

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 1053*
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/4/20

Short Title: PED/Military OL & Audiology Interstate Compct.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 30, 2020

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO EXPEDITE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE FOR MILITARY SPOUSES,
3 PUBLICIZE LICENSURE INFORMATION, REPORT DATA REGARDING
4 APPLICANTS WHO ARE MILITARY SPOUSES AND APPLICANTS THAT HAVE
5 MILITARY TRAINING, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE
6 PROGRAM EVALUATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, AND TO ESTABLISH THE
7 INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR THE PRACTICE OF AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH
8 PATHOLOGY.

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10
11 **PART I. MILITARY SPOUSE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE**

12 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 93B of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:

13 **"Chapter 93B.**

14 **"Occupational Licensing Boards.**

15 **"Article 1.**

16 **"Occupational Licensing Boards.**

17 **...."**

18 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 93B-15.1 reads as rewritten:

19 **"§ 93B-15.1. Licensure for individuals with military training and experience; proficiency**
20 **examination; licensure by endorsement for military spouses; temporary license.**

21 ...

22 (a1) No later than 30 days following receipt of an ~~application~~, application from a
23 military-trained applicant, an occupational licensing board shall notify an applicant when the
24 applicant's military training or experience does not satisfy the requirements for licensure,
25 certification, or registration and shall specify the criteria or requirements that the board
26 determined that the applicant failed to meet and the basis for that determination. If a
27 military-trained applicant has a pending complaint under subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this
28 section, an occupational licensing board shall notify the applicant no later than 30 days following
29 the board receiving written notice of the disposition of the pending complaint.

30 ...

31 (b1) No later than 30 days following receipt of an application from a military spouse, an
32 occupational licensing board shall notify an applicant when the applicant's training or experience
33 does not satisfy the requirements for licensure, certification, or registration and shall specify the
34 criteria or requirements that the board determined that the applicant failed to meet and the basis
35 for that determination. If an applicant who is a military spouse has a pending complaint under
36 subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of this section, an occupational licensing board shall notify the



1 applicant no later than 30 days following the board receiving written notice of the disposition of
 2 the pending complaint.

3 ...

4 (c1) Each occupational licensing board shall publish a-on its Web site all of the following:

5 (1) A document that lists the specific criteria or requirements for licensure,
 6 registration, or certification by the board, with a description of the criteria or
 7 requirements that are satisfied by military training or experience as provided
 8 in this section, and any necessary documentation needed for obtaining the
 9 credit or satisfying the requirement. ~~The information required by this~~
 10 subsection shall be published on the occupational licensing board's Web site
 11 and the Web site of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

12 (2) A document that includes a summary of the opportunities available to veterans
 13 and military spouses under this section.

14 (c2) The Secretary of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs shall publish on the
 15 Department's Web site the information required under subsection (c1) of this section.

16 ...

17 (i) For the purposes of this section, the State Board of Education shall be considered an
 18 occupational licensing board when issuing teacher licenses under Article 17E of Subchapter V
 19 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes. In addition to the provisions for licensure provided by
 20 this section, a local board of education may request a three-year limited license for a military
 21 spouse who holds a current teaching license in another jurisdiction pursuant to
 22 G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(4a). The State Board of Education shall report the information specified in
 23 G.S. 93B-2(a)(9c) and (9d) in accordance with G.S. 93B-2.

24"

25 **SECTION 3.(a)** G.S. 93B-2 reads as rewritten:

26 "**§ 93B-2. Annual reports required; contents; open to inspection; sanction for failure to**
 27 **report.**

28 (a) No later than October 31 of each year, each occupational licensing board shall file
 29 electronically with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Joint Legislative
 30 Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee an annual report containing all of the following
 31 information:

32 ...

33 (9c) The number of applicants with military training, the number granted a license,
 34 the number denied a license for any reason, and a summary of the reasons for
 35 denial. The information provided in accordance with this subdivision shall not
 36 disclose any identifying information of any applicant.

37 (9d) The number of applicants who are military spouses, the number granted a
 38 license, the number denied a license for any reason, and a summary of the
 39 reasons for denial. The information provided in accordance with this
 40 subdivision shall not disclose any identifying information of any applicant.

41 ...

42 (b1) No later than October 31 of each year, each occupational licensing board shall file
 43 electronically with the Secretary of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs information
 44 collected pursuant to G.S. 93B-2(a)(9c) and (9d).

45"

46 **SECTION 3.(b)** By October 31, 2021, each occupational licensing board shall
 47 include the data specified in G.S. 93B-2(a)(9c) and (9d), as provided for in this act, for fiscal year
 48 2019-2020 in the annual report to the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Joint
 49 Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee, as required by G.S. 93B-2(a).

50 **PART II. INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY**
 51

1 SECTION 4. Chapter 93B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
2 Article to read:

3 "Article 2.

4 "Interstate Compact for Audiology and Speech Pathology.

5 **"§ 93B-17. Purpose.**

6 (a) The purpose of this Compact is to facilitate interstate practice of audiology and
7 speech-language pathology with the goal of improving public access to audiology and
8 speech-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 states to
11 protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure. This Compact is
12 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 information
20 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.
- 23 (7) Allow for the use of telehealth technology to facilitate increased access to
24 audiology and speech-language pathology services.

25 **"§ 93B-18. Definitions.**

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

- 28 (1) Active duty military. – Full-time duty status in the active uniformed service
29 of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve
30 on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211.
- 31 (2) Adverse action. – Any administrative, civil, equitable, or criminal action
32 permitted by a state's laws which is imposed by a licensing board or other
33 authority against an audiologist or speech-language pathologist, including
34 actions against an individual's license or privilege to practice such as
35 revocation, suspension, probation, monitoring of the licensee, or restriction on
36 the licensee's practice.
- 37 (3) Alternative program. – A nondisciplinary monitoring process approved by an
38 audiology or speech-language pathology licensing board to address impaired
39 practitioners.
- 40 (4) Audiologist. – An individual who is licensed by a state to practice audiology.
- 41 (5) Audiology. – The care and services provided by a licensed audiologist as set
42 forth in the member state's statutes and rules.
- 43 (6) Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact Commission. – The
44 national administrative body whose membership consists of all states that
45 have enacted the Compact.
- 46 (7) Audiology and speech-language pathology licensing board. – Unless the
47 context clearly implies otherwise, when used in this Article, "audiology and
48 speech-language pathology licensing board," "audiology licensing board,"
49 "speech-language pathology licensing board," or "licensing board" means the
50 agency of a state that is responsible for the licensing and regulation of
51 audiologists and/or speech-language pathologists.

- 1 (8) Compact privilege. – The authorization granted by a remote state to allow a
2 licensee from another member state to practice as an audiologist or
3 speech-language pathologist in the remote state under its laws and rules. The
4 practice of audiology or speech-language pathology occurs in the member
5 state where the patient/client/student is located at the time of the
6 patient/client/student encounter.
- 7 (9) Current significant investigative information. – Investigative information that
8 a licensing board, after an inquiry or investigation that includes notification
9 and an opportunity for the audiologist or speech-language pathologist to
10 respond, if required by state law, has reason to believe is not groundless and,
11 if proved true, would indicate more than a minor infraction.
- 12 (10) Data system. – A repository of information about licensees, including, but not
13 limited to, continuing education, examination, licensure, investigative,
14 compact privilege, and adverse action.
- 15 (11) Encumbered license. – A license in which an adverse action restricts the
16 practice of audiology or speech-language pathology by the licensee and said
17 adverse action has been reported to the National Practitioners Data Bank
18 (NPDB).
- 19 (12) Executive Committee. – A group of directors elected or appointed to act on
20 behalf of, and within the powers granted to them by, the Commission.
- 21 (13) Home state. – The member state that is the licensee's primary state of
22 residence.
- 23 (14) Impaired practitioner. – Individuals whose professional practice is adversely
24 affected by substance abuse, addiction, or other health-related conditions.
- 25 (15) Licensee. – An individual who currently holds an authorization from the state
26 licensing board to practice as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist.
- 27 (16) Member state. – Member state means a state that has enacted the Compact.
- 28 (17) Privilege to practice. – A legal authorization permitting the practice of
29 audiology or speech-language pathology in a remote state.
- 30 (18) Remote state. – A member state other than the home state where a licensee is
31 exercising or seeking to exercise the compact privilege.
- 32 (19) Rule. – A regulation, principle, or directive promulgated by the Commission
33 that has the force of law.
- 34 (20) Single-state license. – An audiology or speech-language pathology license
35 issued by a member state that authorizes practice only within the issuing state
36 and does not include a privilege to practice in any other member state.
- 37 (21) Speech-language pathologist. – An individual who is licensed by a state to
38 practice speech-language pathology.
- 39 (22) Speech-language pathology. – The care and services provided by a licensed
40 speech-language pathologist as set forth in the member state's statutes and
41 rules.
- 42 (23) State. – Any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States of
43 America that regulates the practice of audiology and speech-language
44 pathology.
- 45 (24) State practice laws. – A member state's laws, rules, and regulations that govern
46 the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology, define the scope of
47 audiology or speech-language pathology practice, and create the methods and
48 grounds for imposing discipline.
- 49 (25) Telehealth. – The application of telecommunication technology to deliver
50 audiology or speech-language pathology services at a distance for assessment,
51 intervention, and/or consultation.

1 **"§ 93B-19. State participation in the Compact.**

2 (a) A license issued to an audiologist or speech-language pathologist by a home state to
3 a resident in that state shall be recognized by each member state as authorizing an audiologist or
4 speech-language pathologist to practice audiology or speech-language pathology, under a
5 privilege to practice, in each member state.

6 (b) A state must implement or utilize procedures for considering the criminal history
7 records of applicants for initial privilege to practice. These procedures shall include the
8 submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based information by applicants for the purpose of
9 obtaining an applicant's criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of
10 Investigation and the agency responsible for retaining that state's criminal records.

11 (1) A member state must fully implement a criminal background check
12 requirement, within a time frame established by rule, by receiving the results
13 of the Federal Bureau of Investigation record search on criminal background
14 checks and use the results in making licensure decisions.

15 (2) Communication between a member state, the Commission, and among
16 member states regarding the verification of eligibility for licensure through
17 the Compact shall not include any information received from the Federal
18 Bureau of Investigation relating to a federal criminal records check performed
19 by a member state under Public Law 92-544.

20 (c) Upon application for a privilege to practice, the licensing board in the issuing remote
21 state shall ascertain, through the data system, whether the applicant has ever held, or is the holder
22 of, a license issued by any other state, whether there are any encumbrances on any license or
23 privilege to practice held by the applicant, whether any adverse action has been taken against any
24 license or privilege to practice held by the applicant.

25 (d) Each member state shall require an applicant to obtain or retain a license in the home
26 state and meet the home state's qualifications for licensure or renewal of licensure, as well as, all
27 other applicable state laws.

28 (1) For an audiologist:

29 a. Must meet one of the following educational requirements:

30 1. On or before December 31, 2007, has graduated with a master's
31 degree or doctorate in audiology, or equivalent degree
32 regardless of degree name, from a program that is accredited
33 by an accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher
34 Education Accreditation, or its successor, or by the United
35 States Department of Education and operated by a college or
36 university accredited by a regional or national accrediting
37 organization recognized by the board.

38 2. On or after January 1, 2008, has graduated with a doctoral
39 degree in audiology, or equivalent degree, regardless of degree
40 name, from a program that is accredited by an accrediting
41 agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education
42 Accreditation, or its successor, or by the United States
43 Department of Education and operated by a college or
44 university accredited by a regional or national accrediting
45 organization recognized by the board.

46 3. Has graduated from an audiology program that is housed in an
47 institution of higher education outside of the United States (i)
48 for which the program and institution have been approved by
49 the authorized accrediting body in the applicable country and
50 (ii) the degree program has been verified by an independent

- 1 credentials review agency to be comparable to a state licensing
2 board-approved program.
- 3 b. Has completed a supervised clinical practicum experience from an
4 accredited educational institution or its cooperating programs as
5 required by the board.
- 6 c. Has successfully passed a national examination approved by the
7 Commission.
- 8 d. Holds an active, unencumbered license.
- 9 e. Has not been convicted or found guilty, and has not entered an agreed
10 disposition, of a felony related to the practice of audiology, under
11 applicable state or federal criminal law.
- 12 f. Has a valid United States social security or National Practitioner
13 Identification number.
- 14 (2) For a speech-language pathologist:
- 15 a. Must meet one of the following educational requirements:
- 16 1. Has graduated with a master's degree from a speech-language
17 pathology program that is accredited by an organization
18 recognized by the United States Department of Education and
19 operated by a college or university accredited by a regional or
20 national accrediting organization recognized by the board.
- 21 2. Has graduated from a speech-language pathology program that
22 is housed in an institution of higher education outside of the
23 United States (i) for which the program and institution have
24 been approved by the authorized accrediting body in the
25 applicable country and (ii) the degree program has been
26 verified by an independent credentials review agency to be
27 comparable to a state licensing board-approved program.
- 28 b. Has completed a supervised clinical practicum experience from an
29 educational institution or its cooperating programs as required by the
30 Commission.
- 31 c. Has completed a supervised postgraduate professional experience as
32 required by the Commission.
- 33 d. Has successfully passed a national examination approved by the
34 Commission.
- 35 e. Holds an active, unencumbered license.
- 36 f. Has not been convicted or found guilty, and has not entered an agreed
37 disposition, of a felony related to the practice of speech-language
38 pathology, under applicable state or federal criminal law.
- 39 g. Has a valid United States social security or National Practitioner
40 Identification number.
- 41 (3) The privilege to practice is derived from the home state license.
- 42 (4) An audiologist or speech-language pathologist practicing in a member state
43 must comply with the state practice laws of the state in which the client is
44 located at the time service is provided. The practice of audiology and
45 speech-language pathology shall include all audiology and speech-language
46 pathology practice as defined by the state practice laws of the member state in
47 which the client is located. The practice of audiology and speech-language
48 pathology in a member state under a privilege to practice shall subject an
49 audiologist or speech-language pathologist to the jurisdiction of the licensing
50 board, the courts, and the laws of the member state in which the client is
51 located at the time service is provided.

1 (5) Individuals not residing in a member state shall continue to be able to apply
2 for a member state's single-state license as provided under the laws of each
3 member state. However, the single-state license granted to these individuals
4 shall not be recognized as granting the privilege to practice audiology or
5 speech-language pathology in any other member state. Nothing in this
6 Compact shall affect the requirements established by a member state for the
7 issuance of a single-state license.

8 (6) Member states may charge a fee for granting a compact privilege.

9 (7) Member states must comply with the bylaws and rules and regulations of the
10 Commission.

11 **"§ 93B-20. Compact privilege.**

12 (a) To exercise the compact privilege under the terms and provisions of the Compact, the
13 audiologist or speech-language pathologist shall meet all of the following:

14 (1) Hold an active license in the home state.

15 (2) Have no encumbrance on any state license.

16 (3) Be eligible for a compact privilege in any member state in accordance with
17 G.S. 93B-19.

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

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

22 (6) Pay any applicable fees, including any state fee, for the compact privilege.

23 (7) Report to the Commission adverse action taken by any nonmember state
24 within 30 days from the date the adverse action is taken.

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

27 (c) Except as provided in G.S. 93B-22, if an audiologist or speech-language pathologist
28 changes primary state of residence by moving between two member states, the audiologist or
29 speech-language pathologist must apply for licensure in the new home state, and the license
30 issued by the prior home state shall be deactivated in accordance with applicable rules adopted
31 by the Commission.

32 (d) The audiologist or speech-language pathologist may apply for licensure in advance
33 of a change in primary state of residence.

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

38 (f) If an audiologist or speech-language pathologist changes primary state of residence
39 by moving from a member state to a nonmember state, the license issued by the prior home state
40 shall convert to a single-state license, valid only in the former home state.

41 (g) The compact privilege is valid until the expiration date of the home state license. The
42 licensee must comply with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section to maintain the
43 compact privilege in the remote state.

44 (h) A licensee providing audiology or speech-language pathology services in a remote
45 state under the compact privilege shall function within the laws and regulations of the remote
46 state.

47 (i) A licensee providing audiology or speech-language pathology services in a remote
48 state is subject to that state's regulatory authority. A remote state may, in accordance with due
49 process and that state's laws, remove a licensee's compact privilege in the remote state for a
50 specific period, impose fines, and/or take any other necessary actions to protect the health and
51 safety of its citizens.

1 (j) If a home state license is encumbered, the licensee shall lose the compact privilege in
2 any remote state until both of the following occur:

3 (1) The home state license is no longer encumbered.

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

5 (k) Once an encumbered license in the home state is restored to good standing, the
6 licensee must meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section to obtain a compact privilege
7 in any remote state.

8 (l) Once the requirements of subsection (j) of this section have been met, the licensee
9 must meet the requirements in subsection (a) of this section to obtain a compact privilege in a
10 remote state.

11 **"§ 93B-21. Compact privilege to practice telehealth.**

12 Member states shall recognize the right of an audiologist or speech-language pathologist,
13 licensed by a home state in accordance with G.S. 93B-19 and under rules promulgated by the
14 Commission, to practice audiology or speech-language pathology in any member state via
15 telehealth under a privilege to practice as provided in the Compact and rules promulgated by the
16 Commission.

17 **"§ 93B-22. Active duty military personnel or their spouses.**

18 Active duty military personnel, or their spouses, shall designate a home state where the
19 individual has a current license in good standing. The individual may retain the home state
20 designation during the period the service member is on active duty. Subsequent to designating a
21 home state, the individual shall only change their home state through application for licensure in
22 the new state.

23 **"§ 93B-23. Adverse actions.**

24 (a) In addition to the other powers conferred by state law, a remote state shall have the
25 authority, in accordance with existing state due process law, to:

26 (1) Take adverse action against an audiologist's or speech-language pathologist's
27 privilege to practice within that member state.

28 (2) Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the
29 attendance and testimony of witnesses as well as the production of evidence.
30 Subpoenas issued by a licensing board in a member state for the attendance
31 and testimony of witnesses or the production of evidence from another
32 member state shall be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent
33 jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure of that court applicable
34 to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before it. The issuing authority
35 shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other fees required
36 by the service statutes of the state in which the witnesses or evidence are
37 located.

38 (3) Only the home state shall have the power to take adverse action against an
39 audiologist's or speech-language pathologist's license issued by the home
40 state.

41 (b) For purposes of taking adverse action, the home state shall give the same priority and
42 effect to reported conduct received from a member state as it would if the conduct had occurred
43 within the home state. In so doing, the home state shall apply its own state laws to determine
44 appropriate action.

45 (c) The home state shall complete any pending investigations of an audiologist or
46 speech-language pathologist who changes primary state of residence during the investigations.
47 The home state shall also have the authority to take appropriate action(s) and shall promptly
48 report the conclusions of the investigations to the administrator of the data system. The
49 administrator of the coordinated licensure information system shall promptly notify the new
50 home state of any adverse actions.

1 (d) If otherwise permitted by state law, recover from the affected audiologist or
2 speech-language pathologist the costs of investigations and disposition of cases resulting from
3 any adverse action taken against that audiologist or speech-language pathologist.

4 (e) Take adverse action based on the factual findings of the remote state, provided that
5 the home state follows its own procedures for taking the adverse action.

6 (f) Joint Investigations. –

7 (1) In addition to the authority granted to a member state by its respective
8 audiology or speech-language pathology practice act or other applicable state
9 law, any member state may participate with other member states in joint
10 investigations of licensees.

11 (2) Member states shall share any investigative, litigation, or compliance
12 materials in furtherance of any joint or individual investigation initiated under
13 the Compact.

14 (g) If adverse action is taken by the home state against an audiologist's or
15 speech-language pathologist's license, the audiologist's or speech-language pathologist's
16 privilege to practice in all other member states shall be deactivated until all encumbrances have
17 been removed from the state license. All home state disciplinary orders that impose adverse
18 action against an audiologist's or speech-language pathologist's license shall include a statement
19 that the audiologist's or speech-language pathologist's privilege to practice is deactivated in all
20 member states during the pendency of the order.

21 (h) If a member state takes adverse action, it shall promptly notify the administrator of
22 the data system. The administrator of the data system shall promptly notify the home state of any
23 adverse actions by remote states.

24 (i) Nothing in this Compact shall override a member state's decision that participation in
25 an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action.

26 **"§ 93B-24. Establishment of the Audiology and the Speech-Language Pathology Compact**
27 **Commission.**

28 (a) The Compact member states hereby create and establish a joint public agency known
29 as the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact Commission:

30 (1) The Commission is an instrumentality of the Compact states.

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

36 (3) Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign
37 immunity.

38 (b) Membership, Voting, and Meetings. –

39 (1) Each member state shall have two delegates selected by that member state's
40 licensing board. The delegates shall be current members of the licensing
41 board. One shall be an audiologist and one shall be a speech-language
42 pathologist.

43 (2) An additional five delegates, who are either a public member or board
44 administrator from a state licensing board, shall be chosen by the Executive
45 Committee from a pool of nominees provided by the Commission at large.

46 (3) Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office as provided by the
47 law of the state from which the delegate is appointed.

48 (4) The member state board shall fill any vacancy occurring on the Commission,
49 within 90 days.

- 1 (5) Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote about the promulgation of rules and
2 creation of bylaws and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in
3 the business and affairs of the Commission.
- 4 (6) A delegate shall vote in person or by other means as provided in the bylaws.
5 The bylaws may provide for delegates' participation in meetings by telephone
6 or other means of communication.
- 7 (7) The Commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year.
8 Additional meetings shall be held as set forth in the bylaws.
- 9 (c) The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:
- 10 (1) Establish the fiscal year of the Commission.
- 11 (2) Establish bylaws.
- 12 (3) Establish a code of ethics.
- 13 (4) Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws.
- 14 (5) Meet and take actions as are consistent with the provisions of this Compact
15 and the bylaws.
- 16 (6) Promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and
17 administration of this Compact. The rules shall have the force and effect of
18 law and shall be binding in all member states.
- 19 (7) Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the
20 Commission, provided that the standing of any state audiology or
21 speech-language pathology licensing board to sue or be sued under applicable
22 law shall not be affected.
- 23 (8) Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds.
- 24 (9) Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including, but not
25 limited to, employees of a member state.
- 26 (10) Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties,
27 grant individuals' appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the
28 Compact, and to establish the Commission's personnel policies and programs
29 relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel, and other related
30 personnel matters.
- 31 (11) Accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money, equipment,
32 supplies, materials, and services, and to receive, utilize, and dispose of the
33 same; provided that always the Commission shall avoid any appearance of
34 impropriety and/or conflict of interest.
- 35 (12) Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise to own,
36 hold, improve, or use, any property, real, personal, or mixed; provided that at
37 all times the Commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety.
- 38 (13) Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise
39 dispose of any property real, personal, or mixed.
- 40 (14) Establish a budget and make expenditures.
- 41 (15) Borrow money.
- 42 (16) Appoint committees, including standing committees composed of members,
43 and other interested persons as may be designated in this Compact and the
44 bylaws.
- 45 (17) Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law enforcement
46 agencies.
- 47 (18) Establish and elect an Executive Committee.
- 48 (19) Perform other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the
49 purposes of this Compact consistent with the state regulation of audiology and
50 speech-language pathology licensure and practice.

- 1 (d) The Executive Committee. – The Executive Committee shall have the power to act
2 on behalf of the Commission according to the terms of this Compact:
- 3 (1) The Executive Committee shall be composed of 10 members:
4 a. Seven voting members who are elected by the Commission from the
5 current membership of the Commission.
6 b. Two ex officios, consisting of one nonvoting member from a
7 recognized national audiology professional association and one
8 nonvoting member from a recognized national speech-language
9 pathology association.
10 c. One ex officio, nonvoting member from the recognized membership
11 organization of the audiology and speech-language pathology
12 licensing boards.
- 13 (e) The ex officio members shall be selected by their respective organizations.
- 14 (1) The Commission may remove any member of the Executive Committee as
15 provided in bylaws.
- 16 (2) The Executive Committee shall meet at least annually.
- 17 (3) The Executive Committee shall have the following duties and 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.
- 28 f. Establish additional committees as necessary.
- 29 g. Other duties as provided in rules or bylaws.
- 30 (f) All meetings shall be open to the public, and public notice of meetings shall be given
31 in the same manner as required under the rule-making provisions in G.S. 93B-26.
- 32 (g) The Commission or the Executive Committee or other committees of the Commission
33 may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting if the Commission or Executive Committee or other
34 committees of the Commission must discuss:
- 35 (1) Noncompliance of a member state with its obligations under the Compact.
- 36 (2) The employment, compensation, discipline or other matters, practices or
37 procedures related to specific employees, or other matters related to the
38 Commission's internal personnel practices and procedures.
- 39 (3) Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation.
- 40 (4) Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or sale of goods, services, or
41 real estate.
- 42 (5) Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person.
- 43 (6) Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is
44 privileged or confidential.
- 45 (7) Disclosure of information of a personal nature where disclosure would
46 constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.
- 47 (8) Disclosure of investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes.
- 48 (9) Disclosure of information related to any investigative reports prepared by or
49 on behalf of or for use of the Commission or other committee charged with
50 responsibility of investigation or determination of compliance issues pursuant
51 to the Compact.

1 (10) Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or member state
2 statute.

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

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

12 (j) Financing of the Commission. –

13 (1) The Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable
14 expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.

15 (2) The Commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue sources,
16 donations, and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services.

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

24 (k) The Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds
25 adequate to meet the same; nor shall the Commission pledge the credit of any of the member
26 states, except by and with the authority of the member state.

27 (l) The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The
28 receipts and disbursements of the Commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting
29 procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds
30 handled by the Commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant,
31 and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the
32 Commission.

33 (m) Qualified Immunity, Defense, and Indemnification. –

34 (1) The members, officers, executive director, employees, and representatives of
35 the Commission shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or
36 in their official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or
37 personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual or
38 alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom
39 the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the
40 scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities; provided that
41 nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to protect any person from suit
42 and/or liability for any damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the
43 intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

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

1 provided further, that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result
2 from that person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.

- 3 (3) The Commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer,
4 executive director, employee, or representative of the Commission for the
5 amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out
6 of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope
7 of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that person had a
8 reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission
9 employment, duties, or responsibilities; provided that the actual or alleged act,
10 error, or omission did not result from the intentional or willful or wanton
11 misconduct of that person.

12 **"§ 93B-25. Data system.**

13 (a) The Commission shall provide for the development, maintenance, and utilization of
14 a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action, and
15 investigative information on all licensed individuals in member states.

16 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the contrary, a member state shall
17 submit a uniform data set to the data system on all individuals to whom this Compact is applicable
18 as required by the rules of the Commission, including:

19 (1) Identifying information.

20 (2) Licensure data.

21 (3) Adverse actions against a license or compact privilege.

22 (4) Nonconfidential information related to alternative program participation.

23 (5) Any denial of application for licensure, and the reason(s) for denial.

24 (6) Other information that may facilitate the administration of this Compact, as
25 determined by the rules of the Commission.

26 (c) Investigative information pertaining to a licensee in any member state shall only be
27 available to other member states.

28 (d) The Commission shall promptly notify all member states of any adverse action taken
29 against a licensee or an individual applying for a license. Adverse action information pertaining
30 to a licensee in any member state shall be available to any other member state.

31 (e) Member states contributing information to the data system may designate information
32 that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of the contributing state.

33 (f) Any information submitted to the data system that is subsequently required to be
34 expunged by the laws of the member state contributing the information shall be removed from
35 the data system.

36 **"§ 93B-26. Rule making.**

37 (a) The Commission shall exercise its rule-making powers pursuant to the criteria set
38 forth in this section and the rules adopted thereunder. Rules and amendments shall become
39 binding as of the date specified in each rule or amendment.

40 (b) If a majority of the legislatures of the member states rejects a rule, by enactment of a
41 statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the Compact within four years of the date
42 of adoption of the rule, the rule shall have no further force and effect in any member state.

43 (c) Rules or amendments to the rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of
44 the Commission.

45 (d) Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules by the Commission, and at
46 least 30 days in advance of the meeting at which the rule shall be considered and voted upon, the
47 Commission shall file a Notice of Proposed Rule Making:

48 (1) On the Web site of the Commission or other publicly accessible platform.

49 (2) On the Web site of each member state audiology or speech-language
50 pathology licensing board or other publicly accessible platform or the
51 publication in which each state would otherwise publish proposed rules.

1 (e) The Notice of Proposed Rule Making shall include:

2 (1) The proposed time, date, and location of the meeting in which the rule shall
3 be considered and voted upon.

4 (2) The text of the proposed rule or amendment and the reason for the proposed
5 rule.

6 (3) A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person.

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

9 (f) Prior to the adoption of a proposed rule, the Commission shall allow persons to submit
10 written data, facts, opinions, and arguments, which shall be made available to the public.

11 (g) The Commission shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing before it adopts a rule
12 or amendment if a hearing is requested by any of the following:

13 (1) At least 25 persons.

14 (2) A state or federal governmental subdivision or agency.

15 (3) An association having at least 25 members.

16 (h) If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, the Commission shall publish
17 the place, time, and date of the scheduled public hearing. If the hearing is held via electronic
18 means, the Commission shall publish the mechanism for access to the electronic hearing.

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

23 (2) Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each person who wishes
24 to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in writing.

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

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

30 (i) Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close of business on the scheduled
31 hearing date if the hearing was not held, the Commission shall consider all written and oral
32 comments received. If no written notice of intent to attend the public hearing by interested parties
33 is received, the Commission may proceed with promulgation of the proposed rule without a
34 public hearing. The Commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take final action on the
35 proposed rule and shall determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the rule-making
36 record and the full text of the rule.

37 (j) Upon determination that an emergency exists, the Commission may consider and
38 adopt an emergency rule without prior notice, opportunity for comment, or hearing, provided that
39 the usual rule-making procedures provided in the Compact and in this section shall be
40 retroactively applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than 90 days
41 after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this provision, an emergency rule is one
42 that must be adopted immediately in order to:

43 (1) Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare.

44 (2) Prevent a loss of Commission or member state funds.

45 (3) Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is
46 established by federal law or rule.

47 (k) The Commission or an authorized committee of the Commission may direct revisions
48 to a previously adopted rule or amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors
49 in format, errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be
50 posted on the Web site of the Commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any
51 person for a period of 30 days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds

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

5 **"§ 93B-27. Oversight, dispute resolution, and enforcement.**

6 (a) Dispute Resolution. – Upon request by a member state, the Commission shall attempt
7 to resolve disputes related to the Compact that arise among member states and between member
8 and nonmember states. The Commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation
9 and binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.

10 (b) Enforcement. – The Commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall
11 enforce the provisions and rules of this Compact. By majority vote, the Commission may initiate
12 legal action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district
13 where the Commission has its principal offices against a member state in default to enforce
14 compliance with the provisions of the Compact and its promulgated rules and bylaws. The relief
15 sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is
16 necessary, the prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of litigation, including reasonable
17 attorney's fees. The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the Commission. The
18 Commission may pursue any other remedies available under federal or state law.

19 **"§ 93B-28. Date of implementation of Compact and associated rules, withdrawal, and**
20 **amendment.**

21 (a) The Compact shall come into effect on the date on which the Compact statute is
22 enacted into law in the tenth member state. The provisions, which become effective at that time,
23 shall be limited to the powers granted to the Commission relating to assembly and the
24 promulgation of rules. Thereafter, the Commission shall meet and exercise rule-making powers
25 necessary to the implementation and administration of the Compact.

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

30 (c) Any member state may withdraw from this Compact by enacting a statute repealing
31 the same.

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

34 (2) Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing
35 state's audiology or speech-language pathology licensing board to comply
36 with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of this act
37 prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

38 (d) Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any
39 audiology or speech-language pathology licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement
40 between a member state and a nonmember state that does not conflict with the provisions of this
41 Compact.

42 (e) This Compact may be amended by the member states. No amendment to this Compact
43 shall become effective and binding upon any member state until it is enacted into the laws of all
44 member states.

45 **"§ 93B-29. Construction and severability.**

46 This Compact shall be liberally construed to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions
47 of this Compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this
48 Compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any member state or of the United States
49 or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid,
50 the validity of the remainder of this Compact and the applicability thereof to any government,
51 agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this Compact shall be held

1 contrary to the constitution of any member state, the Compact shall remain in full force and effect
2 as to the remaining member states and in full force and effect as to the member state affected as
3 to all severable matters.

4 **"§ 93B-30. Binding effect of Compact on other laws.**

5 (a) Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other law of a member state that is
6 not inconsistent with the Compact.

7 (b) All laws in a member state in conflict with the Compact are superseded to the extent
8 of the conflict.

9 (c) All lawful actions of the Commission, including all rules and bylaws promulgated by
10 the Commission, are binding upon the member states.

11 (d) All agreements between the Commission and the member states are binding in
12 accordance with their terms.

13 (e) In the event any provision of the Compact exceeds the constitutional limits imposed
14 on the legislature of any member state, the provision shall be ineffective to the extent of the
15 conflict with the constitutional provision in question in that member state."

16 **SECTION 5.** Part I of this act becomes effective December 1, 2020, and applies to
17 applications for licensure received on or after that date. Part II of this act is effective when it
18 becomes law.