

1 AN ACT relating to audiology and speech-language pathology.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 334A.010 IS CREATED  
4 TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 **SECTION 1: PURPOSE**

6 **The purpose of this Compact is to facilitate interstate practice of audiology and speech-**  
7 **language pathology with the goal of improving public access to audiology and speech-**  
8 **language pathology services. The practice of audiology and speech-language pathology**  
9 **occurs in the state where the patient/client/student is located at the time of the**  
10 **patient/client/student encounter. The Compact preserves the regulatory authority of**  
11 **states to protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure.**

12 **This Compact is designed to achieve the following objectives:**

- 13 **1. Increase public access to audiology and speech-language pathology services**  
14 **by providing for the mutual recognition of other member state licenses;**
- 15 **2. Enhance the states' ability to protect the public's health and safety;**
- 16 **3. Encourage the cooperation of member states in regulating multistate**  
17 **audiology and speech-language pathology practice;**
- 18 **4. Support spouses of relocating active duty military personnel;**
- 19 **5. Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative and disciplinary**  
20 **information between member states;**
- 21 **6. Allow a remote state to hold a provider of services with a compact privilege**  
22 **in that state accountable to that state's practice standards; and**
- 23 **7. Allow for the use of telehealth technology to facilitate increased access to**  
24 **audiology and speech-language pathology services.**

25 **SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS**

26 **As used in this Compact, and except as otherwise provided, the following definitions**  
27 **shall apply:**

- 1 A. "Active duty military" means full-time duty status in the active uniformed service  
2 of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on  
3 active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. secs. 1209 and 1211;
- 4 B. "Adverse action" means any administrative, civil, equitable or criminal action  
5 permitted by a state's laws which is imposed by a licensing board or other  
6 authority against an audiologist or speech-language pathologist, including  
7 actions against an individual's license or privilege to practice such as revocation,  
8 suspension, probation, monitoring of the licensee, or restriction on the licensee's  
9 practice.
- 10 C. "Alternative program" means a non-disciplinary monitoring process approved by  
11 an audiology or speech-language pathology licensing board to address impaired  
12 practitioners.
- 13 D. "Audiologist" means an individual who is licensed by a state to practice  
14 audiology.
- 15 E. "Audiology" means the care and services provided by a licensed audiologist as  
16 set forth in the member state's statutes and rules.
- 17 F. "Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact Commission" or  
18 "Commission" means the national administrative body whose membership  
19 consists of all states that have enacted the Compact.
- 20 G. "Audiology and speech-language pathology licensing board," "audiology  
21 licensing board," "speech-language pathology licensing board," or "licensing  
22 board" means the agency of a state that is responsible for the licensing and  
23 regulation of audiologists and/or speech-language pathologists.
- 24 H. "Compact privilege" means the authorization granted by a remote state to allow  
25 a licensee from another member state to practice as an audiologist or speech-  
26 language pathologist in the remote state under its laws and rules. The practice of  
27 audiology or speech-language pathology occurs in the member state where the

- 1 patient/client/student is located at the time of the patient/client/student encounter.
- 2 I. "Current significant investigative information" means investigative information  
3 that a licensing board, after an inquiry or investigation that includes notification  
4 and an opportunity for the audiologist or speech-language pathologist to respond,  
5 if required by state law, has reason to believe is not groundless and, if proved  
6 true, would indicate more than a minor infraction.
- 7 J. "Data system" means a repository of information about licensees, including, but  
8 not limited to, continuing education, examination, licensure, investigative,  
9 compact privilege and adverse action.
- 10 K. "Encumbered license" means a license in which an adverse action restricts the  
11 practice of audiology or speech-language pathology by the licensee and said  
12 adverse action has been reported to the National Practitioners Data Bank  
13 (NPDB).
- 14 L. "Executive Committee" means a group of directors elected or appointed to act on  
15 behalf of, and within the powers granted to them by, the Commission.
- 16 M. "Home state" means the member state that is the licensee's primary state of  
17 residence.
- 18 N. "Impaired practitioner" means individuals whose professional practice is adversely  
19 affected by substance abuse, addiction, or other health-related conditions.
- 20 O. "Licensee" means an individual who currently holds an authorization from the  
21 state licensing board to practice as an audiologist or speech-language  
22 pathologist.
- 23 P. "Member state" means a state that has enacted the Compact.
- 24 Q. "Privilege to practice" means a legal authorization permitting the practice of  
25 audiology or speech-language pathology in a remote state.
- 26 R. "Remote state" means a member state other than the home state where a licensee  
27 is exercising or seeking to exercise the compact privilege.

- 1 S. "Rule" means a regulation, principle or directive promulgated by the  
2 Commission that has the force of law.
- 3 T. "Single-state license" means an audiology or speech-language pathology license  
4 issued by a member state that authorizes practice only within the issuing state  
5 and does not include a privilege to practice in any other member state.
- 6 U. "Speech-language pathologist" means an individual who is licensed by a state to  
7 practice speech-language pathology.
- 8 V. "Speech-language pathology means the care and services provided by a licensed  
9 speech-language pathologist as set forth in the member state's statutes and rules.
- 10 W. "State" means any state, commonwealth, district or territory of the United States  
11 of America that regulates the practice of audiology and speech-language  
12 pathology.
- 13 X. "State practice laws" means a member state's laws, rules and regulations that  
14 govern the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology, define the scope  
15 of audiology or speech-language pathology practice, and create the methods and  
16 grounds for imposing discipline.
- 17 Y. "Telehealth" means the application of telecommunication technology to deliver  
18 audiology or speech-language pathology services at a distance for assessment,  
19 intervention and/or consultation.

20 **SECTION 3: STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT**

- 21 A. A license issued to an audiologist or speech-language pathologist by a home state  
22 to a resident in that state shall be recognized by each member state as authorizing  
23 an audiologist or speech-language pathologist to practice audiology or speech-  
24 language pathology, under a privilege to practice, in each member state.
- 25 B. A state must implement or utilize procedures for considering the criminal history  
26 records of applicants for initial privilege to practice. These procedures shall  
27 include the submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based information by

1 applicants for the purpose of obtaining an applicant's criminal history record  
2 information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the agency responsible  
3 for retaining that state's criminal records.

4 1. A member state must fully implement a criminal background check  
5 requirement, within a time frame established by rule, by receiving the  
6 results of the Federal Bureau of Investigation record search on criminal  
7 background checks and use the results in making licensure decisions.

8 2. Communication between a member state, the Commission and among  
9 member states regarding the verification of eligibility for licensure through  
10 the Compact shall not include any information received from the Federal  
11 Bureau of Investigation relating to a federal criminal records check  
12 performed by a member state under Public Law 92-544.

13 C. Upon application for a privilege to practice, the licensing board in the issuing  
14 remote state shall ascertain, through the data system, whether the applicant has  
15 ever held, or is the holder of, a license issued by any other state, whether there  
16 are any encumbrances on any license or privilege to practice held by the  
17 applicant, whether any adverse action has been taken against any license or  
18 privilege to practice held by the applicant.

19 D. Each member state shall require an applicant to obtain or retain a license in the  
20 home state and meet the home state's qualifications for licensure or renewal of  
21 licensure, as well as, all other applicable state laws.

22 E. For an audiologist:

23 1. Must meet one (1) of the following educational requirements:

24 a. On or before, December 31, 2007, has graduated with a master's  
25 degree or doctorate in audiology, or equivalent degree regardless of  
26 degree name, from a program that is accredited by an accrediting  
27 agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation,

- 1                   or its successor, or by the United States Department of Education and  
2                   operated by a college or university accredited by a regional or national  
3                   accrediting organization recognized by the board; or  
4           **b. On or after, January 1, 2008, has graduated with a Doctoral degree in**  
5                   audiology, or equivalent degree, regardless of degree name, from a  
6                   program that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the  
7                   Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or its successor, or by  
8                   the United States Department of Education and operated by a college  
9                   or university accredited by a regional or national accrediting  
10                   organization recognized by the board; or  
11           **c. Has graduated from an audiology program that is housed in an**  
12                   institution of higher education outside of the United States (a) for  
13                   which the program and institution have been approved by the  
14                   authorized accrediting body in the applicable country and (b) the  
15                   degree program has been verified by an independent credentials  
16                   review agency to be comparable to a state licensing board-approved  
17                   program;  
18           **2. Has completed a supervised clinical practicum experience from an**  
19                   accredited educational institution or its cooperating programs as required  
20                   by the board;  
21           **3. Has successfully passed a national examination approved by the**  
22                   Commission;  
23           **4. Holds an active, unencumbered license;**  
24           **5. Has not been convicted or found guilty, and has not entered into an agreed**  
25                   disposition, of a felony related to the practice of audiology, under applicable  
26                   state or federal criminal law;  
27           **6. Has a valid United States Social Security or National Practitioner**

1                   Identification number.

2 F. For a speech-language pathologist:

3                   1. Must meet one (1) of the following educational requirements:

4                   a. Has graduated with a master's degree from a speech-language  
5                   pathology program that is accredited by an organization recognized by  
6                   the United States Department of Education and operated by a college  
7                   or university accredited by a regional or national accrediting  
8                   organization recognized by the board; or

9                   b. Has graduated from a speech-language pathology program that is  
10                  housed in an institution of higher education outside of the United  
11                  States (a) for which the program and institution have been approved  
12                  by the authorized accrediting body in the applicable country and (b)  
13                  the degree program has been verified by an independent credentials  
14                  review agency to be comparable to a state licensing board-approved  
15                  program;

16                  2. Has completed a supervised clinical practicum experience from an  
17                  educational institution or its cooperating programs as required by the  
18                  Commission;

19                  3. Has completed a supervised postgraduate professional experience as  
20                  required by the Commission

21                  4. Has successfully passed a national examination approved by the  
22                  Commission;

23                  5. Holds an active, unencumbered license;

24                  6. Has not been convicted or found guilty, and has not entered into an agreed  
25                  disposition, of a felony related to the practice of speech-language pathology,  
26                  under applicable state or federal criminal law;

27                  7. Has a valid United States Social Security or National Practitioner

1           Identification number.

2   G. The privilege to practice is derived from the home state license.

3   H. An audiologist or speech-language pathologist practicing in a member state must  
4   comply with the state practice laws of the state in which the client is located at the  
5   time service is provided. The practice of audiology and speech-language  
6   pathology shall include all audiology and speech-language pathology practice as  
7   defined by the state practice laws of the member state in which the client is  
8   located. The practice of audiology and speech-language pathology in a member  
9   state under a privilege to practice shall subject an audiologist or speech-language  
10   pathologist to the jurisdiction of the licensing board, the courts and the laws of  
11   the member state in which the client is located at the time service is provided.

12   I. Individuals not residing in a member state shall continue to be able to apply for a  
13   member state's single-state license as provided under the laws of each member  
14   state. However, the single-state license granted to these individuals shall not be  
15   recognized as granting the privilege to practice audiology or speech-language  
16   pathology in any other member state. Nothing in this Compact shall affect the  
17   requirements established by a member state for the issuance of a single-state  
18   license.

19   J. Member states may charge a fee for granting a compact privilege.

20   K. Member states must comply with the bylaws and rules and regulations of the  
21   Commission.

22   SECTION 4: COMPACT PRIVILEGE

23   A. To exercise the compact privilege under the terms and provisions of the Compact,  
24   the audiologist or speech-language pathologist shall:

25   1. Hold an active license in the home state;

26   2. Have no encumbrance on any state license;

27   3. Be eligible for a compact privilege in any member state in accordance with



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27

Section 3:

4. Have not had any adverse action against any license or compact privilege within the previous two (2) years from date of application;

5. Notify the Commission that the licensee is seeking the compact privilege within a remote state(s);

6. Pay any applicable fees, including any state fee, for the compact privilege;

7. Report to the Commission adverse action taken by any non-member state within thirty (30) days from the date the adverse action is taken.

B. For the purposes of the compact privilege, an audiologist or speech-language pathologist shall only hold one (1) home state license at a time.

C. Except as provided in Section 6, if an audiologist or speech-language pathologist changes primary state of residence by moving between two-member states, the audiologist or speech-language pathologist must apply for licensure in the new home state, and the license issued by the prior home state shall be deactivated in accordance with applicable rules adopted by the Commission.

D. The audiologist or speech-language pathologist may apply for licensure in advance of a change in primary state of residence.

E. A license shall not be issued by the new home state until the audiologist or speech-language pathologist provides satisfactory evidence of a change in primary state of residence to the new home state and satisfies all applicable requirements to obtain a license from the new home state.

F. If an audiologist or speech-language pathologist changes primary state of residence by moving from a member state to a non-member state, the license issued by the prior home state shall convert to a single-state license, valid only in the former home state.

G. The compact privilege is valid until the expiration date of the home state license. The licensee must comply with the requirements of Section 4A to maintain the

1 compact privilege in the remote state.

2 H. A licensee providing audiology or speech-language pathology services in a  
3 remote state under the compact privilege shall function within the laws and  
4 regulations of the remote state.

5 I. A licensee providing audiology or speech-language pathology services in a  
6 remote state is subject to that state's regulatory authority. A remote state may, in  
7 accordance with due process and that state's laws, remove a licensee's compact  
8 privilege in the remote state for a specific period of time, impose fines, and/or  
9 take any other necessary actions to protect the health and safety of its citizens.

10 J. If a home state license is encumbered, the licensee shall lose the compact  
11 privilege in any remote state until the following occur:

12 1. The home state license is no longer encumbered; and

13 2. Two (2) years have elapsed from the date of the adverse action.

14 K. Once an encumbered license in the home state is restored to good standing, the  
15 licensee must meet the requirements of Section 4A to obtain a compact privilege  
16 in any remote state.

17 L. Once the requirements of Section 4J have been met, the licensee must meet the  
18 requirements in Section 4A to obtain a compact privilege in a remote state.

19 **SECTION 5: COMPACT PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE TELEHEALTH**

20 Member states shall recognize the right of an audiologist or speech-language  
21 pathologist, licensed by a home state in accordance with Section 3 and under rules  
22 promulgated by the Commission, to practice audiology or speech-language pathology  
23 in any member state via telehealth under a privilege to practice as provided in the  
24 Compact and rules promulgated by the Commission.

25 **SECTION 6: ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL OR THEIR SPOUSES**

26 Active duty military personnel, or their spouse, shall designate a home state where the  
27 individual has a current license in good standing. The individual may retain the home

1 state designation during the period the service member is on active duty. Subsequent to  
2 designating a home state, the individual shall only change their home state through  
3 application for licensure in the new state.

4 SECTION 7: ADVERSE ACTIONS

5 A. In addition to the other powers conferred by state law, a remote state shall have  
6 the authority, in accordance with existing state due process law, to:

7 1. Take adverse action against an audiologist's or speech-language  
8 pathologist's privilege to practice within that member state.

9 2. Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the  
10 attendance and testimony of witnesses as well as the production of evidence.  
11 Subpoenas issued by a licensing board in a member state for the attendance  
12 and testimony of witnesses or the production of evidence from another  
13 member state shall be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent  
14 jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure of that court  
15 applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before it. The  
16 issuing authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage and  
17 other fees required by the service statutes of the state in which the witnesses  
18 or evidence are located.

19 3. Only the home state shall have the power to take adverse action against a  
20 audiologist's or speech-language pathologist's license issued by the home  
21 state.

22 B. For purposes of taking adverse action, the home state shall give the same priority  
23 and effect to reported conduct received from a member state as it would if the  
24 conduct had occurred within the home state. In so doing, the home state shall  
25 apply its own state laws to determine appropriate action.

26 C. The home state shall complete any pending investigations of an audiologist or  
27 speech-language pathologist who changes primary state of residence during the

1 course of the investigations. The home state shall also have the authority to take  
2 appropriate action(s) and shall promptly report the conclusions of the  
3 investigations to the administrator of the data system. The administrator of the  
4 coordinated licensure information system shall promptly notify the new home  
5 state of any adverse actions.

6 D. If otherwise permitted by state law, recover from the affected audiologist or  
7 speech-language pathologist the costs of investigations and disposition of cases  
8 resulting from any adverse action taken against that audiologist or speech-  
9 language pathologist.

10 E. Take adverse action based on the factual findings of the remote state, provided  
11 that the home state follows its own procedures for taking the adverse action.

12 F. Joint Investigations

13 1. In addition to the authority granted to a member state by its respective  
14 audiology or speech-language pathology practice act or other applicable  
15 state law, any member state may participate with other member states in  
16 joint investigations of licensees.

17 2. Member states shall share any investigative, litigation, or compliance  
18 materials in furtherance of any joint or individual investigation initiated  
19 under the Compact.

20 G. If adverse action is taken by the home state against an audiologist's or speech  
21 language pathologist's license, the audiologist's or speech-language pathologist's  
22 privilege to practice in all other member states shall be deactivated until all  
23 encumbrances have been removed from the state license. All home state  
24 disciplinary orders that impose adverse action against an audiologist's or speech  
25 language pathologist's license shall include a statement that the audiologist's or  
26 speech-language pathologist's privilege to practice is deactivated in all member  
27 states during the pendency of the order.

1 H. If a member state takes adverse action, it shall promptly notify the administrator  
2 of the data system. The administrator of the data system shall promptly notify the  
3 home state of any adverse actions by remote states.

4 I. Nothing in this Compact shall override a member state's decision that  
5 participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action.

6 SECTION 8: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-  
7 LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY COMPACT COMMISSION

8 A. The Compact member states hereby create and establish a joint public agency  
9 known as the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact Commission:

10 1. The Commission is an instrumentality of the Compact states.

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

16 3. Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign  
17 immunity.

18 B. Membership, Voting and Meetings

19 1. Each member state shall have two (2) delegates selected by that member  
20 state's licensing board. The delegates shall be current members of the  
21 licensing board. One (1) shall be an audiologist and one (1) shall be a  
22 speech-language pathologist.

23 2. An additional five (5) delegates, who are either a public member or board  
24 administrator from a state licensing board, shall be chosen by the Executive  
25 Committee from a pool of nominees provided by the Commission at Large.

26 3. Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office as provided by the  
27 law of the state from which the delegate is appointed.

- 1        4. The member state board shall fill any vacancy occurring on the  
2                Commission, within ninety (90) days.
- 3        5. Each delegate shall be entitled to one (1) vote with regard to the  
4                promulgation of rules and creation of bylaws and shall otherwise have an  
5                opportunity to participate in the business and affairs of the Commission.
- 6        6. A delegate shall vote in person or by other means as provided in the bylaws.  
7                The bylaws may provide for delegates' participation in meetings by  
8                telephone or other means of communication.
- 9        7. The Commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year.  
10                Additional meetings shall be held as set forth in the bylaws.
- 11        C. The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:
- 12                1. Establish the fiscal year of the Commission;  
13                2. Establish bylaws;  
14                3. Establish a Code of Ethics;  
15                4. Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws;  
16                5. Meet and take actions as are consistent with the provisions of this Compact  
17                and the bylaws;  
18                6. Promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and  
19                administration of this Compact. The rules shall have the force and effect of  
20                law and shall be binding in all member states;  
21                7. Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the  
22                Commission, provided that the standing of any state audiology or speech-  
23                language pathology licensing board to sue or be sued under applicable law  
24                shall not be affected;  
25                8. Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;  
26                9. Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including, but not  
27                limited to, employees of a member state;

- 1        10. Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties,  
2        grant individuals appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the  
3        Compact, and to establish the Commission's personnel policies and  
4        programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel, and  
5        other related personnel matters;
- 6        11. Accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money, equipment,  
7        supplies, materials and services, and to receive, utilize and dispose of the  
8        same; provided that at all times the Commission shall avoid any appearance  
9        of impropriety and/or conflict of interest;
- 10       12. Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise to  
11       own, hold, improve or use, any property, real, personal or mixed; provided  
12       that at all times the Commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety;
- 13       13. Sell convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise  
14       dispose of any property real, personal, or mixed;
- 15       14. Establish a budget and make expenditures;
- 16       15. Borrow money;
- 17       16. Appoint committees, including standing committees composed of members,  
18       and other interested persons as may be designated in this Compact and the  
19       bylaws;
- 20       17. Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law enforcement  
21       agencies;
- 22       18. Establish and elect an Executive Committee; and
- 23       19. Perform other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the  
24       purposes of this Compact consistent with the state regulation of audiology  
25       and speech-language pathology licensure and practice.

26       D. The Executive Committee

27       The Executive Committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the Commission

1 according to the terms of this Compact:

2 1. The Executive Committee shall be composed of ten (10) members:

3 a. Seven (7) voting members who are elected by the Commission from  
4 the current membership of the Commission;

5 b. Two (2) ex officios, consisting of one (1) nonvoting member from a  
6 recognized national audiology professional association and one (1)  
7 nonvoting member from a recognized national speech-language  
8 pathology association; and

9 c. One (1) ex officio, nonvoting member from the recognized  
10 membership organization of the audiology and speech-language  
11 pathology licensing boards.

12 E. The ex officio members shall be selected by their respective organizations.

13 1. The Commission may remove any member of the Executive Committee as  
14 provided in bylaws.

15 2. The Executive Committee shall meet at least annually.

16 3. The Executive Committee shall have the following duties and  
17 responsibilities:

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

22 b. Ensure Compact administration services are appropriately provided,  
23 contractual or otherwise;

24 c. Prepare and recommend the budget;

25 d. Maintain financial records on behalf of the Commission;

26 e. Monitor Compact compliance of member states and provide  
27 compliance reports to the Commission;



1 f. Establish additional committees as necessary; and

2 g. Other duties as provided in rules or bylaws.

3 4. Meetings of the Commission

4 All meetings shall be open to the public, and public notice of meetings shall  
5 be given in the same manner as required under the rulemaking provisions  
6 in Section 10.

7 5. The Commission or the Executive Committee or other committees of the  
8 Commission may convene in a closed, non-public meeting if the  
9 Commission or Executive Committee or other committees of the  
10 Commission must discuss:

11 a. Non-compliance of a member state with its obligations under the  
12 Compact;

13 b. The employment, compensation, discipline or other matters, practices  
14 or procedures related to specific employees or other matters related to  
15 the Commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;

16 c. Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation;

17 d. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or sale of goods,  
18 services, or real estate;

19 e. Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;

20 f. Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information  
21 that is privileged or confidential;

22 g. Disclosure of information of a personal nature where disclosure  
23 would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

24 h. Disclosure of investigative records compiled for law enforcement  
25 purposes;

26 i. Disclosure of information related to any investigative reports prepared  
27 by or on behalf of or for use of the Commission or other committee

1                   charged with responsibility of investigation or determination of  
2                   compliance issues pursuant to the Compact; or

3                   j. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or member  
4                   state statute.

5                   6. If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to this provision,  
6                   the Commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting  
7                   may be closed and shall reference each relevant exempting provision.

8                   7. The Commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all  
9                   matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate  
10                  summary of actions taken, and the reasons therefor, including a description  
11                  of the views expressed. All documents considered in connection with an  
12                  action shall be identified in minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed  
13                  meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release by a majority vote of the  
14                  Commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

15                  8. Financing of the Commission

16                  a. The Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the  
17                  reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing  
18                  activities.

19                  b. The Commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue sources,  
20                  donations, and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and  
21                  services.

22                  c. The Commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from  
23                  each member state or impose fees on other parties to cover the cost of  
24                  the operations and activities of the Commission and its staff, which  
25                  must be in a total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as  
26                  approved each year for which revenue is not provided by other  
27                  sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount shall be allocated

1                   based upon a formula to be determined by the Commission, which  
2                   shall promulgate a rule binding upon all member states.

3           9. The Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing  
4           the funds adequate to meet the same; nor shall the Commission pledge the  
5           credit of any of the member states, except by and with the authority of the  
6           member state.

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

14   F. Qualified Immunity, Defense, and Indemnification

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

26          2. The Commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director,  
27          employee or representative of the Commission in any civil action seeking to

1 impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission  
2 that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or  
3 responsibilities, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a  
4 reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission  
5 employment, duties, or responsibilities; provided that nothing herein shall  
6 be construed to prohibit that person from retaining his or her own counsel;  
7 and provided further, that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did  
8 not result from that person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.

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

18 SECTION 9: DATA SYSTEM

19 A. The Commission shall provide for the development, maintenance, and utilization  
20 of a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse  
21 action, and investigative information on all licensed individuals in member states.

22 B. Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the contrary, a member state  
23 shall submit a uniform data set to the data system on all individuals to whom this  
24 Compact is applicable as required by the rules of the Commission, including:

25 1. Identifying information;

26 2. Licensure data;

27 3. Adverse actions against a license or compact privilege;

- 1        4. Non-confidential information related to alternative program participation;  
2        5. Any denial of application for licensure, and the reason(s) for denial; and  
3        6. Other information that may facilitate the administration of this Compact, as  
4        determined by the rules of the Commission.

5        C. Investigative information pertaining to a licensee in any member state shall only  
6        be available to other member states.

7        D. The Commission shall promptly notify all member states of any adverse action  
8        taken against a licensee or an individual applying for a license. Adverse action  
9        information pertaining to a licensee in any member state shall be available to any  
10       other member state.

11       E. Member states contributing information to the data system may designate  
12       information that may not be shared with the public without the express  
13       permission of the contributing state.

14       F. Any information submitted to the data system that is subsequently required to be  
15       expunged by the laws of the member state contributing the information shall be  
16       removed from the data system.

17       **SECTION 10: RULEMAKING**

18       A. The Commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set  
19       forth in this Section and the rules adopted thereunder. Rules and amendments  
20       shall become binding as of the date specified in each rule or amendment.

21       B. If a majority of the legislatures of the member states rejects a rule, by enactment  
22       of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the Compact within 4  
23       years of the date of adoption of the rule, the rule shall have no further force and  
24       effect in any member state.

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

27       D. Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules by the Commission,

1 and at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting at which the rule shall be  
2 considered and voted upon, the Commission shall file a Notice of Proposed  
3 Rulemaking:

4 1. On the website of the Commission or other publicly accessible platform;  
5 and

6 2. On the website of each member state audiology or speech-language  
7 pathology licensing board or other publicly accessible platform or the  
8 publication in which each state would otherwise publish proposed rules.

9 E. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking shall include:

10 1. The proposed time, date, and location of the meeting in which the rule shall  
11 be considered and voted upon;

12 2. The text of the proposed rule or amendment and the reason for the  
13 proposed rule;

14 3. A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person;  
15 and

16 4. The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the  
17 Commission of their intention to attend the public hearing and any written  
18 comments.

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

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

24 1. At least twenty-five (25) persons;

25 2. A state or federal governmental subdivision or agency; or

26 3. An association having at least twenty-five (25) members.

27 H. If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, the Commission shall

1 publish the place, time, and date of the scheduled public hearing. If the hearing  
2 is held via electronic means, the Commission shall publish the mechanism for  
3 access to the electronic hearing.

4 1. All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing shall notify the executive  
5 director of the Commission or other designated member in writing of their  
6 desire to appear and testify at the hearing not less than five (5) business  
7 days before the scheduled date of the hearing.

8 2. Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each person who  
9 wishes to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment orally or  
10 in writing.

11 3. All hearings shall be recorded. A copy of the recording shall be made  
12 available on request.

13 4. Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a separate hearing  
14 on each rule. Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the Commission  
15 at hearings required by this section.

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

19 J. If no written notice of intent to attend the public hearing by interested parties is  
20 received, the Commission may proceed with promulgation of the proposed rule  
21 without a public hearing.

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

25 L. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the Commission may consider and  
26 adopt an emergency rule without prior notice, opportunity for comment, or  
27 hearing, provided that the usual rulemaking procedures provided in the Compact

1 and in this section shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon as reasonably  
 2 possible, in no event later than ninety (90) days after the effective date of the rule.

3 For the purposes of this provision, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted  
 4 immediately in order to:

5 1. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;

6 2. Prevent a loss of Commission or member state funds; or

7 3. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is  
 8 established by federal law or rule.

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

20 **SECTION 11: OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AND ENFORCEMENT**

21 **A. Dispute Resolution**

22 1. Upon request by a member state, the Commission shall attempt to resolve  
 23 disputes related to the Compact that arise among member states and  
 24 between member and non-member states.

25 2. The Commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and  
 26 binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.

27 **B. Enforcement**



1 1. The Commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce  
2 the provisions and rules of this Compact.

3 2. By majority vote, the Commission may initiate legal action in the United  
4 States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district  
5 where the Commission has its principal offices against a member state in  
6 default to enforce compliance with the provisions of the Compact and its  
7 promulgated rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include both  
8 injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is  
9 necessary, the prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of litigation,  
10 including reasonable attorney's fees.

11 3. The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the Commission.  
12 The Commission may pursue any other remedies available under federal or  
13 state law.

14 SECTION 12: DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERSTATE  
15 COMMISSION FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY  
16 PRACTICE AND ASSOCIATED RULES, WITHDRAWAL, AND AMENDMENT

17 A. The Compact shall come into effect on the date on which the Compact statute is  
18 enacted into law in the 10th member state. The provisions, which become  
19 effective at that time, shall be limited to the powers granted to the Commission  
20 relating to assembly and the promulgation of rules. Thereafter, the Commission  
21 shall meet and exercise rulemaking powers necessary to the implementation and  
22 administration of the Compact.

23 B. Any state that joins the Compact subsequent to the Commission's initial adoption  
24 of the rules shall be subject to the rules as they exist on the date on which the  
25 Compact becomes law in that state. Any rule that has been previously adopted by  
26 the Commission shall have the full force and effect of law on the day the  
27 Compact becomes law in that state.

1 C. Any member state may withdraw from this Compact by enacting a statute  
2 repealing the same.

3 1. A member state's withdrawal shall not take effect until six (6) months after  
4 enactment of the repealing statute.

5 2. Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing  
6 state's audiology or speech-language pathology licensing board to comply  
7 with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of this act  
8 prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

9 D. Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent  
10 any audiology or speech-language pathology licensure agreement or other  
11 cooperative arrangement between a member state and a non-member state that  
12 does not conflict with the provisions of this Compact.

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

16 **SECTION 13: CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY**

17 This Compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The  
18 provisions of this Compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence or  
19 provision of this Compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any member  
20 state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency,  
21 person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this Compact  
22 and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance shall  
23 not be affected thereby. If this Compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of  
24 any member state, the Compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the  
25 remaining member states and in full force and effect as to the member state affected as  
26 to all severable matters.

27 **SECTION 14: BINDING EFFECT OF COMPACT AND OTHER LAWS**

- 1 A. Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other law of a member state that  
2 is not inconsistent with the Compact.
- 3 B. All laws in a member state in conflict with the Compact are superseded to the  
4 extent of the conflict.
- 5 C. All lawful actions of the Commission, including all rules and bylaws promulgated  
6 by the Commission, are binding upon the member states.
- 7 D. All agreements between the Commission and the member states are binding in  
8 accordance with their terms.
- 9 E. In the event any provision of the Compact exceeds the constitutional limits  
10 imposed on the legislature of any member state, the provision shall be ineffective  
11 to the extent of the conflict with the constitutional provision in question in that  
12 member state.