversight**

The executive, legislative and judicial branches of state 14 1. 15 government in each member state shall enforce this Compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate the 16 17 Compact's purposes and intent. The provisions of this Compact and the rules promulgated hereunder shall have standing as 18 statutory law. 19

20 2. All courts shall take judicial notice of the Compact and the 21 rules in any judicial or administrative proceeding in a member 22 state pertaining to the subject matter of this Compact which may 23 affect the powers, responsibilities or actions of the Commission.

24 The Commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any such proceeding and shall have standing to intervene in 25 26 such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide service of 27 process to the Commission shall render a judgment or order void 28 as to the Commission, this Compact or promulgated rules. 29

B. Default, Technical Assistance and Termination

30 1. If the Commission determines that a member state has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities 31 32 under this Compact or the promulgated rules, the Commission 33 shall:

34 a. Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other member states of the nature of the default, the proposed means of 35 curing the default and/or any other action to be taken by the 36 37 Commission; and

38 b. Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance regarding the default. 39

2. If a state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting 40 state may be terminated from the Compact upon an affirmative 41 42 vote of a majority of the member states and all rights, privileges 43 and benefits conferred by this Compact may be terminated on the effective date of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve 44





the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during the 1 2 period of default.

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

4. A state that has been terminated is responsible for all 9 assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the 10 effective date of termination, including obligations that extend 11 12 beyond the effective date of termination.

13 5. The Commission shall not bear any costs related to a state 14 that is found to be in default or that has been terminated from the 15 Compact, unless agreed upon in writing between the Commission 16 and the defaulting state.

17 The defaulting state may appeal the action of the **6**. Commission by petitioning the United States District Court for the 18 District of Columbia or the federal district where the Commission 19 has its principal offices. The prevailing member shall be awarded 20 all costs of such litigation, including, without limitation. 21 22 reasonable attorney's fees. 23

C. Dispute Resolution

24 Upon request by a member state, the Commission shall 1. attempt to resolve disputes related to the Compact that arise 25 26 among member states and between member and nonmember 27 states.

28 2. The Commission shall promulgate a rule providing for 29 both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as 30 appropriate.

31 **D.** Enforcement

32 1. The Commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the provisions and rules of this Compact. 33

By majority vote, the Commission may initiate legal action 34 2. in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or 35 the federal district where the Commission has its principal offices 36 against a member state in default to enforce compliance with the 37 provisions of the Compact and its promulgated rules and bylaws. 38 The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. 39 In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing 40 member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including 41 42 reasonable attorney's fees.

43 3. The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of 44 the Commission. The Commission may pursue any other remedies 45 available under federal or state law.





ARTICLE 11. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE AND ASSOCIATED RULES, WITHDRAWAL AND AMENDMENT

6 A. The Compact shall come into effect on the date on which 7 the Compact statute is enacted into law in the tenth member state. 8 The provisions, which become effective at that time, shall be 9 limited to the powers granted to the Commission relating to 10 assembly and the promulgation of rules. Thereafter, the 11 Commission shall meet and exercise rulemaking powers necessary 12 to the implementation and administration of the Compact.

13 B. Any state that joins the Compact subsequent to the 14 Commission's initial adoption of the rules shall be subject to the 15 rules as they exist on the date on which the Compact becomes law 16 in that state. Any rule that has been previously adopted by the 17 Commission shall have the full force and effect of law on the day 18 the Compact becomes law in that state.

19 C. Any member state may withdraw from this Compact by 20 enacting a statute repealing the same.

21 1. A member state's withdrawal shall not take effect until 6 22 months after enactment of the repealing statute.

23 2. Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of
24 the withdrawing state's physical therapy licensing board to comply
25 with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of
26 this Compact prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

D. Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any physical therapy licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a member state and a nonmember state that does not conflict with the provisions of this Compact.

32 E. This Compact may be amended by the member states. No 33 amendment to this Compact shall become effective and binding 34 upon any member state until it is enacted into the laws of all 35 member states.

36 37 38

 $\frac{1}{2}$

3 4

5

ARTICLE 12. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

This Compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this Compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this Compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any party 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 this Compact and the applicability





thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance shall
 not be affected thereby. If this Compact shall be held contrary to
 the constitution of any party state, the Compact shall remain in
 full force and effect as to the remaining party states and in full
 force and effect as to the party state affected as to all severable
 matters.
 Sec. 3. Except as otherwise required by the Physical Therapy

Sec. 3. Except as otherwise required by the Physical Therapy
 Licensure Compact enacted by section 2 of this act, privilege to
 practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in
 this State under the Compact shall be deemed to be equivalent to
 the corresponding license for all purposes.

12 Sec. 4. NRS 640.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 640.110 1. The Board shall license as a physical therapist or 14 physical therapist assistant each applicant who proves to the 15 satisfaction of the Board his or her qualifications for licensure.

16 2. The Board shall issue to each applicant who proves to the 17 satisfaction of the Board his or her qualification for licensure:

(a) As a physical therapist, a license as a physical therapist. The
license authorizes the applicant to represent himself or herself as a
licensed physical therapist and to practice physical therapy in the
State of Nevada subject to the conditions and limitations of this
chapter.

(b) As a physical therapist assistant, a license as a physical therapist assistant. The license authorizes the applicant to represent himself or herself as a licensed physical therapist assistant and to practice as a licensed physical therapist assistant subject to the conditions and limitations of this chapter.

3. Each physical therapist shall display his or her current
license or proof that he or she is authorized to practice in this
State under the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact enacted by
section 2 of this act, as applicable, in a location which is accessible
to the public.

4. The Board may charge a fee, not to exceed \$25, to change a name on a license.

5. A license as a physical therapist assistant remains valid while a supervising physical therapist continues to supervise the physical therapist assistant.

Sec. 5. NRS 7.095 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7.095 1. An attorney shall not contract for or collect a fee
contingent on the amount of recovery for representing a person
seeking damages in connection with an action for injury or death
against a provider of health care based upon professional negligence
in excess of:

44 (a) Forty percent of the first \$50,000 recovered;



38



1 (b) Thirty-three and one-third percent of the next \$50,000 2 recovered;

(c) Twenty-five percent of the next \$500,000 recovered; and

4 (d) Fifteen percent of the amount of recovery that exceeds 5 \$600,000.

6 2. The limitations set forth in subsection 1 apply to all forms of 7 recovery, including, without limitation, settlement, arbitration and 8 judgment.

9 3. For the purposes of this section, "recovered" means the net 10 sum recovered by the plaintiff after deducting any disbursements or 11 costs incurred in connection with the prosecution or settlement of 12 the claim. Costs of medical care incurred by the plaintiff and general 13 and administrative expenses incurred by the office of the attorney 14 are not deductible disbursements or costs.

15 4

3

4. As used in this section:

(a) "Professional negligence" means a negligent act or omission
to act by a provider of health care in the rendering of professional
services, which act or omission is the proximate cause of a personal
injury or wrongful death. The term does not include services that are
outside the scope of services for which the provider of health care is
licensed or services for which any restriction has been imposed by
the applicable regulatory board or health care facility.

23 (b) "Provider of health care" means a physician licensed under 24 chapter 630 or 633 of NRS, dentist, registered nurse, dispensing optician, optometrist, [registered] licensed physical therapist, 25 26 podiatric physician, licensed psychologist, chiropractic physician, 27 doctor of Oriental medicine, holder of a license or a limited license 28 issued under the provisions of chapter 653 of NRS, medical 29 laboratory director or technician, licensed dietitian or a licensed 30 hospital and its employees.

31

Šec. 6. NRS 41A.017 is hereby amended to read as follows:

32 41A.017 "Provider of health care" means a physician licensed 33 pursuant to chapter 630 or 633 of NRS, physician assistant, dentist, 34 nurse, dispensing optician, optometrist, [registered] licensed therapist, 35 licensed physical podiatric physician, licensed psychologist, chiropractic physician, doctor of Oriental medicine. 36 37 holder of a license or a limited license issued under the provisions of 38 chapter 653 of NRS, medical laboratory director or technician, licensed dietitian or a licensed hospital, clinic, surgery center, 39 40 physicians' professional corporation or group practice that employs 41 any such person and its employees.

42 Sec. 7. NRS 42.021 is hereby amended to read as follows:

43 42.021 1. In an action for injury or death against a provider
44 of health care based upon professional negligence, if the defendant
45 so elects, the defendant may introduce evidence of any amount





1 payable as a benefit to the plaintiff as a result of the injury or death pursuant to the United States Social Security Act, any state or 2 federal income disability or worker's compensation act, any health, 3 sickness or income-disability insurance, accident insurance that 4 5 provides health benefits or income-disability coverage, and any 6 contract or agreement of any group, organization, partnership or corporation to provide, pay for or reimburse the cost of medical, 7 8 hospital, dental or other health care services. If the defendant elects 9 to introduce such evidence, the plaintiff may introduce evidence of any amount that the plaintiff has paid or contributed to secure the 10 plaintiff's right to any insurance benefits concerning which the 11 12 defendant has introduced evidence.

13 2. A source of collateral benefits introduced pursuant to 14 subsection 1 may not:

15 (a) Recover any amount against the plaintiff; or

16 (b) Be subrogated to the rights of the plaintiff against a 17 defendant.

3. In an action for injury or death against a provider of health care based upon professional negligence, a district court shall, at the request of either party, enter a judgment ordering that money damages or its equivalent for future damages of the judgment creditor be paid in whole or in part by periodic payments rather than by a lump-sum payment if the award equals or exceeds \$50,000 in future damages.

25 4. In entering a judgment ordering the payment of future 26 damages by periodic payments pursuant to subsection 3, the court 27 shall make a specific finding as to the dollar amount of periodic 28 payments that will compensate the judgment creditor for such future 29 damages. As a condition to authorizing periodic payments of future 30 damages, the court shall require a judgment debtor who is not adequately insured to post security adequate to assure full payment 31 32 of such damages awarded by the judgment. Upon termination of 33 periodic payments of future damages, the court shall order the return of this security, or so much as remains, to the judgment debtor. 34

35 5. A judgment ordering the payment of future damages by 36 periodic payments entered pursuant to subsection 3 must specify the 37 recipient or recipients of the payments, the dollar amount of the 38 payments, the interval between payments, and the number of payments or the period of time over which payments will be made. 39 40 Such payments must only be subject to modification in the event of the death of the judgment creditor. Money damages awarded for loss 41 42 of future earnings must not be reduced or payments terminated by 43 reason of the death of the judgment creditor, but must be paid to 44 persons to whom the judgment creditor owed a duty of support, as 45 provided by law, immediately before the judgment creditor's death.





In such cases, the court that rendered the original judgment may,
 upon petition of any party in interest, modify the judgment to award
 and apportion the unpaid future damages in accordance with this

4 subsection.

5 If the court finds that the judgment debtor has exhibited a 6. 6 continuing pattern of failing to make the periodic payments as specified pursuant to subsection 5, the court shall find the judgment 7 8 debtor in contempt of court and, in addition to the required periodic 9 payments, shall order the judgment debtor to pay the judgment creditor all damages caused by the failure to make such periodic 10 payments, including, but not limited to, court costs and attorney's 11 12 fees.

7. Following the occurrence or expiration of all obligations
specified in the periodic payment judgment, any obligation of the
judgment debtor to make further payments ceases and any security
given pursuant to subsection 4 reverts to the judgment debtor.

17

8. As used in this section:

(a) "Future damages" includes damages for future medical
treatment, care or custody, loss of future earnings, loss of bodily
function, or future pain and suffering of the judgment creditor.

21 (b) "Periodic payments" means the payment of money or 22 delivery of other property to the judgment creditor at regular 23 intervals.

(c) "Professional negligence" means a negligent act or omission to act by a provider of health care in the rendering of professional services, which act or omission is the proximate cause of a personal injury or wrongful death. The term does not include services that are outside the scope of services for which the provider of health care is licensed or services for which any restriction has been imposed by the applicable regulatory board or health care facility.

(d) "Provider of health care" means a physician licensed under 31 32 chapter 630 or 633 of NRS, dentist, licensed nurse, dispensing 33 optician, optometrist, [registered] licensed physical therapist, podiatric physician, licensed psychologist, chiropractic physician, 34 35 doctor of Oriental medicine, holder of a license or a limited license 36 issued under the provisions of chapter 653 of NRS, medical 37 laboratory director or technician, licensed dietitian or a licensed hospital and its employees. 38

39

Sec. 8. NRS 52.320 is hereby amended to read as follows:

40 52.320 As used in NRS 52.320 to 52.375, inclusive, unless the 41 context otherwise requires:

42 1. "Custodian of medical records" means a chiropractic
43 physician, physician, [registered] *licensed* physical therapist or
44 licensed nurse who prepares and maintains medical records, or any
45 employee or agent of such a person or a facility for convalescent





1 care, medical laboratory or hospital who has care, custody and 2 control of medical records for such a person or institution.

3 2. "Medical records" includes bills, ledgers, statements and 4 other accounts which show the cost of medical services or care 5 provided to a patient.

6

Sec. 9. NRS 372.7285 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 372.7285 1. In administering the provisions of NRS 372.325, 8 the Department shall apply the exemption to the sale of a medical 9 device to a governmental entity that is exempt pursuant to that section without regard to whether the person using the medical 10 device or the governmental entity that purchased the device is 11 12 deemed to be the holder of title to the device if:

13 (a) The medical device was ordered or prescribed by a provider 14 of health care, within his or her scope of practice, for use by the 15 person to whom it is provided;

16 (b) The medical device is covered by Medicaid or Medicare; and 17 (c) The purchase of the medical device is made pursuant to a 18 contract between the governmental entity that purchases the medical 19 device and the person who sells the medical device to the 20 governmental entity.

21 2.

38

As used in this section: 22 (a) "Medicaid" means the program established pursuant to Title 23 XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1396 et seq., to 24 provide assistance for part or all of the cost of medical care rendered

25 on behalf of indigent persons.

26 (b) "Medicare" means the program of health insurance for aged 27 persons and persons with disabilities established pursuant to Title 28 XVIII of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1395 et seq.

29 (c) "Provider of health care" means a physician or physician 30 assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 630, 630A or 633 of NRS, 31 perfusionist. dentist. licensed nurse, dispensing optician, 32 optometrist, practitioner of respiratory care, [registered] licensed physical therapist, podiatric physician, licensed psychologist, 33 licensed audiologist, licensed speech-language pathologist, licensed 34 35 hearing aid specialist, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed clinical professional counselor, chiropractic physician, 36 37 licensed dietitian or doctor of Oriental medicine in any form.

Sec. 10. NRS 374.731 is hereby amended to read as follows:

39 374.731 1. In administering the provisions of NRS 374.330, 40 the Department shall apply the exemption to the sale of a medical device to a governmental entity that is exempt pursuant to that 41 section without regard to whether the person using the medical 42 43 device or the governmental entity that purchased the device is deemed to be the holder of title to the device if: 44





1 (a) The medical device was ordered or prescribed by a provider 2 of health care, within his or her scope of practice, for use by the 3 person to whom it is provided;

4

(b) The medical device is covered by Medicaid or Medicare; and

5

(c) The purchase of the medical device is made pursuant to a 6 contract between the governmental entity that purchases the medical 7 device and the person who sells the medical device to the 8 governmental entity.

9

As used in this section: 2.

10 (a) "Medicaid" means the program established pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1396 et seq., to 11 12 provide assistance for part or all of the cost of medical care rendered 13 on behalf of indigent persons.

(b) "Medicare" means the program of health insurance for aged 14 15 persons and persons with disabilities established pursuant to Title 16 XVIII of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1395 et seq.

17 (c) "Provider of health care" means a physician or physician 18 assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 630, 630A or 633 of NRS, 19 perfusionist, dentist, licensed nurse, dispensing optician, 20 optometrist, practitioner of respiratory care, [registered] licensed physical therapist, podiatric physician, licensed psychologist, 21 22 licensed audiologist, licensed speech-language pathologist, licensed 23 hearing aid specialist, licensed marriage and family therapist, 24 licensed clinical professional counselor, chiropractic physician, 25 licensed dietitian or doctor of Oriental medicine in any form.

26 Sec. 11. NRS 439A.0195 is hereby amended to read as 27 follows:

28 439A.0195 "Practitioner" means a physician licensed under chapter 630, 630A or 633 of NRS, dentist, licensed nurse, 29 30 dispensing optician, optometrist, [registered] licensed physical therapist, podiatric physician, licensed psychologist, chiropractic 31 32 physician, doctor of Oriental medicine in any form, medical 33 laboratory director or technician, pharmacist or other person whose 34 principal occupation is the provision of services for health.

35 Sec. 12. NRS 598A.360 is hereby amended to read as follows: 598A.360 "Practitioner" means a physician licensed pursuant 36 to chapter 630 or 633 of NRS, physician assistant, licensed nurse, 37 dispensing optician, optometrist, practitioner of respiratory care, 38 [registered] licensed physical therapist, occupational therapist, 39 40 licensed psychologist or perfusionist.

Sec. 13. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2023. 41



