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STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

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Sponsored by: Senator VIN GOPAL District 11 (Monmouth) Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by: Senator O'Scanlon

SYNOPSIS

Enters New Jersey into Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on January 14, 2021, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/3/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning psychological services and supplementing Title 2 45 of the Revised Statutes. 3 4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State 5 of New Jersey: 6 7 1. The State of New Jersey enacts and enters into the "Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Act" with all other 8 jurisdictions that legally join in the compact in the form 9 10 substantially as follows: 11 12 I. Purpose. 13 14 Whereas, states license psychologists, in order to protect the 15 public through verification of education, training and experience and ensure accountability for professional practice; and 16 17 Whereas, this compact is intended to regulate the day to day 18 practice of telepsychology, which is the provision of psychological 19 services using telecommunication technologies, by psychologists 20 across state boundaries in the performance of their psychological 21 practice as assigned by an appropriate authority; and 22 Whereas, this compact is intended to regulate the temporary in-23 person, face-to-face practice of psychology by psychologists across 24 state boundaries for 30 days within a calendar year in the 25 performance of their psychological practice as assigned by an 26 appropriate authority; 27 Whereas, this compact is intended to authorize state psychology 28 regulatory authorities to afford legal recognition, in a manner 29 consistent with the terms of the compact, to psychologists licensed 30 in another state; 31 Whereas, this compact recognizes that states have a vested 32 interest in protecting the public's health and safety through their 33 licensing and regulation of psychologists and that such state 34 regulation will best protect public health and safety; 35 Whereas, this compact does not apply when a psychologist is 36 licensed in both the home and receiving states; and 37 Whereas, this compact does not apply to permanent in-person, 38 face-to-face practice, it does allow for authorization of temporary 39 psychological practice. 40 Consistent with these principles, this compact is designed to 41 achieve the following purposes and objectives: increase public 42 access to professional psychological services by allowing for 43 telepsychological practice across state lines as well as temporary in-44 person, face-to-face services into a state in which the psychologist

Matter underlined <u>thus</u> is new matter.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in **bold-faced brackets** [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows: ¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted January 14, 2021.

1 is not licensed to practice psychology; enhance the states' ability to 2 protect the public's health and safety, especially client and patient 3 safety; encourage the cooperation of compact states in the areas of psychology licensure and regulation; facilitate the exchange of 4 5 information between compact states regarding psychologist 6 licensure, adverse actions, and disciplinary history; promote 7 compliance with the laws governing psychological practice in each 8 compact state; and invest all compact states with the authority to 9 hold licensed psychologists accountable through the mutual 10 recognition of compact state licenses.

11

12 II. Definitions.

13

"Adverse action" means any action taken by a state psychology
regulatory authority ¹[which] <u>that</u>¹ finds a violation of a statute or
regulation that is identified by the state psychology regulatory
authority as discipline and is a matter of public record.

"Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards
(ASPPB)" means the recognized membership organization
composed of state and provincial psychology regulatory authorities
responsible for the licensure and registration of psychologists
throughout the United States and Canada.

"Authority to ¹[Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology]
 <u>practice interjurisdictional telepsychology</u>¹ " means a licensed
 psychologist's authority to practice telepsychology, within the limits
 authorized under this compact, in another compact state.

"Bylaws" means those bylaws established by the psychology
interjurisdictional compact commission pursuant to Article X for its
governance, or for directing and controlling its actions and conduct.

"Client or patient" means the recipient of psychological services,
whether psychological services are delivered in the context of
healthcare, corporate, supervision, or consulting services ¹[, or
both]¹.

34 "Commissioner" means the voting representative appointed by
35 each ¹[State Psychology Regulatory Authority] <u>state psychology</u>
36 <u>regulatory authority</u>¹ pursuant to Article X.

"Compact ¹[State] <u>state</u>¹ " means a state, the District of
Columbia, or United States territory that has enacted this compact
legislation and ¹[which] <u>that</u>¹ has not withdrawn pursuant to
¹[section] <u>subsection</u>¹ c. of Article XIII or been terminated
pursuant to ¹[section] <u>subsection</u>¹ b. of Article XII.

42 "Coordinated licensure information system" or "coordinated 43 database" means an integrated process for collecting, storing, and 44 sharing information on psychologists' licensure and enforcement 45 activities related to psychology licensure laws, which is 46 administered by the recognized membership organization composed 47 of state and provincial psychology regulatory authorities. "Confidentiality" means the principle that data or information is
 not made available or disclosed to unauthorized persons or
 processes, or both.

4 "Day" means any part of a day in which psychological work is5 performed.

"Distant ¹[State] <u>state</u>¹ " means the compact state where a
psychologist is physically present, not through the use of
telecommunications technologies, to provide temporary in-person,
face-to-face psychological services.

"¹[E.Passport] <u>E.passport</u>¹ " means a certificate issued by the
 ASPPB that promotes the standardization in the criteria of
 interjurisdictional telepsychology practice and facilitates the
 process for licensed psychologists to provide telepsychological
 services across state lines.

15 "Executive board" means a group of directors elected or
16 appointed to act on behalf of, and within the powers granted to them
17 by, the commission.

"Home ¹[State] <u>state</u>¹ " means a compact state where a 18 psychologist is licensed to practice psychology. If the psychologist 19 20 is licensed in more than one compact state and is practicing under 21 the authorization to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology, the 22 home state is the compact state where the psychologist is physically 23 present when the telepsychological services are delivered. If the 24 psychologist is licensed in more than one compact state and is 25 practicing under the temporary authorization to practice, the home state is any compact state where the psychologist is licensed. 26

"Identity ¹[History Summary] <u>history summary</u>¹ " means a
summary of information retained by the Federal Bureau of
Investigation (FBI), or other designee with similar authority, in
connection with arrests and, in some instances, federal employment,
naturalization, or military service.

32 "In-person, face-to-face" means interactions in which the 33 psychologist and the client ¹[and] <u>or</u>¹ patient are in the same 34 physical space ¹[and which] <u>. The term shall</u>¹ does not include 35 interactions that may occur through the use of telecommunication 36 technologies.

37 "Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate ¹[(IPC)]¹ " ¹or "IPC"¹
38 means a certificate issued by the ASPPB that grants temporary
39 authority to practice based on notification to the state psychology
40 regulatory authority of intention to practice temporarily, and
41 verification of one's qualifications for such practice.

42 "License" means ¹[:]¹ authorization by a state psychology
43 regulatory authority to engage in the independent practice of
44 psychology, which would be unlawful without the authorization.

45 "Non-compact state" means ¹[:]¹ any state ¹[which] <u>that</u>¹ is not
46 at the time a compact state.

"Psychologist" means ¹[:]¹ an individual licensed for the
 independent practice of psychology.

3 "Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission" or
4 "Commission" means the national administration of which all
5 compact states are members.

6 "Receiving state" means a compact state where the client ¹[,]¹ or
7 patient ¹[, or both]¹ is physically located when the
8 telepsychological services are delivered.

9 "Rule" means a written statement by the Psychology 10 Interjurisdictional Compact Commission promulgated pursuant to 11 Article XI of the compact that is of general applicability, 12 implements, interprets, or prescribes a policy or provision of the 13 compact, or an organizational, procedural, or practice requirement 14 of the commission and has the force and effect of statutory law in a 15 compact state, and includes the amendment, repeal or suspension of 16 an existing rule.

17 "Significant ¹[Investigatory Information] investigatory information¹ " means investigative information that a state 18 19 psychology regulatory authority, after a preliminary inquiry that includes notification and an opportunity to respond if required by 20 state law, has reason to believe, if proven true, would indicate more 21 22 than a violation of state statute or ethics code that would be 23 considered more substantial than minor infraction; or investigative 24 information that indicates that the psychologist represents an 25 immediate threat to public health and safety regardless of whether 26 the psychologist has been notified or had an opportunity to respond, 27 or both.

28 "State" means a state, commonwealth, territory, or possession of
29 the United States ¹[,] and¹ the District of Columbia.

30 "State psychology regulatory authority" means the board, office
31 or other agency with the legislative mandate to license and regulate
32 the practice of psychology.

33 "Telepsychology" means the provision of psychological services34 using telecommunication technologies.

35 "Temporary authorization to practice" means a licensed
36 psychologist's authority to conduct temporary in-person, face-to37 face practice, within the limits authorized under this compact, in
38 another compact state.

39 "Temporary in-person, face-to-face practice" means where a
40 psychologist is physically present, not through the use of
41 telecommunications technologies, in the distant state to provide for
42 the practice of psychology for 30 days within a calendar year and
43 based on notification to the distant state.

1 III. Home State Licensure.

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3 a. The home state shall be a compact state where a psychologist 4 is licensed to practice psychology.

5 b. A psychologist may hold one or more compact state licenses at a time. 1 [if] If the psychologist is licensed in more than one 6 7 compact state, the home state is the compact state where the 8 psychologist is physically present when the services are delivered 9 as authorized by the authority to practice interjurisdictional 10 telepsychology under the terms of this compact.

Any compact state may require a psychologist not previously 11 C. 12 licensed in a compact state to obtain and retain a license to be 13 authorized to practice in the compact state under circumstances not 14 authorized by the authority to practice interjurisdictional 15 telepsychology under the terms of this compact.

16 d. Any compact state may require a psychologist to obtain and 17 retain a license to be authorized to practice in a compact state under 18 circumstances not authorized by temporary authorization to practice 19 under the terms of this compact.

20 e. A home state's license authorizes a psychologist to practice 21 in a receiving state under the authority to practice interjurisdictional 22 telepsychology only if the compact state: currently requires the 23 psychologist to hold an active e.passport; has a mechanism in place 24 for receiving and investigating complaints about licensed 25 individuals; notifies the commission, in compliance with the terms 26 herein, of any adverse action or significant investigatory 27 information regarding a licensed individual; requires an identity 28 history summary of all applicants at initial licensure, including the 29 use of the results of fingerprints or other biometric data checks 30 compliant with the requirements of the FBI, or other designee with similar authority, no later than ¹[ten] 10¹ years after activation of 31 32 the compact; and complies with the bylaws and rules of the 33 commission.

34 f. A home state's license grants temporary authorization to 35 practice to a psychologist in a distant state only if the compact state: currently requires the psychologist to hold an active 1 [ipc] <u>IPC</u>¹; 36 37 has a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints 38 about licensed individuals; notifies the commission, in compliance 39 with the terms herein, of any adverse action or significant 40 investigatory information regarding a licensed individual; requires 41 an identity history summary of all applicants at initial licensure, 42 including the use of the results of fingerprints or other biometric 43 data checks compliant with the requirements of the federal bureau 44 of investigation, or other designee with similar authority, no later 45 than ten years after activation of the compact; and complies with 46 the bylaws and rules of the commission.

1 IV. Compact Privilege to Practice Telepsychology. 2 a. Compact states shall recognize the right of a psychologist, 3 licensed in a compact state in conformance with Article III, to 4 5 practice telepsychology in other compact states in which the psychologist is not licensed, under the authority to practice 6 7 interjurisdictional telepsychology as provided in the compact. b. To exercise the authority to practice interjurisdictional 8 9 telepsychology under the terms and provisions of this compact, a psychologist licensed to practice in a compact state ¹[must] shall¹: 10 (1) Hold a graduate degree in psychology from an institute of 11 higher education that was, at the time the degree was awarded: 12 13 (a) regionally accredited by an accrediting body recognized by 14 the federal Department of Education to grant graduate degrees, or 15 authorized by Provincial Statute or Royal Charter to grant doctoral 16 degrees; or 17 (b) a foreign college or university deemed to be equivalent to by 18 a foreign credential evaluation service that is a member of the 19 National Association of Credential Evaluation Services or by a 20 recognized foreign credential evaluation service; 21 (2) Hold a graduate degree in psychology that meets the 22 following criteria: the program, wherever it may be administratively housed, ¹[must] <u>shall</u>¹ be clearly identified and labeled as a 23 psychology program. Such a program ¹[must] <u>shall</u>¹ specify in 24 pertinent institutional catalogues and brochures its intent to educate 25 26 and train professional psychologists; the psychology program ¹[must] <u>shall</u>¹ stand as a recognizable, coherent, organizational 27 entity within the institution; there ¹[must] <u>shall</u>¹ be a clear 28 authority and primary responsibility for the core and specialty areas 29 whether or not the program cuts across administrative lines; the 30 program ¹[must] <u>shall</u>¹ consist of an integrated, organized 31 sequence of study; there ¹[must] <u>shall</u>¹ be an identifiable 32 psychology faculty sufficient in size and breadth to carry out its 33 responsibilities; the designated director of the program ¹[must] 34 shall¹ be a psychologist and a member of the core faculty; the 35 program ¹[must] <u>shall</u>¹ have an identifiable body of students who 36 37 are matriculated in that program for a degree; the program ¹[must] shall¹ include supervised practicum, internship, or field training 38 39 appropriate to the practice of psychology; the curriculum shall 40 encompass a minimum of three academic years of full-time 41 graduate study for a doctoral degree and a minimum of one 42 academic year of full-time graduate study for a master's degree; the 43 program includes an acceptable residency as defined by the rules of 44 the commission;

45 (3) Possess a current, full and unrestricted license to practice
46 psychology in a home state ¹[which] <u>that</u>¹ is a compact state; have

no history of adverse action that violate the rules of the
commission; have no criminal record history reported on an identity
history summary that violates the rules of the commission; possess
a current, active e.passport;

5 (4) Provide attestations in regard to areas of intended practice, 6 conformity with standards of practice, competence in 7 telepsychology technology; criminal background; and knowledge 8 and adherence to legal requirements in the home and receiving 9 states, and

(5) Provide a release of information to allow for primary source
verification in a manner specified by the commission; and meet
other criteria as defined by the rules of the commission.

c. The home state maintains authority over the license of any
psychologist practicing into a receiving state under the authority to
practice interjurisdictional telepsychology.

16 A psychologist practicing into a receiving state under the d. 17 authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology will be 18 subject to the receiving state's scope of practice. A receiving state may, in accordance with that state's due process law, limit or revoke 19 20 a psychologist's authority to practice interjurisdictional 21 telepsychology in the receiving state and may take any other 22 necessary actions under the receiving state's applicable law to 23 protect the health and safety of the receiving state's citizens. If a 24 receiving state takes action, the state shall promptly notify the home 25 state and the commission.

e. If a psychologist's license in any home state, another compact state, or any authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology in any receiving state, is restricted, suspended or otherwise limited, the e.passport shall be revoked and therefore the psychologist shall not be eligible to practice telepsychology in a compact state under the authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology.

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V. Compact Temporary Authorization to Practice.

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a. Compact States shall also recognize the right of a
psychologist, licensed in a compact state in conformance with
Article ¹[iii] <u>III</u>¹, to practice temporarily in other distant states in
which the psychologist is not licensed, as provided in the compact.

b. To exercise the temporary authorization to practice under the
terms and provisions of this compact, a psychologist licensed to
practice in a compact state ¹[must] <u>shall</u>¹:

43 (1) Hold a graduate degree in psychology from an institute of44 higher education that was, at the time the degree was awarded:

45 (a) Regionally accredited by an accrediting body recognized by46 the federal Department of Education to grant graduate degrees, or

authorized by Provincial Statute or Royal Charter to grant doctoral
 degrees; or

3 (b) a foreign college or university deemed to be equivalent by a
4 foreign credential evaluation service that is a member of the
5 National Association of Credential Evaluation Services or by a
6 recognized foreign credential evaluation service;

7 (2) Hold a graduate degree in psychology that meets the 8 following criteria: the program, wherever it may be administratively housed, ¹[must] <u>shall</u>¹ be clearly identified and labeled as a 9 psychology program and ¹[must] shall¹ specify in pertinent 10 institutional catalogues and brochures its intent to educate and train 11 professional psychologists; the psychology program ¹[must] <u>shall</u>¹ 12 stand as a recognizable, coherent, organizational entity within the 13 institution; there '[must] shall' be a clear authority and primary 14 15 responsibility for the core and specialty areas whether or not the program cuts across administrative lines; the program ¹[must] 16 shall¹ consist of an integrated, organized sequence of study; there 17 ¹[must] <u>shall</u>¹ be an identifiable psychology faculty sufficient in 18 size and breadth to carry out its responsibilities; the designated 19 director of the program '[must] shall' be a psychologist and a 20 member of the core faculty; the program ¹[must] <u>shall</u>¹ have an 21 22 identifiable body of students who are matriculated in that program for a degree; the program ¹[must] <u>shall</u>¹ include supervised 23 24 practicum, internship, or field training appropriate to the practice of 25 psychology; the curriculum shall encompass a minimum of three 26 academic years of full-time graduate study for doctoral degrees and 27 a minimum of one academic year of full-time graduate study for 28 master's degree; and the program includes an acceptable residency 29 as defined by the rules of the commission;

30 (3) Possess a current, full and unrestricted license to practice
31 psychology in a home state ¹[which] <u>that</u>¹ is a compact state; no
32 history of adverse action that violate the rules of the commission;
33 and have no criminal record history that violates the rules of the
34 commission;

(4) Possess a current, active IPC;

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36 (5) Provide attestations in regard to areas of intended practice
37 and work experience and provide a release of information to allow
38 for primary source verification in a manner specified by the
39 commission; and

40 (6) Meet other criteria as defined by the rules of the 41 commission.

42 c. A psychologist practicing into a distant state under the
43 temporary authorization to practice shall practice within the scope
44 of practice authorized by the distant state.

d. A psychologist practicing into a distant state under the
temporary authorization to practice will be subject to the distant
state's authority and law. A distant state may, in accordance with

1 that state's due process law, limit or revoke a psychologist's 2 temporary authorization to practice in the distant state and may take 3 any other necessary actions under the distant state's applicable law 4 to protect the health and safety of the distant state's citizens. If a 5 distant state takes action, the state shall promptly notify the home 6 state and the commission.

7 e. If a psychologist's license in any home state, another 8 compact state, or any temporary authorization to practice in any 9 distant state, is restricted, suspended or otherwise limited, the IPC 10 shall be revoked and therefore the psychologist shall not be eligible 11 to practice in a compact state under the temporary authorization to 12 practice.

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14 VI. Conditions of Telepsychology Practice in a Receiving State. 15

16 A psychologist may practice in a receiving state under the 17 authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology only in the 18 performance of the scope of practice for psychology as assigned by an appropriate state psychology regulatory authority, as defined in 19 20 the rules of the commission, and under the following circumstances: the psychologist initiates a client or patient ¹[, or both]¹ contact in 21 a home state via telecommunications technologies with a client or 22 patient ¹[, or both,]¹ in a receiving state; and other conditions 23 24 regarding telepsychology as determined by rules promulgated by 25 the commission.

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VII. Adverse Actions

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29 a. A home state shall have the power to impose adverse action 30 against a psychologist's license issued by the home state. A distant 31 state shall have the power to take adverse action on a psychologist's 32 temporary authorization to practice within that distant State.

33 b. A receiving state may take adverse action on a psychologist's 34 authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology within that 35 receiving state. A home state may take adverse action against a 36 psychologist based on an adverse action taken by a distant state 37 regarding temporary in-person, face-to-face practice.

38 c. If a home state takes adverse action against a psychologist's 39 license, that psychologist's authority to practice interjurisdictional 40 telepsychology is terminated and the e.passport is revoked. 41 Furthermore, that psychologist's temporary authorization to practice is terminated and the IPC is revoked. All home state disciplinary 42 43 orders ¹[which] <u>that</u>¹ impose adverse action shall be reported to the 44 commission in accordance with the rules promulgated by the A compact state shall report adverse actions in 45 commission. 46 accordance with the rules of the commission. In the event 47 discipline is reported on a psychologist, the psychologist will not be eligible for telepsychology or temporary in-person, face-to-face
 practice in accordance with the rules of the commission. Other
 actions may be imposed as determined by the rules promulgated by
 the commission.

5 d. A home state's psychology regulatory authority shall 6 investigate and take appropriate action with respect to reported 7 inappropriate conduct engaged in by a licensee ¹[which] that¹ 8 occurred in a receiving state as it would if such conduct had 9 occurred by a licensee within the home state. In such cases, the 10 home state's law shall control in determining any adverse action 11 against a psychologist's license.

12 e. A distant state's psychology regulatory authority shall 13 investigate and take appropriate action with respect to reported 14 inappropriate conduct engaged in by a psychologist practicing under temporary authorization practice ¹[which] <u>that</u>¹ occurred in that 15 distant state as it would if such conduct had occurred by a licensee 16 within the home state. In such cases, distant state's law shall 17 control in determining any adverse action against a psychologist's 18 19 temporary authorization to practice.

20 Nothing in this compact shall override a compact state's f. 21 decision that a psychologist's participation in an alternative program 22 may be used in lieu of adverse action and that such participation 23 shall remain non-public if required by the compact state's law. ¹[compact] <u>Compact</u>¹ states ¹[must] <u>shall</u>¹ require psychologists 24 who enter any alternative programs to not provide telepsychology 25 26 services under the authority to practice interjurisdictional 27 telepsychology or provide temporary psychological services under 28 the temporary authorization to practice in any other compact state 29 during the term of the alternative program.

g. No other judicial or administrative remedies shall be
available to a psychologist in the event a compact state imposes an
adverse action pursuant to subsection c. of this section.

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34 VIII. Additional Authorities Invested in a Compact State's35 Psychology.

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37 In addition to any other powers granted under state law, a 38 compact state's psychology regulatory authority shall have the authority under this compact to: issue subpoenas, for both hearings 39 and investigations, which require the attendance and testimony of 40 41 witnesses and the production of evidence. ¹[subpoenas] 42 <u>Subpoenas</u>¹ issued by a compact state's psychology regulatory authority for the attendance and testimony of witnesses, or the 43 44 production of evidence from another compact state, shall be 45 enforced in the latter state by any court of competent jurisdiction, according to that court's practice and procedure in considering 46 47 subpoenas issued in its own proceedings. The issuing state

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1 psychology regulatory authority shall pay any witness fees, travel 2 expenses, mileage, and other fees required by the service statutes of 3 the state where the witnesses, evidence, or both are located; and 4 issue cease and desist ¹[and/or] <u>orders and</u>¹ injunctive relief orders to revoke a psychologist's authority to practice interjurisdictional 5 6 telepsychology, temporary authorization to practice, or both. 7 During the course of any investigation, a psychologist may not 8 change his or her home state licensure. A home state psychology 9 regulatory authority is authorized to complete any pending 10 investigations of a psychologist and to take any actions appropriate 11 under its law. The home state psychology regulatory authority shall 12 promptly report the conclusions of such investigations to the 13 Once an investigation has been completed, and commission. 14 pending the outcome of said investigation, the psychologist may 15 change his or her home state licensure. The commission shall 16 promptly notify the new home state of any such decisions as 17 provided in the rules of the commission. All information provided 18 to the commission or distributed by compact states pursuant to the 19 psychologist shall be confidential, filed under seal, and used for 20 investigatory or disciplinary matters. The commission may create 21 additional rules for mandated or discretionary sharing of 22 information by compact states.

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IX. Coordinated Licensure Information System.

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The ¹[Commission] <u>commission</u>¹ shall provide for the 26 a. development and maintenance of a coordinated licensure 27 ¹[information system (coordinated database)] database¹ 28 and 29 reporting system containing licensure and disciplinary action information on all psychologists ¹[individuals]¹ to whom this 30 compact is applicable in all compact states as defined by the rules 31 32 of the commission.

33 b. Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the 34 contrary, a compact state shall submit a uniform data set to the 35 coordinated database on all licensees as required by the rules of the 36 commission, including: identifying information; licensure data; 37 significant investigatory information; adverse actions against a 38 psychologist's license; an indicator that a psychologist's authority to 39 practice interjurisdictional telepsychology or temporary 40 authorization to practice is revoked; non-confidential information 41 related to alternative program participation information; any denial 42 of application for licensure, and the reasons for such denial; and 43 other information ¹[which] <u>that</u>¹ may facilitate the administration 44 of this compact, as determined by the rules of the commission.

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

d. Compact states reporting information to the coordinated
 database may designate information that may not be shared with the
 public without the express permission of the compact state reporting
 the information.

6 e. Any information submitted to the coordinated database that 7 is subsequently required to be expunged by the law of the compact 8 state reporting the information shall be removed from the 8 coordinated database.

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10 X. Establishment of the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact11 Commission.

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The compact states hereby create and establish a joint public 13 a. 14 agency known as the ¹[psychology interjurisdictional compact commission] Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission¹ 15 16 The commission is a body politic and an instrumentality of the 17 compact States. Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or 18 against the commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a 19 court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the 20 commission is located. The commission may waive venue and 21 jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to 22 participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings. Nothing in 23 this compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign 24 immunity.

25 b. (1) The commission shall consist of one voting 26 representative appointed by each compact state who shall serve as 27 that state's commissioner. The state psychology regulatory The delegate shall be 28 authority shall appoint its delegate. 29 empowered to act on behalf of the compact state. The delegate 30 shall be either the executive director, executive secretary or similar 31 executive; current member of the state psychology regulatory 32 authority of a compact state; or designee empowered with the 33 appropriate delegate authority to act on behalf of the compact state. 34 Any commissioner may be removed or suspended from office as 35 provided by the law of the state from which the commissioner is 36 appointed. Any vacancy occurring in the commission shall be filled 37 in accordance with the laws of the compact state in which the 38 vacancy exists. Each commissioner shall be entitled to one vote 39 with regard to the promulgation of rules and creation of bylaws and 40 shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the business 41 and affairs of the commission. A commissioner shall vote in person 42 or by such other means as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may 43 provide for commissioners' participation in meetings by telephone 44 or other means of communication. The commission shall meet at 45 least once during each calendar year. Additional meetings shall be 46 held as set forth in the bylaws. All meetings shall be open to the 47 public, and public notice of meetings shall be given in the same

1 manner as required under the rulemaking provisions in Article XI. 2 The commission may convene in a closed, non-public meeting if the commission ¹[must] <u>shall</u>¹ discuss: non-compliance of a compact 3 state with its obligations under the compact; the employment, 4 5 compensation, discipline or other personnel matters, practices or 6 procedures related to specific employees or other matters related to 7 the commission's internal personnel practices and procedures; 8 current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation against the 9 commission; negotiation of contracts for the purchase or sale of 10 goods, services or real estate; accusation against any person of a 11 crime or formally censuring any person; disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information ¹[which] <u>that</u>¹ is privileged 12 13 or confidential; disclosure of information of a personal nature 14 where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of 15 personal privacy; disclosure of investigatory records compiled for 16 law enforcement purposes; disclosure of information related to any 17 investigatory reports prepared by or on behalf of or for use of the 18 commission or other committee charged with responsibility for 19 investigation or determination of compliance issues pursuant to the 20 compact; or matters specifically exempted from disclosure by 21 federal and state statute.

22 (2) If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to 23 paragraph (1) of this subsection, the commission's legal counsel or 24 designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and shall 25 reference each relevant exempting provision. The commission shall keep minutes ¹[which] <u>that</u>¹ fully and clearly describe all matters 26 27 discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate 28 summary of actions taken, of any person participating in the 29 meeting, and the reasons therefore, including a description of the 30 views expressed. All documents considered in connection with an 31 action shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and 32 documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to 33 release only by a majority vote of the commission or order of a 34 court of competent jurisdiction.

35 c. The commission shall, by a majority vote of the commissioners, prescribe bylaws, rules, or both to govern its 36 37 conduct as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the 38 purposes and exercise the powers of the compact, including but not 39 limited to: establishing the fiscal year of the commission; providing 40 reasonable standards and procedures ¹[:]¹ for the establishment and meetings of other committees ¹[;]¹ and for governing any general 41 42 or specific delegation of any authority or function of the 43 commission; providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting meetings of the commission; ¹establishing the titles, 44 45 duties and authority and reasonable procedures for the election of 46 the officers of the commission; providing reasonable standards and 47 procedures for the establishment of the personnel policies and

1 programs of the commission; promulgating a code of ethics to 2 address permissible and prohibited activities of commission 3 members and employees; providing a mechanism for concluding the operations of the commission and the equitable disposition of any 4 5 surplus funds that may exist after the termination of the compact 6 after the payment and reserving of all of its debts and obligations;¹ 7 and ensuring reasonable advance notice of all meetings and 8 providing an opportunity for attendance of such meetings by 9 interested parties, with enumerated exceptions designed to protect 10 the public's interest, the privacy of individuals of such proceedings, 11 and proprietary information, including trade secrets.

12 The commission may meet in closed session only after a majority 13 of the commissioners vote to close a meeting to the public in whole 14 or in part. As soon as practicable, the commission shall make 15 public a copy of the vote to close the meeting revealing the vote of each commissioner with no proxy votes allowed ¹[; establishing the 16 titles, duties and authority and reasonable procedures for the 17 18 election of the officers of the commission; providing reasonable 19 standards and procedures for the establishment of the personnel 20 policies and programs of the commission $]^1$.

Notwithstanding any civil service or other similar law of any 21 22 compact state, the bylaws shall exclusively govern the personnel 23 policies and programs of the commission ¹[; promulgating a code 24 of ethics to address permissible and prohibited activities of 25 commission members and employees; providing a mechanism for 26 concluding the operations of the commission and the equitable 27 disposition of any surplus funds that may exist after the termination 28 of the compact after the payment and reserving of all of its debts 29 and obligations; the]. The¹ commission shall publish its 30 bylaws in a convenient form and file a copy thereof and a copy of any amendment thereto, with the appropriate agency or officer in 31 each of the compact states ¹[; the]. 32

33 <u>The</u>¹ commission shall maintain its financial records in
 34 accordance with the bylaws, and shall meet and take such actions as
 35 are consistent with the provisions of this compact and the bylaws.

d. The commission shall have the following powers:

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

(2) to bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the
name of the commission, provided that the standing of any state
psychology regulatory authority or other regulatory body
responsible for psychology licensure to sue or be sued under
applicable law shall not be affected;

(3) to purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

1 (4) to borrow, accept or contract for services of personnel, 2 including, but not limited to, employees of a compact state; 3 (5) to hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix 4 compensation, define duties, grant such individuals appropriate 5 authority to carry out the purposes of the compact, and to establish the commission's personnel policies and programs relating to 6 7 conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel, and other related 8 personnel matters; 9 (6) to accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of 10 money, equipment, supplies, materials and services, and to receive, utilize and dispose of the same, provided that at all times the 11 12 commission shall strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest; 13 14 (7) to lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve, or use, any ¹[property,]¹ real, 15 personal, or mixed ¹property¹, provided that at all times the 16 commission shall strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety; 17 (8) to sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon 18 or otherwise dispose of any ¹[property]¹ real, personal ¹,¹ or mixed 19 ¹property¹; 20 (9) to establish a budget and make expenditures; 21 22 (10) to borrow money; 23 (11) to appoint committees, including advisory committees 24 comprised of members, state regulators, state legislators or their 25 representatives, and consumer representatives, and such other 26 interested persons as may be designated in this compact and the 27 bylaws; ¹[to provide and receive information from, and]¹ (12) ¹to provide and receive information from, and¹ 28 to 29 cooperate with, law enforcement agencies; ¹[and]¹ (13) to adopt and use an official seal; and 30 $(14)^{1}$ to perform such other functions as may be necessary or 31 appropriate to achieve the purposes of this compact consistent with 32 33 the state regulation of psychology licensure, temporary in-person 34 ¹**[**,**]**¹ face-to-face practice, and telepsychology practice. e. The elected officers shall serve as the executive board, which 35 shall have the power to act on behalf of the commission according 36 37 to the terms of this compact. (1) The executive board shall ¹[be comprised of] $\underline{comprise}^1$ six 38 39 members: five voting members who are elected from the current 40 membership of the commission by the commission and one ex-41 officio, nonvoting member from the recognized membership 42 organization composed of state and provincial psychology regulatory authorities. The ex-officio member ¹[must] shall¹ have 43 44 served as staff or member on a state psychology regulatory 45 authority and will be selected by its respective organization. The 46 commission may remove any member of the executive board as

1 provided in bylaws. The executive board shall meet at least 2 annually.

3 (2) The executive board shall have the following duties and responsibilities: recommend to the entire commission changes to the 4 5 rules or bylaws, changes to this compact legislation, fees paid by 6 compact states such as annual dues, and any other applicable fees; 7 ensure compact administration services are appropriately provided, 8 contractual or otherwise; prepare and recommend the budget; 9 maintain financial records on behalf of the commission; monitor 10 compact compliance of member states and provide compliance 11 reports to the commission; establish additional committees as 12 necessary; and other duties as provided in rules or bylaws.

¹[the] <u>The</u>¹ commission shall pay, or provide for the 13 f. payment of $\frac{1}{1}$ the reasonable expenses of its establishment, 14 organization and ongoing activities. The commission may accept 15 16 any and all appropriate revenue sources, donations, and grants of 17 money, equipment, supplies, materials and services. The 18 commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from 19 each compact state or impose fees on other parties to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the commission and its staff $\frac{1}{2}$ 20 21 which ¹[must] <u>assessment shall</u>¹ be in a total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved each year for which revenue is 22 23 not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment 24 amount shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the commission $\frac{1}{1}$ which shall promulgate a rule binding upon all 25 compact states. The commission shall not incur obligations of any 26 27 kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same; nor 28 shall the commission pledge the credit of any of the compact states, 29 except by and with the authority of the compact state. ¹[the] The¹ 30 commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and 31 disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the commission 32 shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established 33 under its bylaws. All receipts and disbursements of funds handled 34 by the commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant $\frac{1}{2}$ and the report of the audit shall be included in 35 1,1 and become part of 1,1 the annual report of the commission. 36

37 g. The members, officers, executive director, employees and representatives of the commission shall be immune from suit and 38 39 liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for any claim 40 for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil 41 liability caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error 42 or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom the 43 claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred $\frac{1}{2}$ 44 within the scope of commission employment, duties or 45 responsibilities; provided that nothing in this subsection shall be 46 construed to protect any such person from suit or liability for any 47 damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional or willful

1 or wanton misconduct of that person. The commission shall defend 2 member, officer, executive director, any employee, or 3 representative of the commission in any civil action seeking to 4 impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or that occurred within the scope of commission 5 omission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that the person against 6 7 whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing 8 occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or 9 responsibilities; provided that nothing herein shall be construed to 10 prohibit that person from retaining the person's own counsel; and 11 provided further, that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission 12 did not result from that person's intentional or willful or wanton 13 misconduct. The commission shall indemnify and hold harmless 14 anv member, officer, executive director, employee, or 15 representative of the commission for the amount of any settlement 16 or judgment obtained against that person arising out of any actual or 17 alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of 18 commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that such 19 person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the 20 scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, 21 provided that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not 22 result from the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that 23 person.

- 24 25
- XI. Rulemaking.
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¹[Commission] commission¹ shall exercise its 27 a. The rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this article 28 29 and the rules adopted thereunder. Rules and amendments shall 30 become binding as of the date specified in each rule or amendment.

31 b. If a majority of the legislatures of the compact states rejects a 32 rule, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner 33 used to adopt the compact, then such rule shall have no further 34 force and effect in any compact State.

Rules or amendments to the rules shall be adopted at a 35 c. regular or special meeting of the ¹[Commission] <u>commission</u>¹. 36

37 Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules by d. 38 the commission, and at least 60 days in advance of the meeting at 39 which the rule will be considered and voted upon, the commission 40 shall file a notice of proposed rulemaking: on the website of the 41 commission; and on the website of each compact states' psychology 42 regulatory authority or the publication in which each state would 43 otherwise publish proposed rules.

44 e. The notice of proposed rulemaking shall include: the 45 proposed time, date, and location of the meeting in which the rule 46 will be considered and voted upon; the text of the proposed rule or 47 amendment and the reason for the proposed rule; a request for

comments on the proposed rule from any interested person; and the
 manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the
 commission of their intention to attend the public hearing and any
 written comments.

5 f. Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the commission shall 6 allow persons to submit written data, facts, opinions, and arguments 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ which $\frac{1}{\text{submitted materials}^1}$ shall be made available to the 8 public.

9 g. The commission shall grant an opportunity for a public 10 hearing before it adopts a rule or amendment if a hearing is 11 requested by: at least 25 persons who submit comments 12 independently of each other; a governmental subdivision or agency; 13 or a duly appointed person in an association that has ¹[having]¹ at 14 least 25 members.

15 h. If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, the 16 commission shall publish the place, time, and date of the scheduled 17 public hearing. All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing shall 18 notify the executive director of the commission or other designated 19 member in writing of their desire to appear and testify at the hearing 20 not less than five business days before the scheduled date of the 21 hearing. Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each 22 person who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to 23 comment orally or in writing. No transcript of the hearing is 24 required, unless a written request for a transcript is made, in which 25 case the person requesting the transcript shall bear the cost of 26 producing the transcript. A recording may be made in lieu of a 27 transcript under the same terms and conditions as a transcript. This subsection shall not preclude the commission from making a 28 29 transcript or recording of the hearing if it so chooses. Nothing in 30 this section shall be construed as requiring a separate hearing on 31 each rule. Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the 32 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.

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 the compact and in this

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1 section shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon as 2 reasonably possible, in no event later than 90 days after the 3 effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this provision, an 4 emergency rule is one that ¹[must] <u>shall</u>¹ be adopted immediately in order to: meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or 5 6 welfare; prevent a loss of commission or compact state funds; meet 7 a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is 8 established by federal law or rule; or protect public health and 9 safety.

10 m. The commission or an authorized committee of the 11 commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule or 12 amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors 13 in format, errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public 14 notice of any revisions shall be posted on the website of the 15 commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any 16 person for a period of 30 days after posting. The revision may be 17 challenged only on grounds that the revision results in a material 18 change to a rule. A challenge shall be made in writing ${}^{1}[,]^{1}$ and 19 delivered to the chair of the commission prior to the end of the 20 notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision will take effect 21 without further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision 22 may not take effect without the approval of the commission.

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XII. Oversight, Dispute Resolution, and Enforcement

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26 The executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state a. 27 government in each compact state shall enforce this compact and 28 take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate the 29 compact's purposes and intent. The provisions of this ¹[Compact] 30 compact¹ and the rules promulgated hereunder shall have standing 31 as statutory law. All courts shall take judicial notice of the compact 32 and the rules in any judicial or administrative proceeding in a 33 compact state pertaining to the subject matter of this compact that 34 may affect the powers, responsibilities or actions of the 35 commission. The commission shall be entitled to receive service of 36 process in any such proceeding, and shall have standing to intervene 37 in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide service of 38 process to the commission shall render a judgment or order void as 39 to the commission, this compact or promulgated rules.

40 b. If the commission determines that a compact state has 41 defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities 42 under this compact or the promulgated rules, the commission shall: 43 provide written notice to the defaulting state and other compact 44 states of the nature of the default, the proposed means of remedying 45 the default, and any other action to be taken by the commission; and 46 provide remedial training and specific technical assistance regarding the default. If a state in default fails to remedy the 47

1 default, the defaulting state may be terminated from the compact 2 upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the compact states, and all 3 rights, privileges, and benefits conferred by this compact shall be 4 terminated on the effective date of termination. A remedy of the 5 default shall not relieve the offending state of obligations or 6 liabilities incurred during the period of default. Termination of 7 membership in the compact shall be imposed only after all other 8 means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of 9 intent to suspend or terminate shall be submitted by the commission 10 to the governor, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting 11 state's legislature, and each of the compact states. A compact state ¹[which] <u>that</u>¹ has been terminated is responsible for all 12 assessments, obligations, and liabilities incurred through the 13 14 effective date of termination, including obligations ¹[which] <u>that</u>¹ 15 extend beyond the effective date of termination. The commission shall not bear any costs incurred by the state ¹[which] <u>that</u>¹ is 16 found to be in default or ¹[which] that¹ has been terminated from 17 18 the compact, unless agreed upon in writing between the commission 19 and the defaulting state. The defaulting state may appeal the action 20 of the commission by petitioning the United States District Court 21 for the state of Georgia or the federal district where the compact has 22 its principal offices. The prevailing member shall be awarded all 23 costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.

c. Upon request by a compact state, the commission shall attempt to resolve disputes related to the compact ¹[which] <u>that</u>¹ arise among compact states and between compact and non-compact states. The commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes that arise before the commission.

30 d. The commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, 31 shall enforce the provisions and rules of this compact. By majority 32 vote, the commission may initiate legal action in the United States 33 District Court for the state of Georgia or the federal district where 34 the compact has its principal offices against a compact state in 35 default to enforce compliance with the provisions of the compact 36 and its promulgated rules and bylaws. The relief sought may 37 include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial 38 enforcement is necessary, the prevailing member shall be awarded 39 all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees. 40 The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the commission. The commission may pursue any other remedies 41 available under federal or state law. 42

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44 XIII. Date of Implementation of the Psychology
45 Interjurisdictional Compact Commission and Associated Rules,
46 Withdrawal, and Amendments.

1 The compact shall come into effect on the date on which the a. compact is enacted into law in the seventh compact state. The 2 provisions ¹[which] <u>that</u>¹ become effective at that time shall be 3 limited to the powers granted to the commission relating to 4 5 assembly and the promulgation of rules. Thereafter, the 6 commission shall meet and exercise rulemaking powers necessary 7 to the implementation and administration of the compact.

b. Any state '[which] that' joins the 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 the compact becomes law in
that state. Any rule '[which] that' has been previously adopted by
the commission shall have the full force and effect of law on the
day the compact becomes law in that state.

14 c. Any compact state may withdraw from this compact by 15 enacting a statute repealing the same. A compact state's withdrawal shall not take effect until six months after enactment of the 16 17 repealing statute. Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing 18 requirement of the withdrawing state's psychology regulatory 19 authority to comply with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of this act prior to the effective date of 20 21 withdrawal.

d. Nothing contained in this compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any psychology licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a compact state and a noncompact state ¹[which] <u>that</u>¹ does not conflict with the provisions of this compact.

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

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XIV. Construction and Severability.

33 34 This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate a. 35 the purposes thereof. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any state member thereto, the compact shall remain 36 37 in full force and effect as to the remaining compact states. When 38 the Governor executes the compact on behalf of this State and when 39 the compact is ratified by one or more other states, then the 40 compact shall become operative and effective between this State 41 and such other state or states. The Governor is hereby authorized 42 and directed to take such action as may be necessary to complete 43 the exchange of official documents between this State and any other 44 state ratifying the compact.

b. The compact administrator who represents this State, as
provided in the compact, shall not be entitled to any additional
compensation for the administrator's duties and responsibilities as

compact administrator but shall be entitled to reimbursement for
 reasonable expenses actually incurred in connection with the
 administrator's duties and responsibilities as compact administrator
 in the same manner as for expenses incurred in connection with
 other duties and responsibilities of office or employment.

7 2. This act shall take effect on the ¹[60] <u>60th</u>¹ day after the
8 date of enactment.