

HOUSE BILL 12

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSURE; ENACTING THE PHYSICAL THERAPY LICENSURE  
COMPACT; AMENDING THE PHYSICAL THERAPY ACT TO PROVIDE FOR STATE  
AND FEDERAL CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] PHYSICAL THERAPY LICENSURE  
COMPACT ENTERED INTO.--The Physical Therapy Licensure Compact  
is entered into law and entered into with all other  
jurisdictions legally joining therein in a form substantially  
as follows:

"PHYSICAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT

ARTICLE 1 - Purpose

The purpose of the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact is  
to facilitate interstate practice of physical therapy with the  
goal of improving public access to physical therapy services.

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1 The practice of physical therapy occurs in the state where the  
2 patient or client is located at the time of the patient or  
3 client encounter. The compact preserves the regulatory  
4 authority of states to protect public health and safety through  
5 the current system of state licensure. This compact is  
6 designed to achieve the following objectives:

7 A. increase public access to physical therapy  
8 services by providing for the mutual recognition of other  
9 member state licenses;

10 B. enhance the states' ability to protect public  
11 health and safety;

12 C. encourage the cooperation of member states in  
13 regulating multistate physical therapy practice;

14 D. support spouses of relocating military members;

15 E. enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative  
16 and disciplinary information between member states; and

17 F. allow a remote state to hold a provider of  
18 services with a compact privilege in that state accountable to  
19 that state's practice standards.

## 20 ARTICLE 2 - Definitions

21 As used in the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, and  
22 except as otherwise provided, the following definitions shall  
23 apply:

24 A. "active duty military" means full-time duty  
25 status in the active uniformed service of the United States,

1 including members of the national guard and reserve on active  
2 duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Chapters 1209 and 1211;

3 B. "adverse action" means disciplinary action taken  
4 by a physical therapy licensing board based on misconduct,  
5 unacceptable performance or a combination of both;

6 C. "alternative program" means a nondisciplinary  
7 monitoring or practice remediation process approved by a  
8 physical therapy licensing board. This includes, but is not  
9 limited to, substance abuse issues;

10 D. "compact privilege" means the authorization  
11 granted by a remote state to allow a licensee from another  
12 member state to practice as a physical therapist or work as a  
13 physical therapist assistant in the remote state under its laws  
14 and rules. The practice of physical therapy occurs in the  
15 member state where the patient or client is located at the time  
16 of the patient or client encounter;

17 E. "continuing competence" means a requirement, as  
18 a condition of license renewal, to provide evidence of  
19 participation in, or completion of, educational and  
20 professional activities relevant to practice or area of work;

21 F. "data system" means a repository of information  
22 about licensees, including examination, licensure,  
23 investigative, compact privilege and adverse action;

24 G. "encumbered license" means a license that a  
25 physical therapy licensing board has limited in any way;

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1           H. "executive board" means a group of directors  
2 elected or appointed to act on behalf of, and within the powers  
3 granted to them by, the commission;

4           I. "home state" means the member state that is the  
5 licensee's primary state of residence;

6           J. "investigative information" means information,  
7 records and documents received or generated by a physical  
8 therapy licensing board pursuant to an investigation;

9           K. "jurisprudence requirement" means the assessment  
10 of an individual's knowledge of the laws and rules governing  
11 the practice of physical therapy in a state;

12           L. "licensee" means an individual who currently  
13 holds an authorization from the state to practice as a physical  
14 therapist or to work as a physical therapist assistant;

15           M. "member state" means a state that has enacted  
16 the compact;

17           N. "party state" means any member state in which a  
18 licensee holds a current license or compact privilege or is  
19 applying for a license or compact privilege;

20           O. "physical therapist" means an individual who is  
21 licensed by a state to practice physical therapy;

22           P. "physical therapist assistant" means an  
23 individual who is licensed or certified by a state and who  
24 assists the physical therapist in selected components of  
25 physical therapy;

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1 Q. "physical therapy", "physical therapy practice"  
2 or "the practice of physical therapy" means the care and  
3 services provided by or under the direction and supervision of  
4 a licensed physical therapist;

5 R. "physical therapy compact commission", "compact  
6 commission" or "commission" means the national administrative  
7 body whose membership consists of all states that have enacted  
8 the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact;

9 S. "physical therapy licensing board" or "licensing  
10 board" means the agency of a state that is responsible for the  
11 licensing and regulation of physical therapists and physical  
12 therapist assistants;

13 T. "remote state" means a member state other than  
14 the home state in which a licensee is exercising or seeking to  
15 exercise the compact privilege;

16 U. "rule" means a regulation, principle or  
17 directive promulgated by the commission that has the force of  
18 law; and

19 V. "state" means any state, commonwealth, district  
20 or territory of the United States of America that regulates the  
21 practice of physical therapy.

22 ARTICLE 3 - State Participation in Compact

23 A. To participate in the Physical Therapy Licensure  
24 Compact, a state must:

25 (1) participate fully in the commission's data

1 system, including using the commission's unique identifier as  
2 defined in rules;

3 (2) have a mechanism in place for receiving  
4 and investigating complaints about licensees;

5 (3) notify the commission, in compliance with  
6 the terms of the compact and rules, of any adverse action or  
7 the availability of investigative information regarding a  
8 licensee;

9 (4) fully implement a criminal background  
10 check requirement, within a time frame established by rule, by  
11 receiving the results of the federal bureau of investigation  
12 record search on criminal background checks and using the  
13 results in making licensure decisions in accordance with  
14 Subsection B of this article;

15 (5) comply with the rules of the commission;

16 (6) use a recognized national examination as a  
17 requirement for licensure pursuant to the rules of the  
18 commission; and

19 (7) have continuing competence requirements as  
20 a condition for license renewal.

21 B. Upon adoption of this compact, the member state  
22 shall have the authority to obtain biometric-based information  
23 from each physical therapy licensure applicant and submit this  
24 information to the federal bureau of investigation for a  
25 criminal background check in accordance with 28 U.S.C. Section

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1 534 and 42 U.S.C. Section 14616.

2 C. A member state shall grant the compact privilege  
3 to a licensee holding a valid unencumbered license in another  
4 member state in accordance with the terms of the compact and  
5 rules.

6 D. Member states may charge a fee for granting a  
7 compact privilege.

8 ARTICLE 4 - Compact Privilege

9 A. To exercise the compact privilege under the  
10 terms and provisions of the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact,  
11 the licensee shall:

12 (1) hold a license in the home state;  
13 (2) have no encumbrance on any state license;  
14 (3) be eligible for a compact privilege in any  
15 member state in accordance with Subsections D, G and H of this  
16 article;

17 (4) have not had any adverse action against  
18 any license or compact privilege within the previous two years;

19 (5) notify the commission that the licensee is  
20 seeking the compact privilege within a remote state;

21 (6) pay applicable fees, including any state  
22 fee, for the compact privilege;

23 (7) meet jurisprudence requirements  
24 established by the remote states in which the licensee is  
25 seeking a compact privilege; and

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1 (8) report to the commission adverse action  
2 taken by a nonmember state within thirty days from the date the  
3 adverse action is taken.

4 B. The compact privilege is valid until the  
5 expiration date of the home license. The licensee must comply  
6 with the requirements of Subsection A of this article to  
7 maintain the compact privilege in the remote state.

8 C. A licensee providing physical therapy in a  
9 remote state under the compact privilege shall function within  
10 the laws and rules of the remote state.

11 D. A licensee providing physical therapy in a  
12 remote state is subject to that state's regulatory authority.  
13 A remote state may, in accordance with due process and that  
14 state's laws, remove a licensee's compact privilege in the  
15 remote state for a specific period of time, impose fines or  
16 take any other necessary actions to protect the health and  
17 safety of its citizens. The licensee is not eligible for a  
18 compact privilege in a member state until the specific time for  
19 removal has passed and all fines are paid.

20 E. If a home state license is encumbered, the  
21 licensee shall lose the compact privilege in any remote state  
22 until the following occur:

23 (1) the home state license is no longer  
24 encumbered; and

25 (2) two years have elapsed from the date of



1 the adverse action.

2 F. Once an encumbered license in the home state is  
3 restored to good standing, the licensee must meet the  
4 requirements of Subsection A of this article to obtain a  
5 compact privilege in any remote state.

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

9 (1) the specific period of time for which the  
10 compact privilege was removed has ended;

11 (2) all fines have been paid; and

12 (3) two years have elapsed from the date of  
13 the adverse action.

14 H. Once the requirements of Subsection G of this  
15 article have been met, the licensee must meet the requirements  
16 in Subsection A of this article to obtain a compact privilege  
17 in a remote state.

18 ARTICLE 5 - Active Duty Military Personnel or Their Spouses

19 A licensee who is active duty military or is the spouse of  
20 an individual who is active duty military may designate one of  
21 the following as the home state:

22 A. home of record;

23 B. permanent change of station; or

24 C. state of current residence if it is different  
25 than the permanent change of station state or home of record.

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1 ARTICLE 6 - Adverse Actions

2 A. A home state shall have exclusive power to  
3 impose adverse action against a license issued by the home  
4 state.

5 B. A home state may take adverse action based on  
6 the investigative information of a remote state so long as the  
7 home state follows its own procedures for imposing adverse  
8 action.

9 C. Nothing in the Physical Therapy Licensure  
10 Compact shall override a member state's decision that  
11 participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of  
12 adverse action and that such participation shall remain  
13 nonpublic if required by the member state's laws. Member  
14 states must require licensees who enter any alternative  
15 programs in lieu of discipline to agree not to practice in any  
16 other member state during the term of the alternative program  
17 without prior authorization from such other member state.

18 D. Any member state may investigate actual or  
19 alleged violations of the statutes and rules authorizing the  
20 practice of physical therapy in any other member state in which  
21 a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant holds a  
22 license or compact privilege.

23 E. A remote state shall have the authority to:

24 (1) take adverse actions as set forth in  
25 Subsection D of Article 4 of the Physical Therapy Licensure

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1 Compact against a licensee's compact privilege in the state;

2 (2) issue subpoenas for both hearings and  
3 investigations that require the attendance and testimony of  
4 witnesses and the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by  
5 a physical therapy licensing board in a party state for the  
6 attendance and testimony of witnesses, or the production of  
7 evidence from another party state, shall be enforced in the  
8 latter state by any court of competent jurisdiction, according  
9 to the practice and procedure of that court applicable to  
10 subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before it. The issuing  
11 authority shall pay witness fees, travel expenses, mileage and  
12 other fees required by the service statutes of the state where  
13 the witnesses or evidence are located; and

14 (3) if otherwise permitted by state law,  
15 recover from the licensee the costs of investigations and  
16 disposition of cases resulting from any adverse action taken  
17 against that licensee.

18 F. Joint Investigations

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

23 (2) Member states shall share investigative,  
24 litigation or compliance materials in furtherance of any joint  
25 or individual investigation initiated under the compact.

## ARTICLE 7 - Establishment of the Physical Therapy Compact

Commission

A. The compact member states hereby create and establish a joint public agency known as the "physical therapy compact commission".

(1) The commission is an instrumentality of the compact states.

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

(3) Nothing in the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity.

## B. Membership, Voting and Meetings

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

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

(3) Any delegate may be removed or suspended

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1 from office as provided by the law of the state from which the  
2 delegate is appointed.

3 (4) The member state board shall fill any  
4 vacancy occurring in the commission.

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

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

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

16 C. The commission shall have the following powers  
17 and duties:

18 (1) establish the fiscal year of the  
19 commission;

20 (2) establish bylaws;

21 (3) maintain the commission's financial  
22 records in accordance with the bylaws;

23 (4) meet and take such actions as are  
24 consistent with the provisions of this compact and the bylaws;

25 (5) promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and

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1 coordinate implementation and administration of this compact.  
2 The rules shall have the force and effect of law and shall be  
3 binding in all member states;

4 (6) bring and prosecute legal proceedings or  
5 actions in the name of the commission; provided that the  
6 standing of any state physical therapy licensing board to sue  
7 or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected;

8 (7) purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

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

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

18 (10) accept appropriate donations and grants  
19 of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services and  
20 receive, use and dispose of the same; provided that at all  
21 times the commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety  
22 or conflict of interest;

23 (11) lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts  
24 or donations of, or otherwise own, hold, improve or use, any  
25 property, real, personal or mixed; provided that at all times

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1 the commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety;

2 (12) sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease,  
3 exchange, abandon or otherwise dispose of property real,  
4 personal or mixed;

5 (13) establish a budget and make expenditures;

6 (14) borrow money;

7 (15) appoint committees, including standing  
8 committees composed of members, state regulators, state  
9 legislators or their representatives and consumer  
10 representatives and such other interested persons as may be  
11 designated in this compact and the bylaws;

12 (16) provide and receive information from, and  
13 cooperate with, law enforcement agencies;

14 (17) establish and elect an executive board;  
15 and

16 (18) perform such other functions as may be  
17 necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this  
18 compact consistent with the state regulation of physical  
19 therapy licensure and practice.

20 D. The Executive Board

21 The executive board shall have the power to act on behalf  
22 of the commission according to the terms of this compact.

23 (1) The executive board shall be composed of  
24 nine members:

25 (a) seven voting members who are elected

1 by the commission from the current membership of the  
2 commission;

3 (b) one ex-officio, nonvoting member  
4 from the recognized national physical therapy professional  
5 association; and

6 (c) one ex-officio, nonvoting member  
7 from the recognized membership organization of the physical  
8 therapy licensing boards.

9 (2) The ex-officio members will be selected by  
10 their respective organizations.

11 (3) The commission may remove a member of the  
12 executive board as provided in bylaws.

13 (4) The executive board shall meet at least  
14 annually.

15 (5) The executive board shall have the  
16 following duties and responsibilities:

17 (a) recommend to the entire commission  
18 changes to the rules or bylaws, changes to this compact  
19 legislation, fees paid by compact member states such as annual  
20 dues and any commission compact fee charged to licensees for  
21 the compact privilege;

22 (b) ensure that compact administration  
23 services are appropriately provided, contractual or otherwise;

24 (c) prepare and recommend the budget;

25 (d) maintain financial records on behalf



1 of the commission;

2 (e) monitor compact compliance of member  
3 states and provide compliance reports to the commission;

4 (f) establish additional committees as  
5 necessary; and

6 (g) perform other duties as provided in  
7 rules or bylaws.

8 E. Meetings of the Commission

9 (1) All meetings shall be open to the public,  
10 and public notice of meetings shall be given in the same manner  
11 as required under the rulemaking provisions in Article 9 of the  
12 Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.

13 (2) The commission or the executive board or  
14 other committees of the commission may convene in a closed,  
15 nonpublic meeting if the commission or executive board or other  
16 committees of the commission must discuss:

17 (a) noncompliance of a member state with  
18 its obligations under the compact;

19 (b) the employment, compensation,  
20 discipline or other matters, practices or procedures related to  
21 specific employees or other matters related to the commission's  
22 internal personnel practices and procedures;

23 (c) current, threatened or reasonably  
24 anticipated litigation;

25 (d) negotiation of contracts for the

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1 purchase, lease or sale of goods, services or real estate;

2 (e) accusation of any person of a crime  
3 or formally censuring any person;

4 (f) disclosure of trade secrets or  
5 commercial or financial information that is privileged or  
6 confidential;

7 (g) disclosure of information of a  
8 personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly  
9 unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

10 (h) disclosure of investigative records  
11 compiled for law enforcement purposes;

12 (i) disclosure of information related to  
13 any investigative reports prepared by or on behalf of or for  
14 use of the commission or other committee charged with  
15 responsibility of investigation or determination of compliance  
16 issues pursuant to the compact; or

17 (j) matters specifically exempted from  
18 disclosure by federal or member state statute.

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

23 (4) The commission shall keep minutes that  
24 fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting  
25 and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken,

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1 and the reasons therefore, including a description of the views  
2 expressed. All documents considered in connection with an  
3 action shall be identified in the minutes. All minutes and  
4 documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject  
5 to release by a majority vote of the commission or order of a  
6 court of competent jurisdiction.

7 F. Financing of the Commission

8 (1) The commission shall pay or provide for  
9 the payment of the reasonable expenses of its establishment,  
10 organization and ongoing activities.

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

14 (3) The commission may levy and collect an  
15 annual assessment from each member state or impose fees on  
16 other parties to cover the cost of the operations and  
17 activities of the commission and its staff, which must be in a  
18 total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved  
19 each year for which revenue is not provided by other sources.  
20 The aggregate annual assessment amount shall be allocated based  
21 upon a formula to be determined by the commission, which shall  
22 promulgate a rule binding upon all member states.

23 (4) The commission shall not incur obligations  
24 of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the  
25 same; nor shall the commission pledge the credit of any of the

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1 member states, except by and with the authority of the member  
2 state.

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

12 G. Qualified Immunity, Defense and Indemnification

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

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1                   (2) The commission shall defend any member,  
2 officer, executive director, employee or representative of the  
3 commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability  
4 arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission  
5 that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties  
6 or responsibilities or that the person against whom the claim  
7 is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within  
8 the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities;  
9 provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to  
10 prohibit that person from retaining that person's own counsel;  
11 and provided further that the actual or alleged act, error or  
12 omission did not result from that person's intentional or  
13 willful or wanton misconduct.

14                   (3) The commission shall indemnify and hold  
15 harmless any member, officer, executive director, employee or  
16 representative of the commission for the amount of any  
17 settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out  
18 of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred  
19 within the scope of commission employment, duties or  
20 responsibilities or that such person had a reasonable basis for  
21 believing occurred within the scope of commission employment,  
22 duties or responsibilities; provided that the actual or alleged  
23 act, error or omission did not result from the intentional or  
24 willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

25                   ARTICLE 8 - Data System

1           A. The commission shall provide for the  
2     development, maintenance and use of a coordinated database and  
3     reporting system containing licensure, adverse action and  
4     investigative information on all licensed individuals in member  
5     states.

6           B. Notwithstanding any other provision of state law  
7     to the contrary, a member state shall submit a uniform data set  
8     to the data system on all individuals to whom the Physical  
9     Therapy Licensure Compact is applicable as required by the  
10    rules of the commission, including:

- 11                   (1) identifying information;  
12                   (2) licensure data;  
13                   (3) adverse actions against a license or  
14    compact privilege;  
15                   (4) non-confidential information related to  
16    alternative program participation;  
17                   (5) any denial of application for licensure  
18    and the reasons for such denial; and  
19                   (6) other information that may facilitate the  
20    administration of this compact, as determined by the rules of  
21    the commission.

22           C. Investigative information pertaining to a  
23    licensee in any member state shall be available only to other  
24    party states.

25           D. The commission shall promptly notify all member

1 states of any adverse action taken against a licensee or an  
2 individual applying for a license. Adverse action information  
3 pertaining to a licensee in any member state shall be available  
4 to any other member state.

5 E. Member states contributing information to the  
6 data system may designate information that may not be shared  
7 with the public without the express permission of the  
8 contributing state.

9 F. Any information submitted to the data system  
10 that is subsequently required to be expunged by the laws of the  
11 member state contributing the information shall be removed from  
12 the data system.

#### 13 ARTICLE 9 - Rulemaking

14 A. The commission shall exercise its rulemaking  
15 powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this article and  
16 the rules adopted pursuant to the Physical Therapy Licensure  
17 Compact. Rules and amendments shall become binding as of the  
18 date specified in each rule or amendment.

19 B. If a majority of the legislatures of the member  
20 states rejects a rule, by enactment of a statute or resolution  
21 in the same manner used to adopt the compact within four years  
22 of the date of adoption of the rule, then such rule shall have  
23 no further force and effect in any member state.

24 C. Rules or amendments to the rules shall be  
25 adopted at a regular or special meeting of the commission.

1           D. Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final  
2 rule or rules by the commission, and at least thirty days in  
3 advance of the meeting at which the rule will be considered and  
4 voted upon, the commission shall file a notice of proposed  
5 rulemaking on the websites of:

6                   (1) the commission or other publicly  
7 accessible platform; and

8                   (2) each member state physical therapy  
9 licensing board or other publicly accessible platform or the  
10 publication in which each state would otherwise publish  
11 proposed rules.

12           E. The notice of proposed rulemaking shall include:

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

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

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

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

23           F. Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the  
24 commission shall allow persons to submit written data, facts,  
25 opinions and arguments that shall be made available to the

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1 public.

2 G. The commission shall grant an opportunity for a  
3 public hearing before it adopts a rule or amendment if a  
4 hearing is requested by:

5 (1) at least twenty-five persons;

6 (2) a state or federal governmental  
7 subdivision or agency; or

8 (3) an association having at least twenty-five  
9 members.

10 H. If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or  
11 amendment, the commission shall publish the place, time and  
12 date of the scheduled public hearing. If the hearing is held  
13 via electronic means, the commission shall publish the  
14 mechanism for access to the electronic hearing.

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

20 (2) Hearings shall be conducted in a manner  
21 that provides each person who wishes to comment a fair and  
22 reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in writing.

23 (3) All hearings shall be recorded. A copy of  
24 the recording shall be made available on request.

25 (4) Nothing in this article shall be construed

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1 as requiring a separate hearing on each rule. Rules may be  
2 grouped for the convenience of the commission at hearings  
3 required by this article.

4 I. Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the  
5 close of business on the scheduled hearing date if the hearing  
6 was not held, the commission shall consider all written and  
7 oral comments received.

8 J. If no written notice of intent to attend the  
9 public hearing by interested parties is received, the  
10 commission may proceed with promulgation of the proposed rule  
11 without a public hearing.

12 K. The commission, by majority vote of all members,  
13 shall take final action on the proposed rule and shall  
14 determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the  
15 rulemaking record and the full text of the rule.

16 L. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the  
17 commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule without  
18 prior notice, opportunity for comment or hearing; provided that  
19 the usual rulemaking procedures provided in the compact and in  
20 this article shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon  
21 as reasonably possible, in no event later than ninety days  
22 after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this  
23 provision, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted  
24 immediately in order to:

25 (1) meet an imminent threat to public health,

1 safety or welfare;

2 (2) prevent a loss of commission or member  
3 state funds;

4 (3) meet a deadline for the promulgation of an  
5 administrative rule that is established by federal law or rule;  
6 or

7 (4) protect public health and safety.

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

22 ARTICLE 10 - Oversight, Dispute Resolution and Enforcement

23 A. Oversight

24 (1) The executive, legislative and judicial  
25 branches of state government in each member state shall enforce

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1 the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact and take all actions  
2 necessary and appropriate to effectuate the compact's purposes  
3 and intent. The provisions of the compact and the rules  
4 promulgated pursuant to the compact shall have standing as  
5 statutory law.

6 (2) All courts shall take judicial notice of  
7 the compact and the rules in any judicial or administrative  
8 proceeding in a member state pertaining to the subject matter  
9 of the compact that may affect the powers, responsibilities or  
10 actions of the commission.

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

17 B. Default, Technical Assistance and Termination

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

22 (a) written notice to the defaulting  
23 state and other member states of the nature of the default, the  
24 proposed means of curing the default or any other action to be  
25 taken by the commission; and

1 (b) remedial training and specific  
2 technical assistance regarding the default.

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

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

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

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

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1 (6) The defaulting member state may appeal the  
2 action of the commission by petitioning the United States  
3 district court for the District of Columbia or the federal  
4 district where the commission has its principal offices. The  
5 prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such  
6 litigation, including reasonable attorney fees.

7 C. Dispute Resolution

8 (1) Upon request by a member state, the  
9 commission shall attempt to resolve disputes related to the  
10 compact that arise among member states and between member and  
11 nonmember states.

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

15 D. Enforcement

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

19 (2) By majority vote, the commission may  
20 initiate legal action in the United States district court for  
21 the District of Columbia or the federal district where the  
22 commission has its principal offices against a member state in  
23 default to enforce compliance with the provisions of the  
24 compact and its promulgated rules and bylaws. The relief  
25 sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the

1 event that judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing  
2 member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including  
3 reasonable attorney fees.

4 (3) The remedies provided in this article  
5 shall not be the exclusive remedies of the commission. The  
6 commission may pursue any other remedies available under  
7 federal or state law.

8 ARTICLE 11 - Date of Implementation of the Interstate

9 Commission for Physical Therapy Practice and  
10 Associated Rules, Withdrawal and Amendment

11 A. The Physical Therapy Licensure Compact shall  
12 come into effect on the date on which the compact statute is  
13 enacted into law in the tenth member state. The provisions,  
14 which become effective at that time, shall be limited to the  
15 powers granted to the commission relating to assembly and the  
16 promulgation of rules. Thereafter, the commission shall meet  
17 and exercise rulemaking powers necessary to the implementation  
18 and administration of the compact.

19 B. Any state that joins the compact subsequent to  
20 the commission's initial adoption of the rules shall be subject  
21 to the rules as they exist on the date on which the compact  
22 becomes law in that state. Any rule that has been previously  
23 adopted by the commission shall have the full force and effect  
24 of law on the day the compact becomes law in that state.

25 C. Any member state may withdraw from this compact

1 by enacting a statute repealing the compact.

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

5 (2) Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing  
6 requirement of the withdrawing member state's physical therapy  
7 licensing board to comply with the investigative and adverse  
8 action reporting requirements of this compact prior to the  
9 effective date of withdrawal.

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

15 E. The compact may be amended by the member states.  
16 No amendment to the compact shall become effective and binding  
17 upon any member state until it is enacted into the laws of all  
18 member states.

19 ARTICLE 12 - Construction and Severability

20 The Physical Therapy Licensure Compact shall be liberally  
21 construed so as to effectuate its purposes. The provisions of  
22 the compact shall be severable, and if any phrase, clause,  
23 sentence or provision of the compact is declared to be contrary  
24 to the constitution of any party state or of the United States  
25 or its applicability to any government, agency, person or

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1 circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of  
2 the compact and its applicability to any government, agency,  
3 person or circumstance shall not be affected. If the compact  
4 shall be held contrary to the constitution of any party state,  
5 the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the  
6 remaining party states and in full force and effect as to the  
7 party state affected as to all severable matters.".

8 SECTION 2. Section 61-12D-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1997,  
9 Chapter 89, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

10 "61-12D-5. POWERS AND DUTIES--CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND  
11 CHECKS.--The board:

12 A. shall examine all applicants for licensure to  
13 practice physical therapy and issue licenses or permits to  
14 those who are duly qualified;

15 B. shall regulate the practice of physical therapy  
16 by interpreting and enforcing the provisions of the Physical  
17 Therapy Act;

18 C. may promulgate rules in accordance with the  
19 State Rules Act to carry out the provisions of the Physical  
20 Therapy Act;

21 D. may meet as often as it deems necessary. A  
22 majority of the members constitutes a quorum for the  
23 transaction of business. The board shall keep an official  
24 record of all its proceedings;

25 E. may establish requirements for assessing

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1 continuing competency;

2 F. may collect fees;

3 G. may elect such officers as it deems necessary  
4 for the operations and obligations of the board. Terms of  
5 office shall be one year;

6 H. shall provide for the timely orientation and  
7 training of new professional and public appointees to the  
8 board, including training in licensing and disciplinary  
9 procedures and orientation to all statutes, rules, policies and  
10 procedures of the board;

11 I. may establish ad hoc committees and pay per diem  
12 and mileage to the members;

13 J. may enter into contracts;

14 K. may deny, suspend or revoke a license or take  
15 other disciplinary action in accordance with the Uniform  
16 Licensing Act;

17 L. shall report final disciplinary action taken  
18 against a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant to  
19 the national disciplinary database;

20 M. shall publish at least annually final  
21 disciplinary action taken against any physical therapist or  
22 physical therapist assistant; ~~[and]~~

23 N. may prescribe the forms of license certificates,  
24 application forms and such other documents as it deems  
25 necessary to carry out the provisions of the Physical Therapy

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1 Act;

2 O. shall prescribe procedures, forms and manner of  
3 submitting an applicant's full set of fingerprints for state  
4 and federal criminal history background reports that the board  
5 uses to evaluate the applicant's qualification for licensure;  
6 and

7 P. shall require an applicant, as a condition of  
8 eligibility for initial licensure or initial privilege to  
9 practice under the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, to  
10 submit a full set of fingerprints to the department of public  
11 safety to obtain state and national criminal history record  
12 information on the applicant. State and national criminal  
13 history record reports are confidential and not public records.  
14 The board shall not disseminate criminal history record  
15 information across state lines."

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