

SENATE, No. 1499

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Sponsored by:
Senator VIN GOPAL
District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Enters New Jersey into Solemn Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT adopting the Solemn Covenant of the States to Award
2 Prizes for Curing Diseases and supplementing Title 26 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7

8 1. The State of New Jersey enacts and enters into the Solemn
9 Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases with all
10 other jurisdictions that legally join in the covenant in the form
11 substantially as follows:

12

13 Article I. Definitions.

14

15 1. As used in this compact:

16 “Compacting state” means either:

17 a. a state that has enacted the compact and which has not
18 withdrawn or been suspended pursuant to Article XVI of the
19 compact; or

20 b. the federal government in accordance with the commission’s
21 bylaws.

22 “Compact” means the Solemn Covenant of the States to Award
23 Prizes for Curing Diseases enacted in this section.

24 “Non-compacting state” means any state or the federal
25 government, if it is not at the time a compacting state.

26 “Public health expenses” means the amount of all costs paid by
27 taxpayers in a specified geographic area relating to a particular
28 disease.

29 “State” means any state, district, or territory of the United States
30 of America.

31

32 Article II. Establishment of the Commission; Membership.

33

34 1. Upon the enactment of the covenant by six states, the
35 compacting states shall establish the Solemn Covenant of the States
36 Commission.

37

38 2. The commission is a body corporate and politic and an
39 instrumentality of each of the compacting states and is solely
40 responsible for its liabilities, except as otherwise specifically
41 provided in the compact.

42

43 3. Each compacting state shall be represented by one member
44 as selected by the compacting state. Each compacting state shall
45 determine its member’s qualifications and period of service and
46 shall be responsible for any action to remove or suspend its member
47 or to fill the member’s position if it becomes vacant. Nothing in the

compact shall be construed to affect a compacting state's authority regarding the qualification, selection, or service of its own member.

Article III. Powers of the Commission.

The commission shall have the following powers:

1. To adopt bylaws and rules pursuant to Articles V and VI of the compact, which shall have the force and effect of law and shall be binding in the compacting states to the extent and in the manner provided in the compact;

2. To receive and review in an expeditious manner treatments and therapeutic protocols for the cure of disease submitted to the commission and to award prizes for submissions that meet the commission's standards for a successful cure treatment or therapeutic protocol;

3. To make widely available a cure treatment or therapeutic protocol for which a prize is awarded, including by arranging or contracting for the manufacturing, production, or provision of any drug, serum, or other substance, device, or process;

4. To establish and collect royalty fees imposed on manufacturers, producers, and providers in non-compacting states or foreign countries of any drug, serum, or other substance, device, or process used for a cure treatment or therapeutic protocol for which a prize is awarded, provided that the royalty fees for a particular state or country shall cumulatively be not more than the estimated five-year savings in public health expenses for that state or country, as calculated by actuaries employed or contracted by the commission;

5. To do the following regarding the collected royalty fees:

a. Pay or reimburse expenses related to the payment of a prize, which shall include employing or contracting actuaries to calculate the annual taxpayer savings amounts in compacting states in accordance with paragraph (3) of subsection g. of section 3 of Article VI, and payment of interest and other expenses related to a loan obtained in accordance with paragraph (6) of subsection g. of section 3 of Article VI; and

b. Annually disburse any amounts remaining after making payments or reimbursements under subsection a. of this section as refunds to compacting states based on the percent of the state's prize obligation in relation to the total obligation amount of all compacting states;

6. To bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in its name as the commission;

- 1 7. To issue subpoenas requiring the attendance and testimony
2 of witnesses and the production of evidence;
3
- 4 8. To establish and maintain offices;
5
- 6 9. To borrow, accept, or contract for personnel services,
7 including personnel services from employees of a compacting state;
8
- 9 10. To hire employees, professionals, or specialists, and elect or
10 appoint officers, and to fix their compensation, define their duties
11 and give them appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the
12 compact, and determine their qualifications; and to establish the
13 commission's personnel policies and programs relating to, among
14 other things, conflicts of interest, rates of compensation, and
15 qualifications of personnel;
16
- 17 11. To accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of
18 money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, and to receive,
19 utilize, and dispose of the same; provided that at all times the
20 commission shall strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety;
21
- 22 12. To lease, purchase, or accept appropriate gifts or donations
23 of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve, or use, any property, real,
24 personal, or mixed; provided that at all times the commission shall
25 strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety;
26
- 27 13. To sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon,
28 or otherwise dispose of any property, real, personal, or mixed;
29
- 30 14. To monitor compacting states for compliance with the
31 commission's bylaws and rules;
32
- 33 15. To enforce compliance by compacting states with the
34 commission's bylaws and rules;
35
- 36 16. To provide for dispute resolution among compacting states
37 or between the commission and those who submit treatments and
38 therapeutic protocols for the cure of disease for consideration;
39
- 40 17. To establish a budget and make expenditures;
41
- 42 18. To borrow money;
43
- 44 19. To appoint committees, including management, legislative,
45 and advisory committees comprised of members, state legislators or
46 their representatives, medical professionals, and such other
47 interested persons as may be designated by the commission;

1 20. To establish annual membership dues for compacting states;

2

3 21. To adopt and use a corporate seal; and

4

5 22. To perform such other functions as may be necessary or
6 appropriate to achieve the purposes of this compact.

7

8 Article IV. Meetings and Voting.

9

10 1. The commission shall meet and take such actions as are
11 consistent with the compact, bylaws, and rules.

12

13 2. A majority of the members of the commission shall
14 constitute a quorum necessary in order to conduct business or take
15 actions at meetings of the commission.

16

17 3. Each member of the commission shall have the right and
18 power to cast one vote regarding matters determined or actions to
19 be taken by the commission. Each member shall have the right and
20 power to participate in the business and affairs of the commission.

21

22 4. A member shall vote in person or by such other means as
23 provided in the commission's bylaws. The commission's bylaws
24 may provide for members' participation in meetings by telephone or
25 other means of communication.

26

27 5. The commission shall meet at least once during each
28 calendar year. Additional meetings shall be held as set forth in the
29 commission's bylaws.

30

31 6. No decision of the commission with respect to the approval
32 of an award for a treatment or therapeutic process for the cure of a
33 disease shall be effective unless two-thirds of all the members of
34 the commission vote in favor thereof.

35

36 7. Guidelines and voting requirements for all other decisions of
37 the commission shall be established in the commission's bylaws.

38

39 Article V. Bylaws.

40

41 The commission shall, by a majority vote of all the members of
42 the commission, prescribe bylaws to govern its conduct as may be
43 necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes and exercise the
44 powers of the compact, including, but not limited to:

45

46 1. Establishing the fiscal year of the commission;

- 1 2. Providing reasonable procedures for appointing and electing
2 members, as well as holding meetings, of the management
3 committee;
4
- 5 3. Providing reasonable standards and procedures:
 - 6 a. For the establishment and meetings of other committees;
 - 7 b. Governing any general or specific delegation of any
8 authority or function of the commission; and
 - 9 c. Voting guidelines and procedures for commission decisions;
10
- 11 4. Providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting
12 meetings of the commission that shall consist of requiring a quorum
13 to be present, ensuring reasonable advance notice of each such
14 meeting and providing for the right of citizens to attend each such
15 meeting with enumerated exceptions designed to protect the
16 public's interest and the privacy of individuals;
17
- 18 5. Providing a list of matters about which the commission may
19 go into executive session, and providing that the commission may
20 not enter into executive session except upon the vote of a majority
21 of all members of the commission. As soon as practicable, the
22 commission shall make available to the public:
 - 23 a. A copy of the vote to go into executive session, revealing the
24 vote of each member with no proxy votes allowed; and
 - 25 b. The matter requiring executive session, without identifying
26 the actual issues or individuals involved;
27
- 28 6. Establishing the titles, duties, authority, and reasonable
29 procedures for the election of the officers of the commission;
30
- 31 7. Providing reasonable standards and procedures for the
32 establishment of the personnel policies and programs of the
33 commission. Notwithstanding any civil service or other similar
34 laws of any compacting state, the commission's bylaws shall
35 exclusively govern the personnel policies and programs of the
36 commission;
37
- 38 8. Allowing a mechanism for:
 - 39 a. The federal government to join as a compacting state; and
 - 40 b. Foreign countries or subdivisions of those countries to join
41 as liaison members by adopting the compact; provided that adopting
42 countries or subdivisions shall not have voting power or the power
43 to bind the commission in any way;
44
- 45 9. Adopting a code of ethics to address permissible and

1 prohibited activities of members and employees;

2

3 10. Providing for the maintenance of the commission's books
4 and records;

5

6 11. Governing the acceptance of and accounting for donations,
7 annual member dues, and other sources of funding, and establishing
8 the proportion of these funds to be allocated to prize amounts for
9 treatments and therapeutic protocols that cure disease;

10

11 12. Governing any fund raising efforts in which the commission
12 wishes to engage; and

13

14 13. Providing a mechanism for winding up the operations of the
15 commission and the equitable disposition of any surplus funds that
16 may exist after the termination of the compact after the payment
17 and reserving of all its debts and obligations.

18

19 Article VI. Rules.

20

21 1. The commission shall adopt rules to effectively and
22 efficiently achieve the purposes of this compact.

23

24 2. The commission shall also adopt rules establishing the
25 criteria for defining and classifying the diseases for which prizes
26 shall be awarded. The commission may consult the most recent
27 edition of the International Classification of Diseases as published
28 by the World Health Organization or other definitions agreed to by
29 a two-thirds vote of the commission.

30

31 3. The commission shall also adopt rules regarding prizes for
32 curing diseases that establish the following:

33 a. At least 10 major diseases for which to create prizes, which
34 shall be determined based on the following factors:

35 (1) The severity of the disease to a human individual's overall
36 health and well-being;

37 (2) The survival rate or severity of impact of the disease; and

38 (3) The public health expenses and treatment expenses for the
39 disease;

40 b. The criteria a treatment or therapeutic protocol shall meet in
41 order to be considered a cure for any of the diseases for which a
42 prize may be awarded, which shall include the following
43 requirements:

44 (1) The treatment or therapeutic protocol shall yield a 95 percent
45 survival rate through at least five years after the treatment or
46 therapeutic protocol has ended; and

47 (2) The course of the treatment or therapeutic protocol is one
48 year or less;

1 c. The procedure for determining the diseases for which to
2 award prizes, which includes the option to award prizes for more
3 than 10 diseases that meet the criteria set forth in subsection a. of
4 this section, if agreed to by two-thirds vote of the commission, and
5 a requirement to update the list of diseases established pursuant to
6 subsection a. of this section every three years;

7 d. The submission and evaluation procedures and guidelines,
8 including filing and review procedures, and limitations preventing
9 public access to treatment or therapeutic protocol submissions;

10 e. The estimated five-year public health expenses for each
11 disease in each compacting state and a procedure to update these
12 expenses every three years in conjunction with the requirements set
13 forth in subsection c. of this section. The estimated five-year public
14 health expenses amount shall be calculated, estimated, and
15 publicized every three years by actuaries employed or contracted by
16 the commission;

17 f. The prize amount with respect to cures for each disease,
18 which shall be equal to the most recent estimated total five-year
19 savings in public health expenses for the disease as calculated in
20 subsection e. of this section in all of the compacting states; amounts
21 donated by charities, individuals, and any other entities intended for
22 the prize under the compact; and any other factors that the
23 commission deems appropriate; and

24 g. The prize distribution procedures and guidelines, which shall
25 include the following requirements:

26 (1) Upon acceptance of a cure, the prize winner shall transfer to
27 the commission the patent and all related intellectual property for
28 the treatment or therapeutic protocol in exchange for the prize,
29 except in the case that the prize money is considered by the
30 commission to be too low, and that a prize will be awarded only to
31 the first person or entity that submits a successful cure for a disease
32 for which a prize may be awarded;

33 (2) Donation amounts intended for the prize shall be kept in a
34 separate, interest-bearing account maintained by the commission.
35 The account shall be the only account in which prize money is kept;

36 (3) Each compacting state shall have the responsibility to pay
37 annually the compacting state's actual one-year savings in public
38 health expenses for the particular disease for which a cure has been
39 accepted. The compacting state shall make such an annual payment
40 until it has fulfilled its prize responsibility as established in
41 subsection f. of this section. Each compacting state's payment
42 responsibility begins one year after the date the cure becomes
43 widely available. The commission shall employ or contract
44 actuaries to calculate each state's actual one-year savings in public
45 health expenses at the end of each year to determine each state's
46 responsibility for the succeeding year;

47 (4) Compacting states may meet prize responsibilities by any
48 method including the issuance of bonds or other obligations, with

1 the principal and interest of those bonds or obligations to be repaid
2 only from revenue derived from estimated public health expense
3 savings from a cure for a disease. If the compacting state does not
4 make such revenue available to repay some or all of the revenue
5 bonds or obligations issued, the owners or holders of those bonds or
6 obligations have no right to have excises or taxes levied to pay the
7 principal or interest on the bonds or obligations. The revenue bonds
8 and obligations are not a debt of the issuing compacting state;

9 (5) A compacting state may issue bonds or other debt that are
10 general obligations, under which the full faith and credit, revenue,
11 and taxing power of the state is pledged to pay the principal and
12 interest under those obligations, only if authorized by the
13 compacting state's constitution or, if constitutional authorization is
14 not required, by other law of the compacting state; and

15 (6) Upon acceptance of a cure, the commission shall obtain a
16 loan from a financial institution in an amount equal to the most
17 recently calculated total estimated five-year public health expenses
18 for the disease in all compacting states, in accordance with
19 subsection f. of this section. The commission reserves the right to
20 continuously evaluate the cure in the interim and rescind a prize
21 offer if the commission finds that the cure no longer meets the
22 commission's criteria.

23
24 4. The commission shall also adopt rules that do the following:

25 a. Establish the following with regard to commission records:

26 (1) Conditions and procedures for public inspection and copying
27 of its information and official records, except such information and
28 records that involve the privacy of individuals or would otherwise
29 violate privacy laws under federal law and the laws of the
30 compacting states;

31 (2) Procedures for sharing with federal and state agencies,
32 including law enforcement agencies, records and information
33 otherwise exempt from disclosure; and

34 (3) Guidelines for entering into agreements with federal and
35 state agencies to receive or exchange information or records subject
36 to nondisclosure and confidentiality provisions;

37 b. Provide a process for commission review of submitted
38 treatments and therapeutic protocols for curing diseases that
39 includes the following:

40 (1) An opportunity for an appeal, not later than 30 days after a
41 rejection of a treatment or therapeutic protocol for prize
42 consideration, to a review panel established under the commission's
43 dispute resolution process;

44 (2) Commission monitoring and review of treatment and
45 therapeutic protocol effectiveness consistent with the cure criteria
46 established by the commission for the particular disease; and

47 (3) Commission reconsideration, modification, or withdrawal of
48 approval of a treatment or therapeutic protocol for prize

1 consideration for failure to continue to meet the cure criteria
2 established by the commission for the particular disease;

3 c. Establish a dispute resolution process to resolve disputes or
4 other issues under the compact that may arise between two or more
5 compacting states or between the commission and individuals or
6 entities who submit treatments and therapeutic protocols to cure
7 diseases, which process shall provide for:

8 (1) Administrative review by a review panel appointed by the
9 commission;

10 (2) Judicial review of decisions issued after an administrative
11 review; and

12 (3) Qualifications to be appointed to a panel, due process
13 requirements, including notice and hearing procedures, and any
14 other procedure, requirement, or standard necessary to provide
15 adequate dispute resolution; and

16 d. Establish and impose annual member dues on compacting
17 states, which shall be calculated based on the percentage of each
18 compacting state's population in relation to the population of all the
19 compacting states.

20
21 5. Recognizing that the goal of the compact is to pool the
22 potential savings of as many states and countries as possible to
23 generate sufficient financial incentive to develop a cure for many of
24 the world's most devastating diseases, the compact will respect the
25 laws of each of these United States by adopting rules that establish
26 ethical standards for research that shall be followed in order for a
27 prize to be claimed. The compact, in the rules, shall establish a
28 common set of ethical standards that embodies the laws and
29 restrictions in each of the states so that to be eligible for claiming a
30 prize the entity submitting a cure shall not have violated any of the
31 ethical standards in any one of the 50 states, whether the states have
32 joined the compact or not. The compact shall publish these
33 common ethical standards along with the specific criteria for a cure
34 for each of the diseases the compact has targeted.

35 So long as a researcher follows the common ethical standards in
36 effect at the time the research is done, an entity presenting a cure
37 will be deemed to have followed the standards. On or before
38 January 1 of each year, the compact shall review all state laws to
39 determine if additional ethical standards have been enacted by any
40 of the 50 states or the federal government. Any changes to the
41 common ethical standards rules based on new state laws shall be
42 adopted and published by the compact, but shall not take effect in
43 cure criteria for a period of three years to allow for sufficient notice
44 to researchers.

45
46 6. All rules may be amended as the commission sees necessary

1 7. All rules shall be adopted pursuant to a rule-making process
2 that conforms to the Model State Administrative Procedure Act of
3 1981 by the Uniform Law Commissioners, as amended, as may be
4 appropriate to the operations of the commission.
5

6 8. In the event the commission exercises its rulemaking
7 authority in a manner that is beyond the scope of the purpose of this
8 compact, or the powers granted hereunder, then such rule shall be
9 invalid and have no force and effect.
10

11 Article VII. Committees.
12

13 1. Management Committee.

14 a. The commission may establish a management committee
15 comprised of no more than 14 members when 26 states enact the
16 compact.

17 b. The committee shall consist of those members representing
18 compacting states whose total public health expenses of all of the
19 established diseases are the highest.

20 c. The committee shall have such authority and duties as may
21 be set forth in the commission's bylaws and rules, including:

22 (1) Managing authority over the day-to-day affairs of the
23 commission in a manner consistent with the commission's bylaws
24 and rules and the purposes of the compact;

25 (2) Overseeing the offices of the commission; and

26 (3) Planning, implementing, and coordinating communications
27 and activities with state, federal, and local government
28 organizations in order to advance the goals of the compact.

29 d. The commission annually shall elect officers for the
30 committee, with each having such authority and duties as may be
31 specified in the commission's bylaws and rules.

32 e. The management committee, subject to commission
33 approval, may appoint or retain an executive director for such
34 period, upon such terms and conditions, and for such compensation,
35 as the committee determines. The executive director shall serve as
36 secretary to the commission, but shall not be a member of the
37 commission. The executive director shall hire and supervise such
38 other staff as may be authorized by the committee.
39

40 2. Advisory Committees.

41 The commission may appoint advisory committees to monitor all
42 operations related to the purposes of the compact and make
43 recommendations to the commission, provided that the manner of
44 selection and term of any committee member shall be as set forth in
45 the commission's bylaws and rules. The commission shall consult
46 with an advisory committee, to the extent required by the
47 commission's bylaws or rules, before doing any of the following:

48 a. Approving cure criteria;

- 1 b. Amending, enacting, or repealing any bylaw or rule;
- 2 c. Adopting the commission's annual budget; or
- 3 d. Addressing any other significant matter or taking any other
- 4 significant action.

5

6 Article VIII. Finance.

7

8 1. The commission annually shall establish a budget to pay or

9 provide for the payment of its reasonable expenses. To fund the

10 cost of initial operations, the commission may accept contributions

11 and other forms of funding from the compacting states and other

12 sources. Contributions and other forms of funding from other

13 sources shall be of such a nature that the independence of the

14 commission concerning the performance of its duties shall not be

15 compromised.

16

17 2. The commission shall be exempt from all taxation in and by

18 the compacting states.

19

20 3. The commission shall keep complete and accurate accounts

21 of all of its internal receipts, including grants and donations, and

22 disbursements of all funds under its control. The internal financial

23 accounts of the commission shall be subject to the accounting

24 procedures established under the commission's bylaws or rules.

25 The financial accounts and reports including the system of internal

26 controls and procedures of the commission shall be audited

27 annually by an independent certified public accountant. Upon the

28 determination of the commission, but not less frequently than every

29 three years, the review of the independent auditor shall include a

30 management and performance audit of the commission. The

31 commission shall make an annual report to the governors of the

32 compacting states, which shall include a report of the independent

33 audit. The commission's internal accounts shall not be confidential

34 and such materials shall be shared with any compacting state upon

35 request; provided, however, that any work papers related to any

36 internal or independent audit and any information subject to the

37 compacting states' privacy laws, shall remain confidential.

38

39 4. No compacting state shall have any claim or ownership of

40 any property held by or vested in the commission or to any

41 commission funds held pursuant to the provisions of the compact.

42

43 Article IX. Records.

44

45 Except as to privileged records, data, and information, the laws

46 of any compacting state pertaining to confidentiality or

47 nondisclosure shall not relieve any member of the duty to disclose

48 any relevant records, data, or information to the commission,

1 provided that disclosure to the commission shall not be deemed to
2 waive or otherwise affect any confidentiality requirement, and
3 further provided that, except as otherwise expressly provided in the
4 compact, the commission shall not be subject to the compacting
5 state's laws pertaining to confidentiality and nondisclosure with
6 respect to records, data, and information in its possession.
7 Confidential information of the commission shall remain
8 confidential after such information is provided to any member. All
9 cure submissions received by the commission are confidential.

10
11 Article X. Compliance.

12
13 The commission shall notify a compacting state in writing of any
14 noncompliance with commission bylaws and rules. If a compacting
15 state fails to remedy its noncompliance within the time specified in
16 the notice, the compacting state shall be deemed to be in default as
17 set forth in Article XIV.

18
19 Article XI. Venue.

20
21 Venue for any judicial proceedings by or against the commission
22 shall be brought in the appropriate court of competent jurisdiction
23 for the geographical area in which the principal office of the
24 commission is located.

25
26 Article XII. Qualified Immunity, Defense, and Indemnification.

27
28 1. The members, officers, executive director, employees, and
29 representatives of the commission shall be immune from suit and
30 liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for any claim
31 for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil
32 liability caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error,
33 or omission that occurred within the scope of the person's
34 commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that such
35 person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the
36 scope of the person's commission employment, duties, or
37 responsibilities; provided that nothing in this section shall be
38 construed to protect any such person from suit or liability for any
39 damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional or willful
40 and wanton misconduct of that person.

41
42 2. The commission shall defend any member, officer, executive
43 director, employee, or representative of the commission in any civil
44 action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual or
45 alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of the
46 person's commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that
47 such person had a reasonable basis to believe occurred within the
48 scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities;

1 provided that nothing in the compact or commission bylaws or rules
2 shall be construed to prohibit that person from retaining the
3 person's own counsel; and further provided that the actual or
4 alleged act, error, or omission did not result from that person's
5 intentional or willful and wanton misconduct.

6
7 3. The commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any
8 member, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of
9 the commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment
10 obtained against the person arising out of any actual or alleged act,
11 error, or omission that occurred within the scope of the person's
12 commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that such
13 person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the
14 scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities;
15 provided that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not
16 result from the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of that
17 person.

18
19 Article XIII. Compacting States, Effective Date, and
20 Amendment.

21
22 1. Any state is eligible to become a compacting state.

23
24 2. The compact shall become effective and binding upon
25 legislative enactment of the compact into law by two compacting
26 states; provided, the commission shall only be established after six
27 states become compacting states. Thereafter, the compact shall
28 become effective and binding as to any other compacting state upon
29 enactment of the compact into law by that state.

30
31 3. Amendments to the compact may be proposed by the
32 commission for enactment by the compacting states. No
33 amendment shall become effective and binding until all compacting
34 states enact the amendment into law.

35
36 Article XIV. Withdrawal, Default, and Expulsion.

37
38 1. Withdrawal.

39 a. Once effective, the compact shall continue in force and
40 remain binding on each and every compacting state; provided that a
41 compacting state may withdraw from the compact by doing both of
42 the following:

43 (1) repealing the law enacting the compact in that state; and

44 (2) Notifying the commission in writing of the intent to
45 withdraw on a date that is both of the following:

46 (a) at least three years after the date the notice is sent; and

47 (b) after the repeal takes effect.

- 1 b. The effective date of withdrawal is the date described in
2 paragraph (2) of subsection a. of this section.
- 3 c. The member representing the withdrawing state shall
4 immediately notify the management committee in writing upon the
5 introduction of legislation in that state repealing the compact. If a
6 management committee has not been established, the member shall
7 immediately notify the commission.
- 8 d. The commission or management committee, as applicable,
9 shall notify the other compacting states of the introduction of such
10 legislation within 10 days after its receipt of notice thereof.
- 11 e. The withdrawing state is responsible for all obligations,
12 duties, and liabilities incurred through the effective date of
13 withdrawal, including any obligations, the performance of which
14 extend beyond the effective date of withdrawal. The commission's
15 actions shall continue to be effective and be given full force and
16 effect in the withdrawing state.
- 17 f. Reinstatement following a state's withdrawal shall become
18 effective upon the effective date of the subsequent enactment of the
19 compact by that state.
- 20
- 21 2. Default.
- 22 a. If the commission determines that any compacting state has
23 at any time defaulted in the performance of any of its obligations or
24 responsibilities under the compact or the commission's bylaws or
25 rules, then, after notice and a hearing as set forth in the bylaws, all
26 rights, privileges, and benefits conferred by this compact on the
27 defaulting state shall be suspended from the effective date of default
28 as fixed by the commission. The grounds for default include failure
29 of a compacting state to perform its obligations or responsibilities,
30 and any other grounds designated in commission rules. The
31 commission shall stipulate the conditions and the time period within
32 which the defaulting state shall cure its default. If the defaulting
33 state fails to cure the default within the time period specified by the
34 commission, the defaulting state shall be expelled from the compact
35 and all rights, privileges, and benefits conferred by the compact
36 shall be terminated from the effective date of the expulsion. Any
37 state that is expelled from the compact shall be liable for any cure
38 prize or prizes for three years after its removal. The commission
39 shall also take appropriate legal action to ensure that any
40 compacting state that withdraws from the compact remains liable
41 for paying its responsibility towards a prize for a cure that was
42 accepted while the compacting state was a member of the
43 commission.
- 44 b. The expelled state shall be required to reenact the compact
45 in order to become a compacting state.
- 46
- 47 3. Dissolution of Compact.

1 a. The compact dissolves effective upon the date of either of
2 the following:

3 (1) The withdrawal or expulsion of a compacting state, which
4 withdrawal or expulsion reduces membership in the compact to one
5 state; or

6 (2) The commission votes to dissolve the compact.

7 b. Upon the dissolution of the compact, the compact becomes
8 null and void and shall be of no further force or effect, and the
9 business and affairs of the commission shall be wound up and any
10 surplus funds shall be distributed in accordance with the
11 commission's bylaws, provided that the commission shall pay all
12 outstanding prizes awarded before the dissolution of the compact,
13 as well as any other outstanding debts and obligations incurred
14 during the existence of the compact. Any unawarded funds donated
15 to be a part of a prize shall be returned to the donor, along with any
16 interest earned on the amount.

17
18 Article XV. Severability and Construction.

19
20 1. The provisions of the compact shall be severable, and if any
21 phrase, clause, sentence, or provision is deemed unenforceable, the
22 remaining provisions of the compact shall be enforceable.

23
24 2. The provisions of the compact shall be liberally construed to
25 effectuate its purposes.

26
27 Article XVI. Binding Effect of Compact and Other Laws.

28
29 1. Other laws: Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any
30 other law of a compacting state, except as provided in subsection b.
31 of section 2 of this article.

32
33 2. Binding Effect of the Compact.

34 a. All lawful actions of the commission, including all
35 commission rules, are binding upon the compacting states.

36 b. All agreements between the commission and the compacting
37 states are binding in accordance with their terms.

38 c. Except to the extent authorized by the compacting state's
39 constitution or, if constitutional authorization is not required, by
40 other law of the compacting state, such state, by entering into the
41 compact, does not:

42 (1) Commit the full faith and credit or taxing power of the
43 compacting state for the payment of prizes or other obligations
44 under the compact; or

45 (2) Make prize payment responsibilities or other obligations
46 under the compact a debt of the compacting state.

47 d. Upon the request of a party to a conflict over the meaning or
48 interpretation of commission actions, and upon a majority vote of

1 the compacting states, the commission may issue advisory opinions
2 regarding the meaning or interpretation in dispute.

3 e. In the event any provision of the compact exceeds the
4 constitutional limits imposed on any compacting state, the
5 obligations, duties, powers, or jurisdiction sought to be conferred by
6 that provision upon the commission shall be ineffective as to that
7 compacting state, and those obligations, duties, powers, or
8 jurisdiction shall remain in the compacting state and shall be
9 exercised by the agency thereof to which those obligations, duties,
10 powers, or jurisdiction are delegated by law in effect at the time the
11 compact becomes effective.

12
13 2. The Governor shall execute the compact on behalf of this
14 State and perform any other acts that may be deemed requisite to its
15 formal ratification and promulgation.

16
17 3. a. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate,
18 shall appoint the New Jersey member to the commission established
19 pursuant to Article II of the Solemn Covenant of the States to
20 Award Prizes for Curing Diseases. The position of the commission
21 member shall be placed within the Department of Health for
22 administrative purposes.

23 b. Except as may be otherwise provided under Article II of the
24 compact, the member shall serve until the appointment of a
25 successor in the manner provided in subsection a. of this section,
26 and shall, at a minimum, have a background and expertise related to
27 communicable diseases and the public health.

28 c. The New Jersey member of the commission shall serve
29 without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for any actual and
30 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the member's
31 commission duties.

32
33 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

34 35 36 STATEMENT

37
38 This bill enters New Jersey into the Solemn Covenant of the
39 States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases (compact). The purpose
40 of the compact is to pool monies from the member states to award
41 prizes for developing cures for certain diseases that represent a
42 significant risk to the public health as well as a significant public
43 expense.

44 The compact becomes effective once two states adopt legislation
45 enacting the compact. Once six states enter the compact, the
46 member states will form a commission, which will comprise one
47 representative from each member state. The commission will have
48 various powers necessary to implement and administer the

1 provisions of the compact, including the power to adopt bylaws and
2 rules; receive and review applications for prizes; make disease cures
3 widely available, including entering into contracts to manufacture
4 or produce the cure; establish and collect royalty fees associated
5 with the cure; and monitor compliance with compact requirements
6 by member states. Each member will have one vote on the
7 commission, and a majority vote by the total membership is
8 required to take most official action, although a vote by two-thirds
9 of the members is required to take certain specified actions,
10 including awarding prizes under the compact. The commission is to
11 meet at least once per year and establish annual membership dues
12 that will be based on the percentage of each member state's
13 population in relation to the total population of all member states.
14 Generally, commission meetings will be open to the public, but the
15 commission may go into executive session to discuss certain
16 matters if authorized under the bylaws to be developed by the
17 commission.

18 The commission will establish rules for the purposes of
19 designating the diseases that will be eligible for a prize. The
20 commission is to create a list of at least 10 major diseases based on
21 the severity of the disease and the public expenses associated with
22 the disease, and create criteria upon which the cure for the disease
23 will be measured which, at a minimum, is to include a 95 percent
24 survival rate through at least five years after the cure is
25 administered, and a course of treatment using the cure that lasts no
26 more than one year. The list is to be updated at least once every
27 three years. The commission may, by a two-thirds vote, expand the
28 list to include more than 10 diseases.

29 The commission will be required to employ or contact with
30 actuaries to determine the estimated five-year public health
31 expenses for each disease included in the list. Prizes will be equal
32 to the most recent estimated total five-year savings in public health
33 expenses for the disease in all member states, plus any amount
34 donated for inclusion in the prize by any entity. An entity awarded
35 a prize under the compact will be required to transfer to the
36 commission the patent and all related intellectual property for the
37 cure in exchange for the prize money, unless the commission
38 determines the amount of the prize is too low. Only one prize may
39 be awarded for each listed disease. Once a prize is awarded, the
40 commission is to take out a loan equal to the prize amount, which
41 loan will be repaid by the member states through five annual
42 payments equal to that state's one-year savings from curing the
43 disease. Member states may meet their prize obligations by issuing
44 bonds or other obligations that are to be repaid through revenue
45 derived from public health savings. The commission may rescind a
46 prize if it determines the cure no longer meets the commission's
47 criteria for a prize award. The commission is to establish a dispute
48 resolution process to appeal award decisions as well as to resolve

1 disputes between member states. No entity will be eligible for a
2 prize award if the entity has violated the ethical standards of any
3 state the United States, regardless of whether the state is a member
4 of the compact. The commission is to develop ethical standards
5 reflective of the laws concerning ethical standards in place under
6 federal law and the laws of in all 50 states.

7 Once 26 states have joined the compact, the commission will be
8 authorized to establish a management committee comprising no
9 more than 14 members representing the member states with the
10 highest total public health expenses. The management committee
11 will have the authority over the day-to-day affairs of the
12 commission as well as coordinating communications and activities
13 with various governmental entities. The commission may also, at
14 any time, appoint advisory committees to monitor operations related
15 to the purposes of the compact and to assist the commission in
16 developing cure criteria, promulgating or revising rules and bylaws,
17 adopting an annual budget, and addressing other matters of
18 significance to the commission.

19 The compact includes certain recordkeeping requirements for the
20 commission, sets forth confidentiality requirements, provides for
21 annual internal reviews and independent audits of the commission's
22 finances and internal controls, provides for periodic management
23 and performance audits, requires annual reporting to the governors
24 of the member states, and provides for qualified immunity, defense,
25 and indemnification for the members, officers, and employees of
26 the commission in relation to their official duties. The compact
27 further establishes requirements for the voluntary withdrawal and
28 mandatory expulsion of member states and procedures for the
29 dissolution of the compact. The provisions of the compact are
30 severable, and the compact specifies that nothing in its provisions is
31 to be construed to impair the operation of any law of a member
32 state.

33 The bill provides that the New Jersey member of the commission
34 is to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of
35 the Senate. Except as may be contraindicated by the compact, the
36 member will serve until the appointment of a successor, and is to
37 have a background and expertise in communicable diseases and the
38 public health. The member will serve without compensation but
39 may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in connection
40 with the member's duties with the commission. For administrative
41 purposes, the member position will be placed in the Department of
42 Health.

43 Legislation adopting the compact has been enacted in Ohio and
44 introduced in at least 10 other states, including Hawaii, Iowa,
45 Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Rhode Island, South Carolina,
46 Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.