

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL 31

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

This document may incorporate amendments proposed by a committee, but not yet adopted, as well as amendments that have been adopted during the current legislative session. The document is a tool to show amendments in context and cannot be used for the purpose of adding amendments to legislation.

AN ACT

RELATING TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS; ENACTING THE
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL LICENSURE INTERSTATE
COMPACT.

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

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact".

.233398.1AIC February 16, 2026 (8:29pm)

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SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] STATE AUTHORITY AND OBJECTIVES.--In order to protect the public through verification of competency and ensure accountability for patient-care-related activities, all states license emergency medical services personnel, such as emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians and paramedics. This compact is intended to facilitate the day-to-day movement of emergency medical services personnel across state boundaries in the performance of their emergency medical services duties as assigned by an appropriate authority and authorize state emergency medical services offices to afford immediate legal recognition to emergency medical services personnel licensed in a member state. This compact recognizes that states have a vested interest in protecting the public's health and safety through their licensing and regulation of emergency medical services personnel and that the state regulation shared among the member states will best protect public health and safety. This compact is designed to:

- A. increase public access to emergency medical services personnel;
- B. enhance the states' ability to protect the public's health and safety, especially patient safety;
- C. encourage the cooperation of member states in the areas of emergency medical services personnel licensure and regulation;

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D. support the licensing of military members who are separating from an active duty tour and their spouses;

E. facilitate the exchange of information between member states regarding emergency medical services personnel licensure, adverse action and significant investigatory information;

F. promote compliance with the laws governing emergency medical services personnel practice in each member state; and

G. invest all member states with the authority to hold emergency medical services personnel accountable through the mutual recognition of member state licenses.

SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact:

A. "advanced emergency medical technician" means an individual licensed with cognitive knowledge and a scope of practice that corresponds to that level in the national emergency medical services education standards and the national emergency medical services scope of practice model;

B. "adverse action" means any administrative, civil, equitable or criminal action permitted by a state's laws that may be imposed against licensed emergency medical services personnel by a state emergency medical services authority or state court, including actions against an individual's license,

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such as revocation, suspension, probation, consent agreement, monitoring or other limitation or encumbrance on the individual's practice, letters of reprimand or admonition, fines, criminal convictions and state court judgments enforcing adverse actions by the state emergency medical services authority;

C. "alternative program" means a voluntary, non-disciplinary substance abuse recovery program approved by a state emergency medical services authority;

D. "certification" means the successful verification of entry-level cognitive and psychomotor competency using a reliable, validated and legally defensible examination;

E. "commission" means the interstate commission for emergency medical services personnel practice;

F. "compact" means the Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact;

G. "emergency medical technician" means an individual licensed with cognitive knowledge and a scope of practice that corresponds to that level in the national emergency medical services education standards and the national emergency medical services scope of practice model;

H. "home state" means a member state where an individual is licensed to practice emergency medical services;

I. "license" means the authorization by a state for

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an individual to practice as an emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician, paramedic or a level in between emergency medical technician and paramedic;

J. "medical director" means a physician licensed in a member state who is accountable for the care delivered by emergency medical services personnel;

K. "member state" means a state that has enacted this compact;

L. "privilege to practice" means an individual's authority to deliver emergency medical services in remote states as authorized under this compact;

M. "paramedic" means an individual licensed with cognitive knowledge and a scope of practice that corresponds to that level in the national emergency medical services education standards and the national emergency medical services scope of practice model;

N. "remote state" means a member state in which an individual is not licensed;

O. "restricted" means the outcome of an adverse action that limits a license or the privilege to practice;

P. "rule" means a written statement by the commission promulgated pursuant to Section 13 of this compact that is of general applicability; implements, interprets or prescribes a policy or provision of this compact; or is an organizational, procedural or practice requirement of the

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commission and has the force and effect of statutory law in a member state and includes the amendment, repeal or suspension of an existing rule;

Q. "scope of practice" means defined parameters of various duties or services that may be provided by an individual with specific credentials. Whether regulated by rule, statute or court decision, "scope of practice" represents the limits of services an individual may perform;

R. "significant investigatory information" means investigative information that:

(1) a state emergency medical services authority, after a preliminary inquiry that includes notification and an opportunity to respond if required by state law, has reason to believe, if proved true, would result in the imposition of an adverse action on a license or privilege to practice; or

(2) indicates that the individual represents an immediate threat to public health and safety, regardless of whether the individual has been notified and had an opportunity to respond;

S. "state" means any state, commonwealth, district or territory of the United States; and

T. "state emergency medical services authority" means the board, office or other agency with the legislative mandate to license emergency medical services personnel.

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SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] HOME STATE LICENSURE.--

A. Any member state in which an individual holds a current license shall be deemed a home state for purposes of this compact.

B. Any member state may require an individual to obtain and retain a license to be authorized to practice in the member state under circumstances not authorized by the privilege to practice under the terms of this compact.

C. A home state's license authorizes an individual to practice in a remote state under the privilege to practice only if the home state:

(1) requires the use of the national registry of emergency medical technicians examination as a condition of issuing initial licenses at the emergency medical technician and paramedic levels;

(2) has a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints about individuals;

(3) notifies the commission, in compliance with the terms of this compact, of any adverse action or significant investigatory information regarding an individual;

(4) no later than five years after initial activation of this compact, requires a criminal background check of all applicants for initial licensure, including the use of the results of fingerprint or other biometric data checks compliant with the requirements of the federal bureau of

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investigation with the exception of federal employees who have suitability determination in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations and submit documentation of such as promulgated in the rules of the commission; and

(5) complies with the rules of the commission.

SECTION 5. [NEW MATERIAL] COMPACT PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE.--

A. Member states shall recognize the privilege to practice of an individual licensed in another member state that is in conformance with Section 4 of the Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact.

B. To exercise the privilege to practice under the terms and provisions of this compact, an individual shall:

(1) be at least eighteen years of age;

(2) possess a current unrestricted license in a member state as an emergency medical technician, an advanced emergency medical technician or a paramedic or be at a state-recognized and -licensed level with a scope of practice and authority between emergency medical technician and paramedic; and

(3) practice under the supervision of a medical director.

C. An individual providing patient care in a remote state under the privilege to practice shall function within the scope of practice authorized by the home state unless and until

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modified by an appropriate authority in the remote state, as may be defined in the rules of the commission.

D. Except as provided in Subsection C of this section, an individual practicing in a remote state shall be subject to the remote state's authority and laws. A remote state may, in accordance with due process and that state's laws, restrict, suspend or revoke an individual's privilege to practice in the remote state and may take any other necessary actions to protect the health and safety of its residents. If a remote state takes such action, it shall promptly notify the home state and the commission.

E. If an individual's license in any home state is restricted or suspended, the individual shall not be eligible to practice in a remote state under the privilege to practice until the individual's home state license is restored.

F. If an individual's privilege to practice in any remote state is restricted, suspended or revoked, the individual shall not be eligible to practice in any remote state until the individual's privilege to practice is restored.

SECTION 6. [NEW MATERIAL] CONDITIONS OF PRACTICE IN A REMOTE STATE.--An individual may practice in a remote state under a privilege to practice only in the performance of the individual's emergency medical services duties as assigned by an appropriate authority, as defined in the rules of the commission, and under the following circumstances:

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- A. the individual originates a patient transport in a home state and transports the patient to a remote state;
- B. the individual originates in the home state and enters a remote state to pick up a patient and provide care and transport of the patient to the home state;
- C. the individual enters a remote state to provide patient care or transport within that remote state;
- D. the individual enters a remote state to pick up a patient and provide care and transport to a third member state; and
- E. other conditions as determined by rules promulgated by the commission.

SECTION 7. [NEW MATERIAL] RELATIONSHIP TO EMERGENCY

MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT.--Upon a member state's governor's declaration of a state of emergency or disaster that activates the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, all relevant terms and provisions of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact shall apply, and to the extent any terms or provisions of this compact conflict with the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, the terms of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact shall prevail with respect to any individual practicing in the remote state in response to such declaration.

SECTION 8. [NEW MATERIAL] VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS SEPARATING FROM ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY AND THEIR SPOUSES.--

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A. Member states shall consider a veteran, an active military service member or a member of the national guard and reserves separating from an active duty tour, and a spouse thereof, who holds a current valid and unrestricted national registry of emergency medical technicians certification at or above the level of the state license being sought as satisfying the minimum training and examination requirements for the licensure.

B. Member states shall expedite the processing of licensure applications submitted by veterans, active military service members and members of the national guard and reserves that are separating from an active duty tour and their spouses.

C. All individuals functioning with a privilege to practice under this section remain subject to the adverse actions provisions of Section 9 of the Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact.

SECTION 9. [NEW MATERIAL] ADVERSE ACTIONS---

A. A home state has exclusive power to impose adverse action against an individual's license issued by the home state.

B. If an individual's license in any home state is restricted or suspended, the individual shall not be eligible to practice in a remote state under the privilege to practice until the individual's home state license is restored. The:

- (1) adverse action orders issued by a home

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state's emergency medical services authority shall include a statement that the individual's compact privileges are inactive. An order may allow the individual to practice in remote states with prior written authorization from both the home state and remote state's state emergency medical services authority; and

(2) individual subject to adverse action in the home state shall not practice in any remote state without prior written authorization from both the home state's and remote state's state emergency medical services authority.

C. A member state shall report adverse actions and any occurrences that the individual's compact privileges are restricted, suspended or revoked to the commission in accordance with the rules of the commission.

D. A remote state may take adverse action on an individual's privilege to practice in that state.

E. Any member state may take adverse action against an individual's privilege to practice in that state based on the factual findings of another member state, so long as each state follows its own procedures for imposing such adverse action.

F. A home state's state emergency medical services authority shall investigate and take appropriate action with respect to reported conduct in a remote state as it would if such conduct had occurred in the home state. In such cases,

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the home state's law shall control in determining the appropriate adverse action.

G. Nothing in this compact shall override a member state's decision that participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action and that such participation shall remain nonpublic if required by the member state's laws. Member states shall require individuals who enter any alternative programs to agree not to practice in any other member state during the term of the alternative program without prior authorization from the other member state.

SECTION 10. [NEW MATERIAL] ADDITIONAL POWERS INVESTED IN A MEMBER STATE'S STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY.--A member state's state emergency medical services authority, in addition to any other powers granted under state law, is authorized under this compact to issue:

A. subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a member state's state emergency medical services authority for the attendance and testimony of witnesses, or the production of evidence from another member state, shall be enforced in the remote state by any court of competent jurisdiction, according to that court's practice and procedure in considering subpoenas issued in its own proceedings. The issuing state emergency medical services authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage

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and other fees required by the service statutes of the state where the witnesses or evidence are located; and

B. cease-and-desist orders to restrict, suspend or revoke an individual's privilege to practice in the state.

**SECTION 11. [NEW MATERIAL] ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL
PRACTICE.--**

A. The member states hereby create and establish a joint public agency known as the "interstate commission for emergency medical services personnel practice". The commission is a body politic and an instrumentality of the member states.

SHPAC→~~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.~~←SHPAC Nothing in this compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity.

B. Membership, voting and meetings of the commission shall proceed as follows:

(1) each member state shall have and be limited to one delegate. The responsible official of the state emergency medical services authority or the official's designee shall be the delegate to this compact for each member state.

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Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office as provided by the law of the state from which the delegate is appointed. Any vacancy occurring in the commission shall be filled in accordance with the laws of the member state in which the vacancy exists. In the event that more than one board, office or other agency with the legislative mandate to license emergency medical services personnel at and above the level of emergency medical technician exists, the governor of the state shall determine which entity shall be responsible for assigning the delegate;

(2) each delegate shall be entitled to one vote with regard to the promulgation of rules and creation of bylaws and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the business and affairs of the commission. A delegate shall vote in person or by other means as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates' participation in meetings by telephone or other means of communication;

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

(4) all meetings shall be open to the public, and public notice of meetings shall be given in the same manner as required under the rulemaking provisions in Section 13 of the Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact;

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(5) the commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting if the commission is discussing:

(a) noncompliance of a member state with its obligations under this compact;

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

(c) current, threatened or reasonably anticipated litigation;

(d) negotiation of contracts for the purchase or sale of goods, services or real estate;

(e) accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;

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

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

(h) disclosure of investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes;

(i) disclosure of information related to any investigatory reports prepared by or on behalf of or for use of the commission or other committee charged with

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responsibility of investigation or determination of compliance issues pursuant to this compact; or

(j) matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or member state statute; and

(6) if a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to this provision, the commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and shall reference each relevant exempting provision. The commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the reasons therefore, including a description of the views expressed. All documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in the minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release by a majority vote of the commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

C. The commission shall, by a majority vote of the delegates, prescribe bylaws or rules to govern the commission's conduct as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes and exercise the powers of this compact, including:

(1) establishing the fiscal year of the commission;

(2) providing reasonable standards and procedures:

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(a) for the establishment and meetings of other committees; and

(b) governing any general or specific delegation of any authority or function of the commission;

(3) providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting meetings of the commission, ensuring reasonable advance notice of all meetings and providing an opportunity for attendance of meetings by interested parties, with enumerated exceptions designed to protect the public's interest, the privacy of individuals and proprietary information, including trade secrets. The commission may meet in closed session only after a majority of the membership votes to close a meeting in whole or in part. As soon as practicable, the commission shall make public a copy of the vote to close the meeting, revealing the vote of each member with no proxy votes allowed;

(4) establishing the titles, duties, authority and reasonable procedures for the election of the officers of the commission;

(5) providing reasonable standards and procedures for the establishment of the personnel policies and programs of the commission. Notwithstanding any civil service or other similar laws of any member state, the bylaws shall exclusively govern the personnel policies and programs of the commission;

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(6) promulgating a code of ethics to address permissible and prohibited activities of commission members and employees;

(7) providing a mechanism for winding up the operations of the commission and the equitable disposition of any surplus funds that may exist after the termination of this compact after the payment or reserving of all of the commission's debts and obligations; and

(8) publishing the commission's bylaws and filing a copy thereof, and a copy of any amendment to the bylaws, with the appropriate agency or officer in each of the member states, if any.

D. The commission shall:

(1) maintain the commission's financial records in accordance with the bylaws; and

(2) meet and take actions that are consistent with the provisions of this compact and the bylaws.

E. The commission has the following powers:

(1) the authority to promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and administration of this compact. The rules shall have the force and effect of law and shall be binding in all member states;

(2) to bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the commission; provided that the standing of any state emergency medical services authority or

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other regulatory body responsible for emergency medical services personnel licensure to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected;

(3) to purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

(4) to borrow, accept or contract for services of personnel, including employees of a member state;

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

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

(7) to lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve or use, any property, real, personal or mixed; provided that at all times, the commission shall strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety;

(8) to sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon or otherwise dispose of any property real,

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personal or mixed;

(9) to establish a budget and make expenditures;

(10) to borrow money;

(11) to appoint committees, including advisory committees composed of members, state regulators, state legislators or their representatives, consumer representatives and other interested persons as may be designated in this compact and the bylaws;

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

(13) to adopt and use an official seal; and

(14) to perform other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this compact consistent with the state regulation of emergency medical services personnel licensure and practice.

F. The commission shall be financed as follows:

(1) the commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization and ongoing activities;

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

(3) the commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each member state or impose fees on

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other parties to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the commission and the commission's staff, which shall be in a total amount sufficient to cover the commission's annual budget as approved each year for which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the commission, which shall promulgate a rule binding upon all member states;

(4) the commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same; nor shall the commission pledge the credit of any of the member states, except by and with the authority of the member state; and

(5) the commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under the commission's bylaws. All receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the commission.

G. With respect to qualified immunity, defense and indemnification:

SHPAC→(1) ~~the members, officers, executive~~

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director, employees and representatives of the commission shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to protect any such person from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury or liability caused by the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person;

(2) the commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director, employee or representative of the commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit that person from retaining that person's own counsel; 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; and

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(3) the commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer, executive director, employee or representative of the commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that the 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. ←SHPAC

SHPAC→(1) the officers and employees of the commission shall not be liable or subject to suit, either personally or in their official capacity, when acting within the scope of that person's employment or duties for acts, errors or omissions occurring within that person's state. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to protect a person from suit or liability for damage, loss, injury or liability caused by the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of the person; and

(2) the commission shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the executive director and the director's employees according to the commission's rules and bylaws. The executive director and employees of the commission shall be held harmless in the amount of a settlement or judgment,

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including attorney fees and costs, obtained against that person arising out of an actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that the 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 intentional or willful and wanton misconduct on the part of that person. ←SHPAC

SECTION 12. [NEW MATERIAL] COORDINATED DATABASE---

A. The commission shall provide for the development and maintenance of a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action and significant investigatory information on all licensed individuals in member states.

B. Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the contrary, a member state shall submit a uniform data set to the coordinated database on all individuals to whom this compact is applicable as required by the rules of the commission, including:

- (1) identifying information;
- (2) licensure data;
- (3) significant investigatory information;
- (4) adverse actions against an individual's license;

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(5) an indicator that an individual's privilege to practice is restricted, suspended or revoked;

(6) nonconfidential information related to alternative program participation;

(7) any denial of application for licensure and the reason for the denial; and

(8) other information that may facilitate the administration of this compact, as determined by the rules of the commission.

C. The coordinated database administrator shall promptly notify all member states of any adverse action taken against, or significant investigative information on, any individual in a member state.

D. Member states contributing information to the coordinated database may designate information that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of the contributing state.

E. Any information submitted to the coordinated database that is subsequently required to be expunged by the laws of the member state contributing the information shall be removed from the coordinated database.

SECTION 13. [NEW MATERIAL] RULEMAKING.--

A. The commission shall exercise the commission's rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this section and the rules adopted pursuant to this section. Rules

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and amendments shall become binding as of the date specified in each rule or amendment.

B. If a majority of the legislatures of the member states rejects a rule, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt this compact, then such rule shall have no further force and effect in any member state.

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

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

(1) the commission; and
 (2) each member state's state emergency medical services authority or the publication in which each state would otherwise publish proposed rules.

E. The notice of proposed rulemaking shall include:

(1) the proposed time, date and location of the meeting in which the rule will be considered and voted upon;
 (2) the text of the proposed rule or amendment and the reason for the proposed rule;
 (3) a request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person; and

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

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

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

(1) at least twenty-five persons;
(2) a governmental subdivision or agency; or
(3) an association having at least twenty-five members.

H. If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, the commission shall publish the place, time and date of the scheduled public hearing. With respect to hearings:

(1) all persons wishing to be heard at the hearing shall notify the executive director of the commission or other designated member in writing of the person's desire to appear and testify at the hearing no less than five business days before the scheduled date of the hearing;

(2) hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each person who wishes to comment a fair and

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reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in writing;

(3) no transcript of the hearing is required, unless a written request for a transcript is made, in which case the person requesting the transcript shall bear the cost of producing the transcript. A recording may be made in lieu of a transcript under the same terms and conditions as a transcript. This paragraph shall not preclude the commission from making a transcript or recording of the hearing if the commission so chooses; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

M. The commission or an authorized committee of the commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule or amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format, errors in consistency or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be posted on the website of the commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any person for a period of thirty days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the revision

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results in a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made in writing and delivered to the chair of the commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision shall take effect without further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision shall not take effect without the approval of the commission.

SECTION 14. [NEW MATERIAL] OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT.--

A. The executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government in each member state shall enforce this compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate this compact's purposes and intent. The provisions of this compact and the rules promulgated pursuant to this compact shall have the force of law.

B. All courts shall take judicial notice of this compact and the rules in any judicial or administrative proceeding in a member state pertaining to the subject matter of this compact that may affect the powers, responsibilities or actions of the commission.

C. The commission is entitled to receive service of process in any proceeding and has standing to intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide service of process to the commission shall render a judgment or order void as to the commission, this compact or promulgated rules.

D. If the commission determines that a member state

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has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this compact or the promulgated rules, the commission shall provide:

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

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

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

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

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

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obligations that extend beyond the effective date of termination.

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

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

J. Upon request by a member state, the commission shall attempt to resolve disputes related to this compact that arise among member states and between member and nonmember states. The commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.

K. With respect to enforcement of this compact:

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

(2) by majority vote, the commission may initiate legal action in the United States district court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the

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commission has its principal offices against a member state in default to enforce compliance with the provisions of this compact and its promulgated rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event that judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of the litigation, including reasonable attorney fees; and

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

SECTION 15. [NEW MATERIAL] DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL PRACTICE AND ASSOCIATED RULES, WITHDRAWAL AND AMENDMENT.--

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

B. Any state that joins this compact subsequent to the commission's initial adoption of the rules shall be subject to the rules as they exist on the date on which this compact

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becomes law in that state. Any rule that has been previously adopted by the commission shall have the full force and effect of law on the day this compact becomes law in that state.

C. Any member state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the same. Withdrawal:

(1) by a member state shall not take effect until six months after enactment of the repealing statute; and

(2) shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing state's state emergency medical services authority to comply with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of this compact prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

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

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

SECTION 16. [NEW MATERIAL] CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY.--This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes of this compact. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any member state

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thereto, this compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining member states. Nothing in this compact supersedes state law or rules related to licensure of emergency medical services agencies.

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