

- 1 SB205
- 2 K3SLA5U-1
- 3 By Senators Kitchens, Jones, Smitherman, Hatcher, Butler,
- 4 Allen, Givhan, Melson, Sessions, Carnley, Bell, Kelley,
- 5 Shelnutt, Stutts, Roberts, Elliott, Waggoner, Gudger,
- 6 Williams, Price, Chesteen, Orr, Stewart, Coleman,
- 7 Coleman-Madison, Beasley
- 8 RFD: Veterans and Military Affairs
- 9 First Read: 06-Mar-24



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4	SYNOPSIS:
5	This bill would allow the Board of Dental
6	Examiners to enter into the Dentist and Dental
7	Hygienist Compact by adopting Article 5 of Chapter 9 of
8	Title 34, Code of Alabama 1975, as a means of providing
9	uniformity in licensing requirements and interstate
10	practice throughout party states.
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13	A BILL
14	TO BE ENTITLED
15	AN ACT
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17	Relating to the Board of Dental Examiners; to add
18	Article 5 to Chapter 9 of Title 34, Code of Alabama 1975, to
19	adopt the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.
20	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
21	Section 1. Article 5 is added to Chapter 9 of Title 34,
22	Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:
23	ARTICLE 5. DENTIST AND DENTAL HYGIENIST COMPACT.
24	§34-9-100. Title and Purpose.
25	This article shall be known and cited as the Dentist
26	and Dental Hygienist Compact. The purposes of this compact are
27	to facilitate the interstate practice of dentistry and dental

28 hygiene and improve public access to dentistry and dental



29 hygiene services by providing dentists and dental hygienists

30 licensed in a participating state the ability to practice in

31 participating states in which they are not licensed. The

32 compact does this by establishing a pathway for dentists and

dental hygienists licensed in a participating state to obtain

34 a compact privilege that authorizes them to practice in

another participating state in which they are not licensed.

36 The compact enables participating states to protect the public

37 health and safety with respect to the practice of dentists and

38 dental hygienists, through the state's authority to regulate

the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene in the state. The

compact does all of the following:

- 41 (1) Enables dentists and dental hygienists who qualify
- for a compact privilege to practice in other participating

43 states without satisfying burdensome and duplicative

44 requirements associated with securing a license to practice in

45 those states.

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- 46 (2) Promotes mobility and addresses workforce shortages
- 47 through each participating state's acceptance of a compact
- 48 privilege to practice in that state.
- 49 (3) Increases public access to qualified, licensed
- dentists and dental hygienists by creating a responsible,
- 51 streamlined pathway for licensees to practice in participating
- 52 states.
- 53 (4) Enhances the ability of participating states to
- protect the public's health and safety.
- 55 (5) Does not interfere with licensure requirements
- 56 established by a participating state.



- 57 (6) Facilitates the sharing of licensure and disciplinary information among participating states.
- (7) Requires dentists and dental hygienists who
 practice in a participating state pursuant to a compact
 privilege to practice within the scope of practice authorized
 in that state.
- 63 (8) Extends the authority of a participating state to 64 regulate the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene within 65 its borders to dentists and dental hygienists who practice in 66 the state through a compact privilege.
- (9) Promotes the cooperation of participating states in regulating the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene within those states.
- 70 (10) Facilitates the relocation of military members and 71 their spouses who are licensed to practice dentistry or dental 72 hygiene.
- 73 §34-9-101. Definitions.
- As used in this compact, the following terms have the following meanings:
- 76 (1) ACTIVE MILITARY MEMBER. Any individual with
 77 full-time duty status in the Armed Forces of the United
 78 States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve.
- 79 (2) ADVERSE ACTION. Disciplinary action or encumbrance 80 imposed on a license or compact privilege by a state licensing 81 authority.
- (3) ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM. A non-disciplinary monitoring or practice remediation process applicable to a dentist or dental hygienist approved by a state licensing authority of a



- participating state in which the dentist or dental hygienist is licensed. This includes, but is not limited to, programs to which licensees with substance abuse or addiction issues are referred in lieu of state action.
- (4) CLINICAL ASSESSMENT. Examination or process
 required for licensure as a dentist or dental hygienist, as
 applicable, that provides evidence of clinical competence in
 dentistry or dental hygiene.
- 93 (5) COMMISSIONER. The individual appointed by a 94 participating state to serve as the member of the commission 95 for that participating state.

- (6) COMPACT. The dentist and dental hygienist compact.
- 97 (7) COMPACT PRIVILEGE. The authorization granted by a 98 remote state to allow a licensee from a participating state to 99 practice as a dentist or dental hygienist in a remote state.
- 100 (8) CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. A requirement,
 101 as a condition of license renewal, to provide evidence of
 102 successful participation in educational or professional
 103 activities relevant to practice or area of work.
- (9) CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK. The submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based information for a license applicant for the purpose of obtaining that applicant's criminal history record information, as defined in 28 C.F.R. § 20.3(d) from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the state's criminal history record repository as defined in 28 C.F.R. § 20.3(f).
- 111 (10) DATA SYSTEM. The commission's repository of
 112 information about licensees, including, but not limited to,



- 113 examination, licensure, investigative, compact privilege,
- 114 state action, and alternative program.
- 115 (11) DENTAL HYGIENIST. An individual who is licensed by
- 116 a state licensing authority to practice dental hygiene.
- 117 (12) DENTIST. An individual who is licensed by a state
- 118 licensing authority to practice dentistry.
- 119 (13) DENTIST AND DENTAL HYGIENIST COMPACT COMMISSION. A
- joint government agency established by this compact comprised
- 121 of each state that has enacted the compact and a national
- 122 administrative body comprised of a commissioner from each
- 123 state that has enacted the compact.
- 124 (14) ENCUMBERED LICENSE. A license that a state
- 125 licensing authority has limited in any way other than through
- 126 an alternative program.
- 127 (15) EXECUTIVE BOARD. The chair, vice chair, secretary,
- 128 and treasurer, and any other commissioners as may be
- determined by commission rule or bylaw.
- 130 (16) JURISPRUDENCE REQUIREMENT. The assessment of an
- 131 individual's knowledge of the laws and rules governing the
- 132 practice of dentistry or dental hygiene, as applicable, in a
- 133 state.
- 134 (17) LICENSE. Current authorization by a state, other
- than authorization pursuant to a compact privilege, or other
- 136 privilege, for an individual to practice as a dentist or
- 137 dental hygienist in that state.
- 138 (18) LICENSEE. An individual who holds an unrestricted
- 139 license from a participating state to practice as a dentist or
- 140 dental hygienist in that state.



- 141 (19) MODEL COMPACT. The model for the Dentist and
 142 Dental Hygienist Compact on file with the Council of State
 143 Governments or other entity as designated by the commission.
- 144 (20) PARTICIPATING STATE. A state that has enacted the
 145 compact and been admitted to the commission in accordance with
 146 the provisions in this compact and commission rules.
- 147 (21) QUALIFYING LICENSE. A license that is not an
 148 encumbered license issued by a participating state to practice
 149 dentistry or dental hygiene.
- 150 (22) REMOTE STATE. A participating state where a

 151 licensee who is not licensed as a dentist or dental hygienist

 152 is exercising or seeking to exercise the compact privilege.
- 153 (23) RULE. A regulation adopted by an entity that has the force of law.

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- (24) SCOPE OF PRACTICE. The procedures, actions, and processes a dentist or dental hygienist licensed in a state is permitted to undertake in that state and the circumstances under which the licensee is permitted to undertake those procedures, actions, and processes. The procedures, actions, and processes and the circumstances under which they may be undertaken may be established through means, including, but not limited to, statute, rules, case law, and other processes available to the state licensing authority or other government agency.
- 165 (25) SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION.

 166 Information, records, and documents received or generated by a

 167 state licensing authority pursuant to an investigation for

 168 which a determination has been made that there is probable



- 169 cause to believe that the licensee has violated a statute or
- 170 rule that is considered more than a minor infraction for which
- 171 the state licensing authority could pursue state action
- 172 against the licensee.
- 173 (26) STATE. Any state, commonwealth, district, or
- 174 territory of the United States of America that regulates the
- 175 practices of dentistry and dental hygiene.
- 176 (27) STATE LICENSING AUTHORITY. An agency or other
- 177 entity of a state that is responsible for the licensing and
- 178 regulation of dentists or dental hygienists.
- \$34-9-102. State Participation in the Compact.
- 180 (a) In order to join the compact and thereafter
- 181 continue as a participating state, a state must do all of the
- 182 following:
- 183 (1) Enact a compact that is not materially different
- 184 from the model compact as determined in accordance with
- 185 commission rules.
- 186 (2) Participate fully in the commission's data system.
- 187 (3) Have a mechanism in place for receiving and
- 188 investigating complaints about its licensees and license
- 189 applicants.
- 190 (4) Notify the commission, in compliance with the terms
- 191 of the compact and commission rules, of any state action or
- 192 the availability of significant investigative information
- 193 regarding a licensee and license applicant.
- 194 (5) Fully implement a criminal background check
- 195 requirement, within a time frame established by commission
- 196 rule, by receiving the results of a qualifying criminal



- 197 background check.
- 198 (6) Comply with the commission rules applicable to a participating state.
- 200 (7) Accept the National Board Examinations of the Joint
 201 Commission on National Dental Examinations or another
 202 examination accepted by commission rule as a licensure
 203 examination.
- 204 (8) Accept for licensure that applicants for a dentist 205 license graduate from a predoctoral dental education program 206 accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, or 207 another accrediting agency recognized by the United states Department of Education for the accreditation of dentistry and 208 209 dental hygiene education programs, leading to the Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) 210 211 degree.
- (9) Accept for licensure that applicants for a dental hygienist license graduate from a dental hygiene education program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation or another accrediting agency recognized by the United states Department of Education for the accreditation of dentistry and dental hygiene education programs.
- 218 (10) Require for licensure that applicants successfully complete a clinical assessment.
- 220 (11) Have continuing professional development 221 requirements as a condition for license renewal.
- 222 (12) Pay a participation fee to the commission as 223 established by commission rule.
- 224 (b) A state is not disqualified from participating in



- the compact by providing alternative pathways for an individual to obtain an unrestricted license.
- 227 (c) When conducting a criminal background check the 228 state licensing authority shall do all of the following:
- 229 (1) Consider the information disclosed in the criminal background check in making a licensure decision.
- 231 (2) Maintain documentation of completion of the 232 criminal background check and background check information to 233 the extent allowed by state and federal law.
- 234 (3) Report to the commission whether it has completed 235 the criminal background check and whether the individual was 236 granted or denied a license.
- 237 (d) A licensee of a participating state, who has a 238 qualifying license in that state and does not hold an 239 encumbered license in any other participating state, shall be 240 issued a compact privilege in a remote state in accordance 241 with the terms of the compact and commission rules. If a 242 remote state has a jurisprudence requirement, a compact 243 privilege will not be issued to the licensee unless the 244 licensee has satisfied the jurisprudence requirement.
- \$34-9-103. Compact Privilege.
- 246 (a) To obtain and exercise the compact privilege under 247 the terms and provisions of the compact, the licensee must do 248 all of the following:
- 249 (1) Possess a qualifying license as a dentist or dental 250 hygienist in a participating state.
- 251 (2) Be eligible for a compact privilege in any remote 252 state in accordance with subsections (d), (g), and (h).



- 253 (3) Submit to an application process whenever the licensee is seeking a compact privilege.
- 255 (4) Pay any applicable commission and remote state fees 256 for a compact privilege in the remote state.
- 257 (5) Meet any jurisprudence requirement established by a
 258 remote state in which the licensee is seeking a compact
 259 privilege.
- 260 (6) Pass a National Board Examination of the Joint
 261 Commission on National Dental Examinations or another
 262 examination accepted by commission rule.
- 263 (7) For a dentist, be a graduate from a predoctoral
 264 dental education program accredited by the Commission on
 265 Dental Accreditation, or another accrediting agency recognized
 266 by the United States Department of Education for the
 267 accreditation of dentistry and dental hygiene education
 268 programs, leading to the Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) or
 269 Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) degree.
- (8) For a dental hygienist, be a graduate from a dental hygiene education program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation or another accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education for the accreditation of dentistry and dental hygiene education programs.
- 276 (9) Successfully complete a clinical assessment for licensure.
- 278 (10) Report to the commission state action taken by any 279 non-participating state when applying for a compact privilege 280 and, otherwise, within 30 days from the date the state action



281 is taken.

- (11) Report to the commission when applying for a compact privilege the address of the licensee's primary residence and thereafter immediately report to the commission any change in the address of the licensee's primary residence.
- (12) Consent to accept service of process by mail at the licensee's primary residence on record with the commission with respect to any action brought against the licensee by the commission or a participating state, and consent to accept service of a subpoena by mail at the licensee's primary residence on record with the commission with respect to any action brought or investigation conducted by the commission or a participating state.
- (b) The licensee must comply with the requirements of subsection (a) to maintain the compact privilege in the remote state. If those requirements are met, the compact privilege will continue as long as the licensee maintains a qualifying license in the state through which the licensee applied for the compact privilege and pays any applicable compact privilege renewal fees.
- (c) A licensee providing dentistry or dental hygiene in a remote state under the compact privilege shall function within the scope of practice authorized by the remote state for a dentist or dental hygienist licensed in that state.
- (d) A licensee providing dentistry or dental hygiene pursuant to a compact privilege in a remote state is subject to that state's regulatory authority. A remote state, in accordance with due process and that state's laws, may by



309 state action revoke or remove a licensee's compact privilege 310 in the remote state for a specific period of time and impose 311 fines or take any other necessary actions to protect the 312 health and safety of its citizens. If a remote state imposes a 313 state action against a compact privilege that limits the 314 compact privilege, that state action applies to all compact 315 privileges in all remote states. A licensee whose compact 316 privilege in a remote state is removed for a specified period 317 of time is not eliqible for a compact privilege in any other remote state until the specific time for removal of the 318 319 compact privilege has passed and all encumbrance requirements are satisfied. 320

(e) If a license in a participating state is an encumbered license, the licensee shall lose the compact privilege in a remote state and shall not be eligible for a compact privilege in any remote state until the license is no longer encumbered.

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- 326 (f) Once an encumbered license in a participating state 327 is restored to good standing, the licensee must meet the 328 requirements of subsection (a) to obtain a compact privilege 329 in a remote state.
- 330 (g) If a licensee's compact privilege in a remote state 331 is removed by the remote state, the individual shall lose or 332 be ineligible for the compact privilege in any remote state 333 until both of the following occur:
- 334 (1) The specific period of time for which the compact 335 privilege was removed has ended.
 - (2) All conditions for removal of the compact privilege



- 337 have been satisfied.
- 338 (h) Once the requirements of subsection (g) have been 339 met, the licensee must meet the requirements in subsection (a) 340 to obtain a compact privilege in a remote state.
- 341 §34-9-104. Active Military Member or Their Spouse.

An active military member or his or her spouse shall
not be required to pay to the commission for a compact
privilege the fee otherwise charged by the commission. If a
remote state chooses to charge a fee for a compact privilege,
the state may choose to charge a reduced fee or no fee to an
active military member or his or her spouse for a compact
privilege.

- 349 §34-9-105. State Actions.
- 350 (a) A participating state in which a licensee is
 351 licensed shall have exclusive authority to impose state action
 352 against the qualifying license issued by that participating
 353 state.
- 354 (b) A participating state may take state action based 355 on the significant investigative information of a remote 356 state, so long as the participating state follows its own 357 procedures for imposing state action.
- 358 (c) Nothing in this compact shall override a
 359 participating state's decision that participation in an
 360 alternative program may be used in lieu of state action and
 361 that such participation shall remain non-public if required by
 362 the participating state's laws. Participating states must
 363 require licensees who enter any alternative program in lieu of
 364 discipline to agree not to practice pursuant to a compact



privilege in any other participating state during the term of the alternative program without prior authorization from the other participating state.

- (d) Any participating state in which a licensee is applying to practice or is practicing pursuant to a compact privilege may investigate actual or alleged violations of the statutes and rules authorizing the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene in any other participating state in which the dentist or dental hygienist holds a license or compact privilege.
- 375 (e) A remote state shall have the authority to do all of the following:
- 377 (1) Take state actions as set forth in Section 378 34-9-103(d) against a licensee's compact privilege in the 379 state.
 - under the compact and the commission's rules, the remote state may issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and testimony of witnesses, and the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a state licensing authority in a participating state for the attendance and testimony of witnesses, or the production of evidence from another participating state, shall be enforced in the latter 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. The issuing authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other fees required by the service statutes of the state where



- 393 the witnesses or evidence are located.
- 394 (3) If otherwise permitted by state law, the remote 395 state may recover from the licensee the costs of 396 investigations and disposition of cases resulting from any
- 397 state action taken against that licensee.
- 398 (f) Joint investigations.
- 399 (1) In addition to the authority granted to a
 400 participating state by its dentist or dental hygienist
 401 licensure act or other applicable state law, a participating
 402 state may jointly investigate licensees with other
 403 participating states.
- 404 (2) Participating states shall share any significant
 405 investigative information, litigation, or compliance materials
 406 in furtherance of any joint or individual investigation
 407 initiated under the compact.
- 408 (g) Authority to continue investigation.
- 409 (1) After a licensee's compact privilege in a remote 410 state is terminated, the remote state may continue an 411 investigation of the licensee that began when the licensee had 412 a compact privilege in that remote state.
- 413 (2) If the investigation yields what would be
 414 significant investigative information had the licensee
 415 continued to have a compact privilege in that remote state,
 416 the remote state shall report the presence of such information
 417 to the data system as required by Section 34-9-107(b)(6) as if
 418 it was significant investigative information.
- \$34-9-106. Establishment and Operation of the Commission.



- 421 (a) The compact participating states hereby create and
 422 establish a joint government agency whose membership consists
 423 of all participating states that have enacted the compact. The
 424 commission is an instrumentality of the participating states
 425 acting jointly and not an instrumentality of any one state.
 426 The commission shall come into existence on or after the
- 427 effective date of the compact as set forth in Section
- 428 34-9-110(a).

- (b) Participation, voting, and meetings.
- 430 (1) Each participating state shall have and be limited 431 to one commissioner selected by that participating state's 432 state licensing authority or, if the state has more than one 433 state licensing authority, selected collectively by the state 434 licensing authorities.
- 435 (2) The commissioner shall be a member or designee of 436 the authority or authorities.
- 437 (3) The commission may by rule or bylaw establish a
 438 term of office for commissioners and may by rule or bylaw
 439 establish term limits.
- 440 (4) The commission may recommend to a state licensing 441 authority or authorities, as applicable, removal or suspension 442 of an individual as the state's commissioner.
- 443 (5) A participating state's state licensing authority 444 or authorities, as applicable, shall fill any vacancy of its 445 commissioner on the commission within 60 days of the vacancy.
- 446 (6) Each commissioner shall be entitled to one vote on all matters that are voted upon by the commission.
 - (7) The commission shall meet at least once during each



- 449 calendar year. Additional meetings may be held as set forth in
- 450 the bylaws. The commission may meet by telecommunication,
- 451 video conference, or other similar electronic means.
- 452 (c) The commission shall have the power to do all of
- 453 the following:
- 454 (1) Establish the fiscal year of the commission.
- 455 (2) Establish a code of conduct and conflict of
- 456 interest policies.
- 457 (3) Adopt rules and bylaws.
- 458 (4) Maintain its financial records in accordance with
- 459 the bylaws.
- 460 (5) Meet and take actions as are consistent with the
- 461 provisions of this compact, the commission's rules, and the
- 462 bylaws.
- 463 (6) Initiate and conclude legal proceedings or actions
- 464 in the name of the commission, provided that the standing of
- any state licensing authority to sue or be sued under
- 466 applicable law shall not be affected.
- 467 (7) Maintain and certify records and information
- 468 provided to a participating state as the authenticated
- business records of the commission, and designate a person to
- 470 do so on the commission's behalf.
- 471 (8) Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds.
- 472 (9) Borrow, accept, or contract for services of
- 473 personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a
- 474 participating state.
- 475 (10) Conduct an annual financial review.
- 476 (11) Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix



- compensation, define duties, grant such individuals
 appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the
 compact, and establish the commission's personnel policies and
 programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of
- 481 personnel, and other related personnel matters.
- 482 (12) As set forth in the commission rules, charge a fee 483 to a licensee for the grant of a compact privilege in a remote 484 state and thereafter, as may be established by commission 485 rule, charge the licensee a compact privilege renewal fee for each renewal period in which that licensee exercises or 486 487 intends to exercise the compact privilege in that remote state. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to 488 489 prevent a remote state from charging a licensee a fee for a 490 compact privilege or renewals of a compact privilege, or a fee 491 for the jurisprudence requirement if the remote state imposes 492 such a requirement for the grant of a compact privilege.
- 493 (13) Accept any and all appropriate gifts, donations,
 494 grants of money, other sources of revenue, equipment,
 495 supplies, materials, and services, and receive, utilize, and
 496 dispose of the same; provided that at all times the commission
 497 shall avoid any appearance of impropriety conflict of
 498 interest.
- 499 (14) Lease, purchase, retain, own, hold, improve, or 500 use any property, real, personal, or mixed, or any undivided 501 interest therein.
- 502 (15) Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, 503 abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property real, personal, 504 or mixed.



- 505 (16) Establish a budget and make expenditures.
- 506 (17) Borrow money.
- 507 (18) Appoint committees, including standing committees,
- 508 which may be composed of members, state regulators, state
- 509 legislators or their representatives, and consumer
- 510 representatives, and other interested persons as may be
- designated in this compact and the bylaws.
- 512 (19) Provide and receive information from, and
- 513 cooperate with, law enforcement agencies.
- 514 (20) Elect a chair, vice chair, secretary and
- 515 treasurer, and other officers of the commission as provided in
- the commission's bylaws.
- 517 (21) Establish and elect an executive board.
- 518 (22) Adopt and provide to the participating states an
- 519 annual report.
- 520 (23) Determine whether a state's enacted compact is
- 521 materially different from the model compact language such that
- 522 the state would not qualify for participation in the compact.
- 523 (24) Perform any other functions that may be necessary
- or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this compact.
- 525 (d) Meetings of the commission.
- 526 (1) All meetings of the commission that are not closed
- 527 pursuant to this subsection shall be open to the public.
- 528 Notice of public meetings shall be posted on the commission's
- 529 website at least 30 days prior to the public meeting.
- 530 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (d)(1), the commission
- 531 may convene an emergency public meeting by providing at least
- 532 24-hour prior notice on the commission's website, and any



- other means as provided in the commission's rules, for any of
- 534 the reasons it may dispense with notice of proposed rulemaking
- under Section 34-9-108(1). The commission's legal counsel
- shall certify that one of the reasons justifying an emergency
- 537 public meeting has been met.
- 538 (3) Notice of all commission meetings shall provide the
- 539 time, date, and location of the meeting, and if the meeting is
- 540 to be held or accessible via telecommunication, video
- 541 conference, or other electronic means, the notice shall
- include the mechanism for access to the meeting through such
- means.
- 544 (4) The commission may convene in a closed, non-public
- 545 meeting for the commission to receive legal advice or to
- 546 discuss any of the following:
- a. Non-compliance of a participating state with its
- 548 obligations under the compact.
- b. The employment, compensation, discipline, or other
- 550 matters, practices, or procedures related to specific
- 551 employees or other matters related to the commission's
- internal personnel practices and procedures.
- 553 c. Current or threatened discipline of a licensee or
- 554 compact privilege holder by the commission or by a
- 555 participating state's licensing authority.
- 556 d. Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated
- 557 litigation.
- e. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or
- 559 sale of goods, services, or real estate.
- f. Accusing any individual of a crime or formally



- 561 censuring any individual.
- g. Trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential.
- h. Information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.
- i. Investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes.
- j. Information related to any investigative reports
 prepared by or on behalf of or for use of the commission or
 other committee charged with responsibility of investigation
 or determination of compliance issues pursuant to the compact.
- k. Legal advice.

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- 1. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure to the public by federal or participating state law.
- 576 m. Other matters as adopted by the commission by rule.
- 577 (5) If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed, 578 the presiding officer shall state that the meeting will be 579 closed and reference each relevant exempting provision, and 580 that reference shall be recorded in the minutes.
 - (6) 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 supporting the actions taken, including a description of the views expressed. All documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in the minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release only by a majority vote of the commission



- or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 590 (e) Financing of the commission.

- 591 (1) The commission shall pay, or provide for the 592 payment of, the reasonable expenses of its establishment, 593 organization, and ongoing activities.
- 594 (2) The commission may accept all appropriate sources 595 of revenue, donations, grants of money, equipment, supplies, 596 materials, and services.
 - assessment from each participating state and impose fees on licensees of participating states when a compact privilege is granted, 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 fiscal year for which sufficient revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount for participating states shall be allocated based upon a formula that the commission shall adopt by rule.
 - (4) The commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet those obligations; nor shall the commission pledge the credit of any participating state, except by and with the authority of the participating 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 financial review and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. All receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the commission



- shall be subject to an annual financial review by a certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the financial review shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the commission.
- (f) The executive board.
- 622 (1) The executive board shall have the power to act on 623 behalf of the commission according to the terms of this 624 compact. The powers, duties, and responsibilities of the 625 executive board shall include all of the following:
- a. Overseeing the day-to-day activities of the
 administration of the compact, including compliance with the
 provisions of the compact and the commission's rules and
 bylaws.
- b. Recommending to the commission changes to the rules or bylaws, changes to this compact legislation, fees charged to compact participating states, fees charged to licensees, and other fees.
- 634 c. Ensuring compact administration services are 635 appropriately provided, including by contract.
- d. Preparing and recommending the budget.

- e. Maintaining financial records on behalf of the commission.
- f. Monitoring compact compliance of participating states and providing compliance reports to the commission.
 - g. Establishing additional committees as necessary.
- h. Exercising the powers and duties of the commission during the interim between commission meetings, except for adopting or amending rules, adopting or amending bylaws, and



- exercising any other powers and duties expressly reserved to the commission by rule or bylaw.
- i. Other duties as provided in the rules or bylaws of the commission.
- 649 (2) The executive board shall be composed of up to 650 seven members.
- a. The chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer of the commission, and any other members of the commission who serve on the executive board shall be voting members of the executive board.
- b. Other than the chair, vice chair, secretary, and
 treasurer, the commission may elect up to three voting members
 from the current membership of the commission.
- 658 (3) The commission may remove any member of the executive board as provided in the commission's bylaws.

- (4) The executive board shall meet at least annually.
- a. An executive board meeting at which it takes or
 intends to take formal action on a matter shall be open to the
 public, except that the executive board may meet in a closed,
 non-public session of a public meeting when dealing with any
 of the matters covered under subdivision (d)(4).
- b. The executive board shall give five business days'

 notice of its public meetings, posted on its website and as it

 may otherwise determine to provide notice to persons with an

 interest in the public matters the executive board intends to

 address at those meetings.
- (5) The executive board may hold an emergency meeting when acting for the commission for any of the following



- 673 reasons:
- a. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or
- 675 welfare.
- b. Prevent a loss of commission or participating state
- funds.
- c. Protect public health and safety.
- (g) Qualified immunity, defense, and indemnification.
- 680 (1) The members, officers, executive director,
- 681 employees, and representatives of the commission shall be
- immune from suit and liability, both personally and in their
- official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of
- 684 property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by
- or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or
- 686 omission that occurred, or that the individual against whom
- the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing
- 688 occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or
- 689 responsibilities; provided that nothing in this subdivision
- 690 shall be construed to protect any individual from suit or
- 691 liability for any damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by
- 692 the intentional, willful, or wanton misconduct of that
- 693 individual. The procurement of insurance of any type by the
- 694 commission shall not in any way compromise or limit the
- 695 immunity granted under this subdivision.
- 696 (2) The commission shall defend any member, officer,
- 697 executive director, employee, and representative of the
- 698 commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability
- 699 arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission
- 700 that occurred within the scope of commission employment,



- 701 duties, or responsibilities, or as determined by the 702 commission that the person against whom the claim is made had 703 a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of 704 commission employment, duties, or responsibilities; provided 705 that nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to 706 prohibit that individual from retaining his or her own counsel 707 at his or her own expense; and provided further, that the 708 actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from 709 that individual's intentional, willful, or wanton misconduct.
- (3) Notwithstanding subdivision (1), should any member, 710 711 officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the commission be held liable for the amount of any settlement 712 713 or judgment arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, 714 or omission that occurred within the scope of that 715 individual's employment, duties, or responsibilities for the commission, or that the individual to whom that individual is 716 717 liable had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within 718 the scope of the individual's employment, duties, or 719 responsibilities for the commission, the commission shall 720 indemnify and hold harmless the individual, provided that the 721 actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from 722 the intentional, willful, or wanton misconduct of the 723 individual.
- (4) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as a limitation on the liability of any licensee for professional malpractice or misconduct, which shall be governed solely by any other applicable state laws.

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(5) Nothing in this compact shall be interpreted to



- 729 waive or otherwise abrogate a participating state's state
- 730 action immunity or state action affirmative defense with
- 731 respect to antitrust claims under the Sherman Act, Clayton
- 732 Act, or any other state or federal antitrust or
- 733 anticompetitive law or regulation.
- 734 (6) Nothing in this compact shall be construed to be a
- 735 waiver of sovereign immunity by the participating states or by
- 736 the commission.
- 737 §34-9-107. Data System.
- 738 (a) The commission shall provide for the development,
- 739 maintenance, operation, and utilization of a coordinated
- 740 database and reporting system containing licensure, state
- 741 action, and the presence of significant investigative
- 742 information on all licensees and applicants for a license in
- 743 participating states.
- 744 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to
- 745 the contrary, a participating state shall submit a uniform
- 746 data set to the data system on all individuals to whom this
- 747 compact is applicable as required by the rules of the
- 748 commission, including all of the following:
- 749 (1) Identifying information.
- 750 (2) Licensure data.
- 751 (3) State actions against a licensee, license
- 752 applicant, or compact privilege and information related
- 753 thereto.
- 754 (4) Non-confidential information related to alternative
- 755 program participation, the beginning and ending dates of
- 756 participation in the program, and other information related to



757 participation.

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- 758 (5) Any denial of an application for licensure, and the 759 reason for such denial, excluding the reporting of any
- 760 criminal history record information where prohibited by law.
- 761 (6) The presence of significant investigative 762 information.
 - (7) Other information that may facilitate the administration of this compact or the protection of the public, as determined by the rules of the commission.
- 766 (c) The records and information provided to a 767 participating state pursuant to this compact or through the 768 data system, when certified by the commission or an agent of 769 the commission shall constitute the authenticated business 770 records of the commission, and shall be entitled to any 771 associated hearsay exception in any relevant judicial, 772 quasi-judicial, or administrative proceedings in a 773 participating state.
 - (d) Significant investigative information pertaining to a licensee in any participating state will only be available to other participating states.
- 777 (e) It is the responsibility of the participating
 778 states to monitor the database to determine whether state
 779 action has been taken against a licensee or license applicant.
 780 State action information pertaining to a licensee or license
 781 applicant in any participating state will be available to any
 782 other participating state.
- 783 (f) Participating states contributing information to 784 the data system may designate information that may not be



- shared with the public without the express permission of the contributing state.
- 787 (g) Any information submitted to the data system that
 788 is subsequently expunged pursuant to federal law or the laws
 789 of the participating state contributing the information shall
 790 be removed from the data system.
- 791 §34-9-108. Rulemaking.

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- 792 (a) The commission shall adopt reasonable rules in 793 order to effectively and efficiently implement and administer 794 the purposes and provisions of the compact. A commission rule 795 shall be invalid and have no force or effect only if a court of competent jurisdiction holds that the rule is invalid 796 797 because the commission exercised its rulemaking authority in a 798 manner that is beyond the scope and purposes of the compact, 799 or the powers granted hereunder, or based upon another applicable standard of review. 800
- (b) The rules of the commission shall have the force of law in each participating state; provided, however, that where the rules of the commission conflict with the laws of the participating state that establish the participating state's scope of practice as held by a court of competent jurisdiction, the rules of the commission shall be ineffective in that state to the extent of the conflict.
 - (c) The commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this section and the rules adopted thereunder. Rules shall become binding as of the date specified by the commission for each rule.
 - (d) If a majority of the Legislatures of the



- participating states rejects a commission rule or portion of a commission rule, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the compact, within four years of the date of adoption of the rule, then the rule shall have no further force and effect in any participating state or to any state applying to participate in the compact.
- 819 (e) Rules shall be adopted at a regular or special 820 meeting of the commission.
- (f) Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the
 commission shall hold a public hearing and allow persons to
 provide oral and written comments, data, facts, opinions, and
 arguments.
- (g) Prior to adoption of a proposed rule by the commission, and at least 30 days in advance of the meeting at which the commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed rule, the commission shall provide a notice of proposed rulemaking by all of the following:
- 830 (1) On the website of the commission or other publicly 831 accessible platform.
- 832 (2) To persons who have requested notice of the commission's notices of proposed rulemaking.
- 834 (3) In other ways as the commission may by rule specify.
- 836 (h) The notice of proposed rulemaking shall include all 837 of the following:
- 838 (1) The time, date, and location of the public hearing 839 at which the commission will hear public comments on the 840 proposed rule and, if different, the time, date, and location



- of the meeting where the commission will consider and vote on the proposed rule.
- (2) If the hearing is held via telecommunication, video conference, or other electronic means, the commission shall include the mechanism for access to the hearing in the notice of proposed rulemaking.
- 847 (3) The text of the proposed rule and the reason for 848 its proposal.
- 849 (4) A request for comments on the proposed rule from 850 any interested person.
- 851 (5) The manner in which interested persons may submit written comments.
- (i) All hearings will be recorded. A copy of the recording and all written comments and documents received by the commission in response to the proposed rule shall be available to the public.
- (j) Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a separate hearing on each commission rule. Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the commission at hearings required by this section.
- (k) The commission, by majority vote of all commissioners, shall take final action on the proposed rule based on the rulemaking record.
- (1) The commission may adopt changes to the proposed rule provided the changes do not enlarge the original purpose of the proposed rule.
- 867 (2) The commission shall provide an explanation of the 868 reasons for substantive changes made to the proposed rule as



well as reasons for substantive changes not made that were recommended by commenters.

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- (3) The commission shall determine a reasonable effective date for the rule. Except for an emergency as provided in subsection (1), the effective date of the rule shall be no sooner than 30 days after the commission issuing the notice that it adopted or amended the rule.
- (1) Upon determination that an emergency exists, the commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule with 24-hours' notice, with opportunity to comment, provided that the usual rulemaking procedures provided in the compact and in this section shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than 90 days after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this provision, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted immediately in order to do any of the following:
- 885 (1) Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare.
- 887 (2) Prevent a loss of commission or participating state funds.
- 889 (3) Meet a deadline for the adoption of a rule that is 890 established by federal law or rule.
- 891 (4) Protect public health and safety.
- (m) The commission or an authorized committee of the commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule 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 website of the

- 897 commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any 898 individual for a period of 30 days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the revision results in 899 900 a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made in 901 writing and delivered to the commission prior to the end of 902 the notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision will 903 take effect without further action. If the revision is 904 challenged, the revision may not take effect without the 905 approval of the commission.
- 906 (n) No participating state's rulemaking requirements 907 shall apply under this compact.
- 908 §34-9-109. Oversight, Dispute Resolution, and 909 Enforcement.
- 910 (a) Oversight.
- 911 (1) The executive and judicial branches of state 912 government in each participating state shall enforce this 913 compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to 914 implement the compact.
- 915 (2) Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or 916 against the commission shall be brought solely and exclusively 917 in a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal 918 office of the commission is located. The commission may waive 919 venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or 920 consents to participate in alternative dispute resolution 921 proceedings. Nothing in this subdivision shall affect or limit 922 the selection or propriety of venue in any action against a licensee for professional malpractice, misconduct, or any 923 924 similar matter.



925 (3) The commission shall be entitled to receive service 926 of process in any proceeding regarding the enforcement or 927 interpretation of the compact or commission rule and shall 928 have standing to intervene in a proceeding for all purposes. 929 Failure to provide the commission service of process shall 930 render a judgment or order void as to the commission, this 931 compact, or adopted rules.

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- (b) Default, technical assistance, and termination.
- (1) If the commission determines that a participating state has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this compact or the adopted rules, the commission shall provide written notice to the defaulting state. The notice of default shall describe the default, the proposed means of curing the default, and any other action that the commission may take, and shall offer training and specific technical assistance regarding the default.
- (2) The commission shall provide a copy of the notice of default to the other participating states.
 - (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 commissioners, and all rights, privileges, and benefits conferred on that state by this 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.
- (d) Termination of participation 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, the defaulting state's state licensing authority or authorities, as applicable, and each of the participating states' state licensing authority or authorities, as applicable.
- 960 (e) A state that has been terminated is responsible for 961 all assessments, obligations, and liabilities incurred through 962 the effective date of termination, including obligations that 963 extend beyond the effective date of termination.

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- (f) Upon the termination of a state's participation in this compact, that state shall immediately provide notice to all licensees of the state, including licensees of other participating states issued a compact privilege to practice within that state, of such termination. The terminated state shall continue to recognize all compact privileges then in effect in that state for a minimum of 180 days after the date of said notice of termination.
- (g) 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.
- 976 (h) The defaulting state may appeal the action of the 977 commission by petitioning the U.S. District Court for the 978 District of Columbia or the federal district where the 979 commission has its principal offices. The prevailing party 980 shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including



981 reasonable attorney fees.

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- 982 (i) Dispute resolution.
- 983 (1) Upon request by a participating state, the
 984 commission shall attempt to resolve disputes related to the
 985 compact that arise among participating states and between
 986 participating states and non-participating states.
 - (2) The commission shall adopt a rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.
 - (j) Enforcement.
 - (1) The commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the provisions of this compact and the commission's rules.
- 994 (2) By majority vote, the commission may initiate legal 995 action against a participating state in default in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal 996 997 district where the commission has its principal offices to 998 enforce compliance with the provisions of the compact and its 999 adopted rules. The relief sought may include both injunctive 1000 relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is 1001 necessary, the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of 1002 such litigation, including reasonable attorney fees. The 1003 remedies in this subdivision shall not be the exclusive 1004 remedies of the commission. The commission may pursue any 1005 other remedies available under federal or the defaulting 1006 participating state's law.
- 1007 (3) A participating state may initiate legal action 1008 against the commission in the U.S. District Court for the

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- District of Columbia or the federal district where the

 commission has its principal offices to enforce compliance

 with the provisions of the compact and its adopted rules. The

 relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages.

 In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing

 party shall be awarded all costs of litigation, including

 reasonable attorney fees.
- 1016 (4) No individual or entity other than a participating 1017 state may enforce this compact against the commission.

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- §34-9-110. Effective Date, Withdrawal, and Amendment.
- (a) The compact shall come into effect on the date on which the compact statute is enacted into law in the seventh participating state.
- (1) On or after the effective date of the compact, the commission shall convene and review the enactment of each of the states that enacted the compact prior to the commission convening, the charter participating states, to determine if the statute enacted by each charter participating state is materially different than the model compact.
- 1028 a. A charter participating state whose enactment is
 1029 found to be materially different from the model compact shall
 1030 be entitled to the default process set forth in Section
 1031 34-9-109.
- b. If any participating state is later found to be in default, or is terminated or withdraws from the compact, the commission shall remain in existence and the compact shall remain in effect even if the number of participating states should be less than seven.



1037 (2) Participating states enacting the compact

1038 subsequent to the charter participating states shall be

1039 subject to the process set forth in Section 34-9-106(c)(23) to

1040 determine if their enactments are materially different from

1041 the model compact and whether they qualify for participation

1042 in the compact.

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- (3) All actions taken for the benefit of the commission or in furtherance of the purposes of the administration of the compact prior to the effective date of the compact or the commission coming into existence shall be considered to be actions of the commission unless specifically repudiated by the commission.
- (4) Any state that joins the compact subsequent to the commission's initial adoption of the rules and bylaws shall be subject to the commission's rules and bylaws as they exist on the date on which the compact becomes law in that 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 that state.
- 1056 (b) Any participating state may withdraw from this
 1057 compact by enacting a statute repealing that state's enactment
 1058 of the compact.
- 1059 (1) A participating state's withdrawal shall not take
 1060 effect until 180 days after enactment of the repealing
 1061 statute.
 - (2) Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing state's licensing authority or authorities to comply with the investigative and state action



reporting requirements of this compact prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

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- (3) Upon the enactment of a statute withdrawing from this compact, the state shall immediately provide notice of the withdrawal to all licensees within that state.
- Notwithstanding any subsequent statutory enactment to the contrary, the withdrawing state shall continue to recognize all compact privileges to practice within that state granted pursuant to this compact for a minimum of 180 days after the date of such notice of withdrawal.
- 1075 (c) Nothing contained in this compact shall be
 1076 construed to invalidate or prevent any licensure agreement or
 1077 other cooperative arrangement between a participating state
 1078 and a non-participating state that does not conflict with the
 1079 provisions of this compact.
- 1080 (d) This compact may be amended by the participating
 1081 states. No amendment to this compact shall become effective
 1082 and binding upon any participating state until it is enacted
 1083 into the laws of all participating states.
- 1084 §34-9-111. Construction and Severability.
- 1085 (a) This compact and the commission's rulemaking

 1086 authority shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the

 1087 purposes and the implementation and administration of the

 1088 compact. Provisions of the compact expressly authorizing or

 1089 requiring the adoption of rules shall not be construed to

 1090 limit the commission's rulemaking authority solely for those

 1091 purposes.
 - (b) The provisions of this compact shall be severable,



1093 and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this 1094 compact is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be 1095 contrary to the constitution of any participating state, a 1096 state seeking participation in the compact, or of the United 1097 States, or the applicability thereof to any government, 1098 agency, person, or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional 1099 by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the 1100 remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any 1101 other government, agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. 1102

- 1103 (c) Notwithstanding subsection b, the commission may deny a state's participation in the compact or, in accordance 1104 1105 with the requirements of Section 34-9-109(b), terminate a 1106 participating state's participation in the compact, if it 1107 determines that a constitutional requirement of a 1108 participating state is a material departure from the compact. 1109 Otherwise, if this compact shall be held to be contrary to the 1110 constitution of any participating state, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining 1111 1112 participating states and in full force and effect as to the 1113 participating state affected as to all severable matters.
- 1114 §34-9-112. Consistent Effect and Conflict With Other 1115 State Laws.
- 1116 (a) Nothing in this compact shall prevent or inhibit
 1117 the enforcement of any other law of a participating state that
 1118 is not inconsistent with the compact.
- 1119 (b) Any laws, statutes, rules, or other legal
 1120 requirements in a participating state in conflict with the



- 1121 compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.
- 1122 (c) All permissible agreements between the commission 1123 and the participating states are binding in accordance with 1124 their terms.
- 1125 §34-9-113. Judicial Proceedings by Individuals.
- Except as to judicial proceedings for the enforcement of this compact among member states, individuals may pursue judicial proceedings related to this compact in any Alabama state or federal court that would otherwise have competent jurisdiction.
- Section 2. This act shall become effective on October 1132 1, 2024.