House Bill 466

By: Representatives Bonner of the 73rd, Jenkins of the 136th, Cannon of the 172nd, and Clark of the 100th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

To amend Chapter 24A of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to massage therapy practice, so as to enter into an interstate compact known as the "Interstate Massage Compact"; to authorize the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy to administer the compact in this state; to provide definitions; to provide for conditions; to provide for eligibility; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1. Chapter 24A of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to massage therapy practice, is amended by revising paragraph (6) of Code Section 43-24A-3, relating to definitions, as follows: "(6) 'License' means a valid and current certificate of registration issued by the board pursuant to this chapter to practice massage therapy <u>or a multistate license issued</u> pursuant to the Interstate Massage Compact contained in Article 3 of this chapter."

	23 LC 33 9247
14	SECTION 2.
15	Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 43-24A-7,
16	relating to the powers of the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy, as follows:
17	"(b) The board shall have the power to:
18	(1) Examine and determine the qualifications and fitness of applicants for licenses to
19	practice massage therapy in this state;
20	(2) Issue, renew, refuse to renew, deny, suspend, or revoke licenses to practice massage
21	therapy in this state or otherwise discipline licensed massage therapists;
22	(3) Conduct investigations for the purpose of discovering violations of this chapter or
23	grounds for disciplining persons or entities acting in violation of this chapter;
24	(4) Upon reasonable notice, request on-site inspections of the facility, equipment,
25	policies, and practices of a massage therapy business or board recognized massage
26	therapy educational program by appropriate inspectors in the Office of the Secretary of
27	State for the purpose of determining compliance with the standards established pursuant
28	to this chapter;
29	(5) Hold hearings on all matters properly brought before the board and, in conjunction
30	therewith, to administer oaths, receive evidence, make the necessary determinations, and
31	enter orders consistent with the findings. The board may designate one or more of its
32	members as its hearing officer;
33	(6) Adopt, revise, and enforce rules concerning advertising by licensees including, but
34	not limited to, rules to prohibit false, misleading, or deceptive practices;
35	(7) Periodically evaluate board recognized massage therapy educational programs and
36	license such programs that meet the board's requirements;
37	(8) Develop and enforce standards for continuing education courses required of licensed
38	massage therapists which may include courses in massage therapy or any of the
39	modalities described in paragraphs (5) through (8) of subsection (a) of Code Section
40	43-24A-19;
	H. B. 466

41 (9) Develop and enforce reasonable and uniform standards for massage therapy
42 educational programs and massage therapy practice;

43 (10) Deny or withdraw recognition of noncompliant massage therapy educational
44 programs that do not meet standards established pursuant to this chapter;

(11) Appoint standing or ad hoc committees as necessary to inform and make
recommendations to the board about issues and concerns of the massage therapy
profession and to facilitate communication amongst the board, licensees under this
chapter, and the community, which may include nonmembers of the board;

(12) Collect and publish data regarding existing massage therapy resources in Georgia
 without violation of any state or federal privacy laws and coordinate planning for board
 recognized massage therapy educational programs and practice;

- 52 (13) Adopt an official seal; and
- 53 (14) Bring proceedings to the courts for the enforcement of this chapter or any rules and
- 54 regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter<u>; and</u>
- 55 (15) Administer the Interstate Massage Compact contained in Article 3 of this chapter."
- 56

SECTION 3.

- 57 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new article to read as follows:
- 58 "<u>ARTICLE 3</u>
- 59 <u>43-24A-40.</u>
- 60 This article shall be known and may be cited as the 'Interstate Massage Compact Act.'

61	<u>43-24A-41.</u>
----	-------------------

- 62 The Interstate Massage Compact is enacted into law and entered into by the State of
- 63 Georgia with any and all other states legally joining therein in the form substantially as
 64 <u>follows:</u>

65	'INTERSTATE MASSAGE COMPACT
66	ARTICLE 1- PURPOSE
67	The purpose of this Compact is to reduce the burdens on State governments and to facilitate
68	the interstate practice and regulation of Massage Therapy with the goal of improving public
69	access to, and the safety of, Massage Therapy Services. Through this Compact, the
70	Member States seek to establish a regulatory framework which provides for a new
71	multistate licensing program. Through this additional licensing pathway, the Member
72	States seek to provide increased value and mobility to licensed massage therapists in the
73	Member States, while ensuring the provision of safe, competent, and reliable services to
74	the public.
75	This Compact is designed to achieve the following objectives, and the Member States
76	hereby ratify the same intentions by subscribing hereto:
77	A. Increase public access to Massage Therapy Services by providing for a multistate
78	licensing pathway;
79	B. Enhance the Member States' ability to protect the public's health and safety;
80	C. Enhance the Member States' ability to prevent human trafficking and licensure fraud;
81	D. Encourage the cooperation of Member States in regulating the multistate Practice of
82	Massage Therapy;
83	E. Support relocating military members and their spouses;
84	F. Facilitate and enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative, and disciplinary
85	information between the Member States;

86	G. Create an Interstate Commission that will exist to implement and administer the
87	Compact:
88	H. Allow a Member State to hold a Licensee accountable, even where that Licensee holds
89	<u>a Multistate License;</u>
90	I. Create a streamlined pathway for Licensees to practice in Member States, thus
91	increasing the mobility of duly licensed massage therapists; and
92	J. Serve the needs of licensed massage therapists and the public receiving their services;
93	however,
94	K. Nothing in this Compact is intended to prevent a State from enforcing its own laws
95	regarding the Practice of Massage Therapy.
96	ARTICLE 2- DEFINITIONS
97	As used in this Compact, except as otherwise provided and subject to clarification by the
98	Rules of the Commission, the following definitions shall govern the terms herein:
99	A. "Active Duty Military" - any individual in full-time duty status in the active uniformed
100	service of the United States including members of the National Guard and Reserve.
101	B. "Adverse Action" - any administrative, civil, equitable, or criminal action permitted by
102	a Member State's laws which is imposed by a Licensing Authority or other regulatory body
103	against a Licensee, including actions against an individual's Authorization to Practice such
104	as revocation, suspension, probation, surrender in lieu of discipline, monitoring of the
105	Licensee, limitation of the Licensee's practice, or any other Encumbrance on licensure
106	affecting an individual's ability to practice Massage Therapy, including the issuance of a
107	cease and desist order.
108	C. "Alternative Program" - a non-disciplinary monitoring or prosecutorial diversion
109	program approved by a Member State's Licensing Authority.
110	D. "Authorization to Practice" - a legal authorization by a Remote State pursuant to a
111	Multistate License permitting the Practice of Massage Therapy in that Remote State, which

LC 33 9247

112	shall be subject to the enforcement jurisdiction of the Licensing Authority in that Remote
113	State.
114	E. "Background Check" - the submission of an applicant's criminal history record
115	information, as further defined in 28 C.F.R. § 20.3(d), as amended from the Federal Bureau
116	of Investigation and the agency responsible for retaining State criminal records in the
117	applicant's Home State.
118	F. "Charter Member States" - Member States who have enacted legislation to adopt this
119	Compact where such legislation predates the effective date of this Compact as defined in
120	Article 12.
121	G. "Commission" - the government agency whose membership consists of all States that
122	have enacted this Compact, which is known as the Interstate Massage Compact
123	Commission, as defined in Article 8, and which shall operate as an instrumentality of the
124	Member States.
125	H. "Continuing Competence" - a requirement, as a condition of license renewal, to provide
126	evidence of participation in, and completion of, educational or professional activities that
127	maintain, improve, or enhance Massage Therapy fitness to practice.
128	I. "Current Significant Investigative Information" - Investigative Information that a
129	Licensing Authority, after an inquiry or investigation that complies with a Member State's
130	due process requirements, has reason to believe is not groundless and, if proved true, would
131	indicate a violation of that State's laws regarding the Practice of Massage Therapy.
132	J. "Data System" - a repository of information about Licensees who hold Multistate
133	Licenses, which may include but is not limited to license status, Investigative Information,
134	and Adverse Actions.
135	K. "Disqualifying Event" - any event which shall disqualify an individual from holding
136	a Multistate License under this Compact, which the Commission may by Rule specify.
137	L. "Encumbrance" - a revocation or suspension of, or any limitation or condition on, the
138	full and unrestricted Practice of Massage Therapy by a Licensing Authority.

139	M. "Executive Committee" - a group of delegates elected or appointed to act on behalf of,
140	and within the powers granted to them by, the Commission.
141	N. "Home State" - means the Member State which is a Licensee's primary state of
142	residence where the Licensee holds an active Single-State License.
143	O. "Investigative Information" - information, records, or documents received or generated
144	by a Licensing Authority pursuant to an investigation or other inquiry.
145	P. "Licensing Authority" - a State's regulatory body responsible for issuing Massage
146	Therapy licenses or otherwise overseeing the Practice of Massage Therapy in that State.
147	Q. "Licensee" - an individual who currently holds a license from a Member State to fully
148	practice Massage Therapy, whose license is not a student, provisional, temporary, inactive,
149	or other similar status.
150	R. "Massage Therapy", "Massage Therapy Services", and the "Practice of Massage
151	Therapy" - the care and services provided by a Licensee as set forth in the Member State's
152	statutes and regulations in the State where the services are being provided.
153	S. "Member State" - any State that has adopted this Compact.
154	T. "Multistate License" - a license that consists of Authorizations to Practice Massage
155	Therapy in all Remote States pursuant to this Compact, which shall be subject to the
156	enforcement jurisdiction of the Licensing Authority in a Licensee's Home State.
157	U. "National Licensing Examination" - A national examination developed by a national
158	association of Massage Therapy regulatory boards, as defined by Commission Rule, that
159	is derived from a practice analysis and is consistent with generally accepted psychometric
160	principles of fairness, validity and reliability, and is administered under secure and
161	confidential examination protocols.
162	V. "Remote State" - any Member State, other than the Licensee's Home State.
163	W. "Rule" - any opinion or regulation promulgated by the Commission under this
164	Compact, which shall have the force of law.

165	X. "Single-State License" - a current, valid authorization issued by a Member State's
166	Licensing Authority allowing an individual to fully practice Massage Therapy, that is not
167	a restricted, student, provisional, temporary, or inactive practice authorization and
168	authorizes practice only within the issuing State.
169	Y. "State" - a state, territory, possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia.
170	ARTICLE 3- MEMBER STATE REQUIREMENTS
171	A. To be eligible to join this Compact, and to maintain eligibility as a Member State, a
172	State must:
173	1. License and regulate the Practice of Massage Therapy;
174	2. Have a mechanism or entity in place to receive and investigate complaints from the
175	public, regulatory or law enforcement agencies, or the Commission about Licensees
176	practicing in that State;
177	3. Accept passage of a National Licensing Examination as a criterion for Massage
178	Therapy licensure in that State;
179	4. Require that Licensees satisfy educational requirements prior to being licensed to
180	provide Massage Therapy Services to the public in that State;
181	5. Implement procedures for requiring the Background Check of applicants for a
182	Multistate License, and for the reporting of any Disqualifying Events, including but not
183	limited to obtaining and submitting, for each Licensee holding a Multistate License and
184	each applicant for a Multistate License, fingerprint or other biometric-based information
185	to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for Background Checks; receiving the results of
186	the Federal Bureau of Investigation record search on Background Checks and considering
187	the results of such a Background Check in making licensure decisions;
188	6. Have Continuing Competence requirements as a condition for license renewal;
189	7. Participate in the Data System, including through the use of unique identifying

190 <u>numbers as described herein;</u>

191	8. Notify the Commission and other Member States, in compliance with the terms of the
192	Compact and Rules of the Commission, of any disciplinary action taken by the State
193	against a Licensee practicing under a Multistate License in that State, or of the existence
194	of Investigative Information or Current Significant Investigative Information regarding
195	a Licensee practicing in that State pursuant to a Multistate License;
196	9. Comply with the Rules of the Commission;
197	10. Accept Licensees with valid Multistate Licenses from other Member States as
198	established herein;
199	B. Individuals not residing in a Member State shall continue to be able to apply for a
200	Member State's Single-State License as provided under the laws of each Member State.
201	However, the Single-State License granted to those individuals shall not be recognized as
202	granting a Multistate License for Massage Therapy in any other Member State;
203	C. Nothing in this Compact shall affect the requirements established by a Member State
204	for the issuance of a Single-State License; and
205	D. A Multistate License issued to a Licensee shall be recognized by each Remote State as
206	an Authorization to Practice Massage Therapy in each Remote State.
207	ARTICLE 4- MULTISTATE LICENSE REQUIREMENTS
208	A. To qualify for a Multistate License under this Compact, and to maintain eligibility for
209	such a license, an applicant must:
210	1. Hold an active Single-State License to practice Massage Therapy in the applicant's
211	Home State;
212	2. Have completed at least six hundred and twenty-five (625) clock hours of Massage
213	Therapy education or the substantial equivalent which the Commission may approve by
214	<u>Rule.</u>
215	3. Have passed a National Licensing Examination or the substantial equivalent which the
216	Commission may approve by Rule.

217	4. Submit to a Background Check;
218	5. Have not been convicted or found guilty, or have entered into an agreed disposition,
219	of a felony offense under applicable State or federal criminal law, within five (5) years
220	prior to the date of their application, where such a time period shall not include any time
221	served for the offense, and provided that the applicant has completed any and all
222	requirements arising as a result of any such offense;
223	6. Have not been convicted or found guilty, or have entered into an agreed disposition,
224	of a misdemeanor offense related to the Practice of Massage Therapy under applicable
225	State or federal criminal law, within two (2) years prior to the date of their application
226	where such a time period shall not include any time served for the offense, and provided
227	that the applicant has completed any and all requirements arising as a result of any such
228	offense;
229	7. Have not been convicted or found guilty, or have entered into an agreed disposition,
230	of any offense, whether a misdemeanor or a felony, under State or federal law, at any
231	time, relating to any of the following:
232	a. Kidnapping;
233	b. Human trafficking;
234	c. Human smuggling;
235	d. Sexual battery, sexual assault, or any related offenses; or
236	e. Any other category of offense which the Commission may by Rule designate.
237	8. Have not previously held a Massage Therapy license which was revoked by, or
238	surrendered in lieu of discipline to an applicable Licensing Authority;
239	9. Have no history of any Adverse Action on any occupational or professional license
240	within two (2) years prior to the date of their application; and
241	10. Pay all required fees.
242	B. A Multistate License granted pursuant to this Compact may be effective for a definite
243	period of time concurrent with the renewal of the Home State license.

244	C. A Licensee practicing in a Member State is subject to all scope of practice laws
245	governing Massage Therapy Services in that State.
246	D. The Practice of Massage Therapy under a Multistate License granted pursuant to this
247	Compact will subject the Licensee to the jurisdiction of the Licensing Authority, the courts,
248	and the laws of the Member State in which the Massage Therapy Services are provided.
249	ARTICLE 5- AUTHORITY OF INTERSTATE MASSAGE COMPACT COMMISSION
250	AND MEMBER STATE LICENSING AUTHORITIES
251	A. Nothing in this Compact, nor any Rule of the Commission, shall be construed to limit,
252	restrict, or in any way reduce the ability of a Member State to enact and enforce laws,
253	regulations, or other rules related to the Practice of Massage Therapy in that State, where
254	those laws, regulations, or other rules are not inconsistent with the provisions of this
255	Compact.
256	B. Nothing in this Compact, nor any Rule of the Commission, shall be construed to limit,
257	restrict, or in any way reduce the ability of a Member State to take Adverse Action against
258	a Licensee's Single-State License to practice Massage Therapy in that State.
259	C. Nothing in this Compact, nor any Rule of the Commission, shall be construed to limit,
260	restrict, or in any way reduce the ability of a Remote State to take Adverse Action against
261	a Licensee's Authorization to Practice in that State.
262	D. Nothing in this Compact, nor any Rule of the Commission, shall be construed to limit,
263	restrict, or in any way reduce the ability of a Licensee's Home State to take Adverse Action
264	against a Licensee's Multistate License based upon information provided by a Remote
265	State.
266	E. Insofar as practical, a Member State's Licensing Authority shall cooperate with the
267	Commission and with each entity exercising independent regulatory authority over the
268	Practice of Massage Therapy according to the provisions of this Compact.

269	ARTICLE 6- ADVERSE ACTIONS
270	A. A Licensee's Home State shall have exclusive power to impose an Adverse Action
271	against a Licensee's Multistate License issued by the Home State.
272	B. A Home State may take Adverse Action on a Multistate License based on the
273	Investigative Information, Current Significant Investigative Information, or Adverse Action
274	of a Remote State.
275	C. A Home State shall retain authority to complete any pending investigations of a
276	Licensee practicing under a Multistate License who changes their Home State during the
277	course of such an investigation. The Licensing Authority shall also be empowered to
278	report the results of such an investigation to the Commission through the Data System as
279	described herein.
280	D. Any Member State may investigate actual or alleged violations of the scope of practice
281	laws in any other Member State for a massage therapist who holds a Multistate License.
282	E. A Remote State shall have the authority to:
283	1. Take Adverse Actions against a Licensee's Authorization to Practice;
284	2. Issue cease and desist orders or impose an Encumbrance on a Licensee's Authorization
285	to Practice in that State.
286	3. Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and
287	testimony of witnesses, as well as the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a
288	Licensing Authority in a Member State for the attendance and testimony of witnesses or
289	the production of evidence from another Member State shall be enforced in the latter
290	State by any court of competent jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure of
291	that court applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings before it. The issuing Licensing
292	Authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other fees required
293	by the service statutes of the State in which the witnesses or evidence are located.

294	4. If otherwise permitted by State law, recover from the affected Licensee the costs of
295	investigations and disposition of cases resulting from any Adverse Action taken against
296	that Licensee.
297	5. Take Adverse Action against the Licensee's Authorization to Practice in that State
298	based on the factual findings of another Member State.
299	F. If an Adverse Action is taken by the Home State against a Licensee's Multistate License
300	or Single-State License to practice in the Home State, the Licensee's Authorization to
301	Practice in all other Member States shall be deactivated until all Encumbrances have been
302	removed from such license. All Home State disciplinary orders that impose an Adverse
303	Action against a Licensee shall include a statement that the Massage Therapist's
304	Authorization to Practice is deactivated in all Member States during the pendency of the
305	order.
306	G. If Adverse Action is taken by a Remote State against a Licensee's Authorization to
307	Practice, that Adverse Action applies to all Authorizations to Practice in all Remote States.
308	A Licensee whose Authorization to Practice in a Remote State is removed for a specified
309	period of time is not eligible to apply for a new Multistate License in any other State until
310	the specific time for removal of the Authorization to Practice has passed and all
311	encumbrance requirements are satisfied.
312	H. Nothing in this Compact shall override a Member State's authority to accept a
313	Licensee's participation in an Alternative Program in lieu of Adverse Action. A Licensee's
314	Multistate License shall be suspended for the duration of the Licensee's participation in any
315	Alternative Program.
316	I. Joint Investigations
317	1. In addition to the authority granted to a Member State by its respective scope of
318	practice laws or other applicable State law, a Member State may participate with other
319	Member States in joint investigations of Licensees.

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

322 ARTICLE 7- ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY AND THEIR SPOUSES

323 Active Duty Military personnel, or their spouses, shall designate a Home State where the

- 324 individual has a current license to practice Massage Therapy in good standing. The
- 325 individual may retain their Home State designation during any period of service when that
- 326 <u>individual or their spouse is on active duty assignment.</u>

327ARTICLE 8- ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF328INTERSTATE MASSAGE COMPACT COMMISSION

329 <u>A. The Compact Member States hereby create and establish a joint government agency</u>

330 whose membership consists of all Member States that have enacted the Compact known

331 <u>as the Interstate Massage Compact Commission</u>. The Commission is an instrumentality

332 of the Compact States acting jointly and not an instrumentality of any one State. The

- 333 <u>Commission shall come into existence on or after the effective date of the Compact as set</u>
- 334 <u>forth in Article 12.</u>
- 335 B. Membership, Voting, and Meetings
- 336 <u>1. Each Member State shall have and be limited to one (1) delegate selected by that</u>
 337 Member State's State Licensing Authority.
- 338 <u>2. The delegate shall be the primary administrative officer of the State Licensing</u>
 339 Authority or their designee.
- 340 <u>3. The Commission shall by Rule or bylaw establish a term of office for delegates and</u>
 341 may by Rule or bylaw establish term limits.
- 342 <u>4. The Commission may recommend removal or suspension of any delegate from office.</u>

343	5. A Member State's State Licensing Authority shall fill any vacancy of its delegate
344	occurring on the Commission within 60 days of the vacancy.
345	6. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote on all matters that are voted on by the
346	Commission.
347	7. The Commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. Additional
348	meetings may be held as set forth in the bylaws. The Commission may meet by
349	telecommunication, video conference or other similar electronic means.
350	C. The Commission shall have the following powers:
351	1. Establish the fiscal year of the Commission;
352	2. Establish code of conduct and conflict of interest policies;
353	3. Adopt Rules and bylaws;
354	4. Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws;
355	5. Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the provisions of this Compact, the
356	Commission's Rules, and the bylaws;
357	6. Initiate and conclude legal proceedings or actions in the name of the Commission,
358	provided that the standing of any State Licensing Authority to sue or be sued under
359	applicable law shall not be affected;
360	7. Maintain and certify records and information provided to a Member State as the
361	authenticated business records of the Commission, and designate an agent to do so on the
362	Commission's behalf;
363	8. Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;
364	9. Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including, but not limited to,
365	employees of a Member State;
366	10. Conduct an annual financial review;
367	11. Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant such
368	individuals appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the Compact, and establish

369	the Commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest,
370	qualifications of personnel, and other related personnel matters;
371	12. Assess and collect fees;
372	13. Accept any and all appropriate gifts, donations, grants of money, other sources of
373	revenue, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, and receive, utilize, and dispose
374	of the same; provided that at all times the Commission shall avoid any appearance of
375	impropriety or conflict of interest;
376	14. Lease, purchase, retain, own, hold, improve, or use any property, real, personal, or
377	mixed, or any undivided interest therein;
378	15. Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose of
379	any property real, personal, or mixed;
380	16. Establish a budget and make expenditures;
381	17. Borrow money;
382	18. Appoint committees, including standing committees, composed of members, State
383	regulators, State legislators or their representatives, and consumer representatives, and
384	such other interested persons as may be designated in this Compact and the bylaws;
385	19. Accept and transmit complaints from the public, regulatory or law enforcement
386	agencies, or the Commission, to the relevant Member State(s) regarding potential
387	misconduct of Licensees;
388	20. Elect a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and such other officers of the
389	Commission as provided in the Commission's bylaws;
390	21. Establish and elect an Executive Committee, including a chair and a vice chair;
391	22. Adopt and provide to the Member States an annual report.
392	23. Determine whether a State's adopted language is materially different from the model
393	Compact language such that the State would not qualify for participation in the Compact;
394	and

395	24. Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the
396	purposes of this Compact.
397	D. The Executive Committee
398	1. The Executive Committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the Commission
399	according to the terms of this Compact. The powers, duties, and responsibilities of the
400	Executive Committee shall include:
401	a. Overseeing the day-to-day activities of the administration of the Compact including
402	compliance with the provisions of the Compact, the Commission's Rules and bylaws,
403	and other such duties as deemed necessary;
404	b. Recommending to the Commission changes to the Rules or bylaws, changes to this
405	Compact legislation, fees charged to Compact Member States, fees charged to
406	Licensees, and other fees;
407	c. Ensuring Compact administration services are appropriately provided, including by
408	<u>contract;</u>
409	d. Preparing and recommending the budget;
410	e. Maintaining financial records on behalf of the Commission;
411	f. Monitoring Compact compliance of Member States and providing compliance
412	reports to the Commission;
413	g. Establishing additional committees as necessary;
414	h. Exercise the powers and duties of the Commission during the interim between
415	Commission meetings, except for adopting or amending Rules, adopting or amending
416	bylaws, and exercising any other powers and duties expressly reserved to the
417	Commission by Rule or bylaw; and
418	i. Other duties as provided in the Rules or bylaws of the Commission.
419	2. The Executive Committee shall be composed of seven voting members and up to two
420	exofficio members as follows:

421	a. The chair and vice chair of the Commission and any other members of the
422	Commission who serve on the Executive Committee shall be voting members of the
423	Executive Committee; and
424	b. Other than the chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer, the Commission shall elect
425	three voting members from the current membership of the Commission.
426	c. The Commission may elect ex-officio, nonvoting members as necessary as follows:
427	i. One ex-officio member who is a representative of the national association of State
428	Massage Therapy regulatory boards
429	ii. One ex-officio member as specified in the Commission's bylaws.
430	3. The Commission may remove any member of the Executive Committee as provided
431	in the Commission's bylaws.
432	4. The Executive Committee shall meet at least annually.
433	a. Executive Committee meetings shall be open to the public, except that the Executive
434	Committee may meet in a closed, non-public session of a public meeting when dealing
435	with any of the matters covered under subsection F.4.
436	b. The Executive Committee shall give five business days advance notice of its public
437	meetings, posted on its website and as determined to provide notice to persons with an
438	interest in the public matters the Executive Committee intends to address at those
439	meetings.
440	5. The Executive Committee may hold an emergency meeting when acting for the
441	Commission to:
442	a. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;
443	b. Prevent a loss of Commission or Participating State funds; or
444	c. Protect public health and safety.
445	E. The Commission shall adopt and provide to the Member States an annual report.
446	F. Meetings of the Commission

447	1. All meetings of the Commission that are not closed pursuant to this subsection shall
448	be open to the public. Notice of public meetings shall be posted on the Commission's
449	website at least thirty (30) days prior to the public meeting.
450	2. Notwithstanding subsection F.1 of this Article, the Commission may convene an
451	emergency public meeting by providing at least twenty-four (24) hours prior notice on
452	the Commission's website, and any other means as provided in the Commission's Rules,
453	for any of the reasons it may dispense with notice of proposed rulemaking under Article
454	10.L. The Commission's legal counsel shall certify the that one of the reasons justifying
455	an emergency public meeting has been met.
456	3. Notice of all Commission meetings shall provide the time, date, and location of the
457	meeting, and if the meeting is to be held or accessible via telecommunication, video
458	conference, or other electronic means, the notice shall include the mechanism for access
459	to the meeting.
460	4. The Commission may convene in a closed, non-public meeting for the Commission
461	to discuss:
462	a. Non-compliance of a Member State with its obligations under the Compact;
463	b. The employment, compensation, discipline or other matters, practices or procedures
464	related to specific employees or other matters related to the Commission's internal
465	personnel practices and procedures;
466	c. Current or threatened discipline of a Licensee by the Commission or by a Member
467	State's Licensing Authority;
468	d. Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation;
469	e. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or sale of goods, services, or real
470	estate;
471	f. Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;
472	g. Trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or
473	confidential;

474	h. Information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly
475	unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
476	i. Investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes;
477	j. Information related to any investigative reports prepared by or on behalf of or for use
478	of the Commission or other committee charged with responsibility of investigation or
479	determination of compliance issues pursuant to the Compact;
480	k. Legal advice;
481	1. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure to the public by federal or Member
482	State law; or
483	m. Other matters as promulgated by the Commission by Rule.
484	5. If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed, the presiding officer shall state that the
485	meeting will be closed and reference each relevant exempting provision, and such
486	reference shall be recorded in the minutes.
487	6. The Commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters
488	discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken,
489	and the reasons therefore, including a description of the views expressed. All documents
490	considered in connection with an action shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes
491	and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release only by a
492	majority vote of the Commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.
493	G. Financing of the Commission
494	1. The Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable expenses of
495	its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.
496	2. The Commission may accept any and all appropriate sources of revenue, donations,
497	and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services.
498	3. The Commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each Member
499	State and impose fees on Licensees of Member States to whom it grants a Multistate
500	License to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the Commission and its staff,

501	which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved each
502	year for which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual
503	assessment amount for Member States shall be allocated based upon a formula that the
504	Commission shall promulgate by Rule.
505	4. The Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds
506	adequate to meet the same; nor shall the Commission pledge the credit of any Member
507	States, except by and with the authority of the Member State.
508	5. The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The
509	receipts and disbursements of the Commission shall be subject to the financial review and
510	accounting procedures established under its bylaws. All receipts and disbursements of
511	funds handled by the Commission shall be subject to an annual financial review by a
512	certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the financial review shall be
513	included in and become part of the annual report of the Commission.
514	H. Qualified Immunity, Defense, and Indemnification
515	1. The members, officers, executive director, employees and representatives of the
516	Commission shall be immune from suit and liability, both personally and in their official
517	capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil
518	liability caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that
519	occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for
520	believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties or
521	responsibilities; provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to protect any
522	such person from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the
523	intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person. The procurement of insurance
524	of any type by the Commission shall not in any way compromise or limit the immunity
525	granted hereunder.
526	2. The Commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director, employee, and
527	representative of the Commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising

out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of
Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or as determined by the Commission
that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing
occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities;
provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit that person from retaining their
own counsel at their own expense; and provided further, that the actual or alleged act,
error, or omission did not result from that person's intentional or willful or wanton
misconduct.
3. The Commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer, executive
director, employee, and representative of the Commission for the amount of any
settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged
act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties,
or responsibilities, or that such person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred
within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that
the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from the intentional or willful
or wanton misconduct of that person.
4. Nothing herein shall be construed as a limitation on the liability of any Licensee for
professional malpractice or misconduct, which shall be governed solely by any other
applicable State laws.
5. Nothing in this Compact shall be interpreted to waive or otherwise abrogate a Member
State's State action immunity or State action affirmative defense with respect to antitrust
claims under the Sherman Act, Clayton Act, or any other State or federal antitrust or
anticompetitive law or regulation.
6. Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity by
the Member States or by the Commission.

553	ARTICLE 9- DATA SYSTEM
554	A. The Commission shall provide for the development, maintenance, operation, and
555	utilization of a coordinated database and reporting system.
556	B. The Commission shall assign each applicant for a Multistate License a unique
557	identifier, as determined by the Rules of the Commission.
558	C. Notwithstanding any other provision of State law to the contrary, a Member State shall
559	submit a uniform data set to the Data System on all individuals to whom this Compact is
560	applicable as required by the Rules of the Commission, including:
561	1. Identifying information;
562	2. Licensure data;
563	3. Adverse Actions against a license and information related thereto;
564	4. Non-confidential information related to Alternative Program participation, the
565	beginning and ending dates of such participation, and other information related to such
566	participation;
567	5. Any denial of application for licensure, and the reason(s) for such denial (excluding
568	the reporting of any criminal history record information where prohibited by law);
569	6. The existence of Investigative Information;
570	7. The existence presence of Current Significant Investigative Information; and
571	8. Other information that may facilitate the administration of this Compact or the
572	protection of the public, as determined by the Rules of the Commission.
573	D. The records and information provided to a Member State pursuant to this Compact or
574	through the Data System, when certified by the Commission or an agent thereof, shall
575	constitute the authenticated business records of the Commission, and shall be entitled to
576	any associated hearsay exception in any relevant judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative
577	nnoocodings in a Mamhan State

577 proceedings in a Member State.

578	E. The existence of Current Significant Investigative Information and the existence of
579	Investigative Information pertaining to a Licensee in any Member State will only be
580	available to other Member States.
581	F. It is the responsibility of the Member States to report any Adverse Action against a
582	Licensee who holds a Multistate License and to monitor the database to determine whether
583	Adverse Action has been taken against such a Licensee or License applicant. Adverse
584	Action information pertaining to a Licensee or License applicant in any Member State will
585	be available to any other Member State.
586	G. Member States contributing information to the Data System may designate information
587	that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of the contributing
588	State.
589	H. Any information submitted to the Data System that is subsequently expunged pursuant
590	to federal law or the laws of the Member State contributing the information shall be
591	removed from the Data System.
592	ARTICLE 10- RULEMAKING
593	A. The Commission shall promulgate reasonable Rules in order to effectively and
594	efficiently implement and administer the purposes and provisions of the Compact. A Rule
595	shall be invalid and have no force or effect only if a court of competent jurisdiction holds
596	that the Rule is invalid because the Commission exercised its rulemaking authority in a
597	manner that is beyond the scope and purposes of the Compact, or the powers granted
598	hereunder, or based upon another applicable standard of review.
599	B. The Rules of the Commission shall have the force of law in each Member State,
600	provided however that where the Rules of the Commission conflict with the laws of the
601	Member State that establish the Member State's scope of practice as held by a court of
602	competent jurisdiction, the Rules of the Commission shall be ineffective in that State to the

604	C. The Commission shall exercise its Rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set forth
605	in this article and the Rules adopted thereunder. Rules shall become binding as of the date
606	specified by the Commission for each Rule.
607	D. If a majority of the legislatures of the Member States rejects a Rule or portion of a Rule,
608	by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the Compact
609	within four (4) years of the date of adoption of the Rule, then such Rule shall have no
610	further force and effect in any Member State or to any State applying to participate in the
611	Compact.
612	E. Rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the Commission.
613	F. Prior to adoption of a proposed Rule, the Commission shall hold a public hearing and
614	allow persons to provide oral and written comments, data, facts, opinions, and arguments.
615	G. Prior to adoption of a proposed Rule by the Commission, and at least thirty (30) days
616	in advance of the meeting at which the Commission will hold a public hearing on the
617	proposed Rule, the Commission shall provide a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:
618	1. On the website of the Commission or other publicly accessible platform;
619	2. To persons who have requested notice of the Commission's notices of proposed
620	rulemaking, and
621	3. In such other way(s) as the Commission may by Rule specify.
622	H. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking shall include:
623	1. The time, date, and location of the public hearing at which the Commission will hear
624	public comments on the proposed Rule and, if different, the time, date, and location of
625	the meeting where the Commission will consider and vote on the proposed Rule;
626	2. If the hearing is held via telecommunication, video conference, or other electronic
627	means, the Commission shall include the mechanism for access to the hearing in the
628	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:
629	3. The text of the proposed Rule and the reason therefor;
630	4. A request for comments on the proposed Rule from any interested person; and

631	5. The manner in which interested persons may submit written comments.
632	I. All hearings will be recorded. A copy of the recording and all written comments and
633	documents received by the Commission in response to the proposed Rule shall be available
634	to the public.
635	J. Nothing in this article shall be construed as requiring a separate hearing on each Rule.
636	Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the Commission at hearings required by this
637	article.
638	K. The Commission shall, by majority vote of all Commissioners, take final action on the
639	proposed Rule based on the Rulemaking record.
640	1. The Commission may adopt changes to the proposed Rule provided the changes do
641	not enlarge the original purpose of the proposed Rule.
642	2. The Commission shall provide an explanation of the reasons for substantive changes
643	made to the proposed Rule as well as reasons for substantive changes not made that were
644	recommended by commenters.
645	3. The Commission shall determine a reasonable effective date for the Rule. Except for
646	an emergency as provided in subsection L of this article, the effective date of the Rule
647	shall be no sooner than thirty (30) days after the Commission issuing the notice that it
648	adopted or amended the Rule.
649	L. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the Commission may consider and adopt
650	an emergency Rule with 24 hours notice, provided that the usual Rulemaking procedures
651	provided in the Compact and in this article shall be retroactively applied to the Rule as
652	soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than ninety (90) days after the effective date
653	of the Rule. For the purposes of this provision, an emergency Rule is one that must be
654	adopted immediately to:
655	1. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;
(5)	

656 <u>2. Prevent a loss of Commission or Member State funds;</u>

657	3. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of a Rule that is established by federal law or
658	<u>rule; or</u>
659	4. Protect public health and safety.
660	M. The Commission or an authorized committee of the Commission may direct revisions
661	to a previously adopted Rule for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in
662	format, errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall
663	be posted on the website of the Commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by
664	any person for a period of thirty (30) days after posting. The revision may be challenged
665	only on grounds that the revision results in a material change to a Rule. A challenge shall
666	be made in writing and delivered to the Commission prior to the end of the notice period.
667	If no challenge is made, the revision will take effect without further action. If the revision
668	is challenged, the revision may not take effect without the approval of the Commission.
669	N. No Member State's rulemaking requirements shall apply under this Compact.
670	ARTICLE 11- OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AND ENFORCEMENT
671	A. Oversight
672	1. The executive and judicial branches of State government in each Member State shall
673	enforce this Compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to implement the
674	Compact.
675	2. Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the Commission shall be
676	brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal
677	office of the Commission is located. The Commission may waive venue and
678	jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to participate in alternative
679	dispute resolution proceedings. Nothing herein shall affect or limit the selection or
680	propriety of venue in any action against a Licensee for professional malpractice,
681	misconduct or any such similar matter.

682	3. The Commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any proceeding
683	regarding the enforcement or interpretation of the Compact and shall have standing to
684	intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide the Commission
685	service of process shall render a judgment or order void as to the Commission, this
686	Compact, or promulgated Rules.
687	B. Default, Technical Assistance, and Termination
688	1. If the Commission determines that a Member State has defaulted in the performance
689	of its obligations or responsibilities under this Compact or the promulgated Rules, the
690	Commission shall provide written notice to the defaulting State. The notice of default
691	shall describe the default, the proposed means of curing the default, and any other action
692	that the Commission may take, and shall offer training and specific technical assistance
693	regarding the default.
694	2. The Commission shall provide a copy of the notice of default to the other Member
695	States.
696	C. If a State in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting State may be terminated from
697	the Compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates of the Member States,
698	and all rights, privileges and benefits conferred on that State by this Compact may be
699	terminated on the effective date of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the
700	offending State of obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of default.
701	D. Termination of membership in the Compact shall be imposed only after all other means
702	of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall
703	be given by the Commission to the governor, the majority and minority leaders of the
704	defaulting State's legislature, the defaulting State's State Licensing Authority and each of
705	the Member States' State Licensing Authority.
706	E. A State that has been terminated is responsible for all assessments, obligations, and
707	liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination, including obligations that
708	extend beyond the effective date of termination.

709	F. Upon the termination of a State's membership from this Compact, that State shall
710	immediately provide notice to all Licensees who hold a Multistate License within that State
711	of such termination. The terminated State shall continue to recognize all licenses granted
712	pursuant to this Compact for a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days after the date
713	of said notice of termination.
714	G. The Commission shall not bear any costs related to a State that is found to be in default
715	or that has been terminated from the Compact, unless agreed upon in writing between the
716	Commission and the defaulting State.
717	H. The defaulting State may appeal the action of the Commission by petitioning the U.S.
718	District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has
719	its principal offices. The prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation,
720	including reasonable attorney's fees.
721	I. Dispute Resolution
722	1. Upon request by a Member State, the Commission shall attempt to resolve disputes
723	related to the Compact that arise among Member States and between Member and
724	non-Member States.
725	2. The Commission shall promulgate a Rule providing for both mediation and binding
726	dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.
727	J. Enforcement
728	1. The Commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the
729	provisions of this Compact and the Commission's Rules.
730	2. By majority vote as provided by Commission Rule, the Commission may initiate legal
731	action against a Member State in default in the United States District Court for the
732	District of Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has its principal offices
733	to enforce compliance with the provisions of the Compact and its promulgated Rules.
734	The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial
735	enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such

736	litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees. The remedies herein shall not be the
737	exclusive remedies of the Commission. The Commission may pursue any other remedies
738	available under federal or the defaulting Member State's law.

- 739 <u>3. A Member State may initiate legal action against the Commission in the U.S. District</u>
- 740 <u>Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has its</u>
- 741 principal offices to enforce compliance with the provisions of the Compact and its
- 742 promulgated Rules. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages.
- 743 <u>In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall be awarded all</u>
 744 costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.
- 745 <u>4. No individual or entity other than a Member State may enforce this Compact against</u>
- 746 <u>the Commission.</u>

747 ARTICLE 12- 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 Member State.
- 750 <u>1. On or after the effective date of the Compact, the Commission shall convene and</u>
 751 review the enactment of each of the Charter Member States to determine if the statute
 752 enacted by each such Charter Member State is materially different than the model
 753 Compact statute.
- 754 <u>a. A Charter Member State whose enactment is found to be materially different from</u>
 755 <u>the model Compact statute shall be entitled to the default process set forth in Article 11.</u>
- 756 b. If any Member State is later found to be in default, or is terminated or withdraws
- 757 from the Compact, the Commission shall remain in existence and the Compact shall
- 758 remain in effect even if the number of Member States should be less than seven (7).
- 759 <u>2. Member States enacting the Compact subsequent to the Charter Member States shall</u>
- 760 <u>be subject to the process set forth in Article 8.C.23 to determine if their enactments are</u>

761	materially different from the model Compact statute and whether they qualify for
762	participation in the Compact.
763	3. All actions taken for the benefit of the Commission or in furtherance of the purposes
764	of the administration of the Compact prior to the effective date of the Compact or the
765	Commission coming into existence shall be considered to be actions of the Commission
766	unless specifically repudiated by the Commission.
767	4. Any State that joins the Compact shall be subject to the Commission's Rules and
768	by laws as they exist on the date on which the Compact becomes law in that State. Any
769	Rule that has been previously adopted by the Commission shall have the full force and
770	effect of law on the day the Compact becomes law in that State.
771	B. Any Member State may withdraw from this Compact by enacting a statute repealing
772	that State's enactment of the Compact.
773	1. A Member State's withdrawal shall not take effect until one hundred eighty (180) days
774	after enactment of the repealing statute.
775	2. Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing State's
776	Licensing Authority to comply with the investigative and Adverse Action reporting
777	requirements of this Compact prior to the effective date of withdrawal.
778	3. Upon the enactment of a statute withdrawing from this Compact, a State shall
779	immediately provide notice of such withdrawal to all Licensees within that State.
780	Notwithstanding any subsequent statutory enactment to the contrary, such withdrawing
781	State shall continue to recognize all licenses granted pursuant to this Compact for a
782	minimum of 180 days after the date of such notice of withdrawal.
783	C. Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any
784	licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a Member State and a
785	non-Member State that does not conflict with the provisions of this Compact.

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

789 **ARTICLE 13- CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY** 790 A. This Compact and the Commission's rulemaking authority shall be liberally construed 791 so as to effectuate the purposes, and the implementation and administration of the 792 Compact. Provisions of the Compact expressly authorizing or requiring the promulgation 793 of Rules shall not be construed to limit the Commission's rulemaking authority solely for 794 those purposes. 795 B. The provisions of this Compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence 796 or provision of this Compact is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to 797 the constitution of any Member State, a State seeking participation in the Compact, or of 798 the United States, or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or 799 circumstance is held to be unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity 800 of the remainder of this Compact and the applicability thereof to any other government, 801 agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. 802 C. Notwithstanding subsection B of this article, the Commission may deny a State's 803 participation in the Compact or, in accordance with the requirements of Article 11.B, 804 terminate a Member State's participation in the Compact, if it determines that a 805 constitutional requirement of a Member State is a material departure from the Compact. 806 Otherwise, if this Compact shall be held to be contrary to the constitution of any Member 807 State, the Compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining Member States 808 and in full force and effect as to the Member State affected as to all severable matters.

809 <u>ARTICLE 14- CONSISTENT EFFECT AND</u>

- 810 <u>CONFLICT WITH OTHER STATE LAWS</u>
- 811 Nothing herein shall prevent or inhibit the enforcement of any other law of a Member State
- 812 that is not inconsistent with the Compact.
- 813 Any laws, statutes, regulations, or other legal requirements in a Member State in conflict
- 814 with the Compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.
- 815 <u>All permissible agreements between the Commission and the Member States are binding</u>
- 816 <u>in accordance with their terms.'</u>"
- 817 **SECTION 4.**
- 818 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.