

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 80

Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY VENKAT, MARCELL, HOWARD, SANCHEZ, BOROWSKI, PIELLI, HILL-EVANS, HANBIDGE, HADDOCK, SCHLOSSBERG, FRANKEL, HOHENSTEIN, FREEMAN, HARKINS, SHUSTERM, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, KENYATTA, SAPPEY, PROBST, DONAHUE, OTTEN, FIEDLER, CERRATO, GREEN, BONNER, KHAN, DOUGHERTY, MARKOSEK, SHAFFER, KAZEEM, MADSEN, RIVERA AND SCHEUREN, JANUARY 10, 2025

SENATOR STEFANO, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
IN SENATE, AS AMENDED, FEBRUARY 4, 2026

AN ACT

1 Authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the
2 Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact;
3 and providing for the form of the compact.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Audiology and
8 Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact Act.

9 Section 2. Authority to execute compact.

10 The Governor, on behalf of the Commonwealth, is hereby
11 authorized to execute a compact in substantially the following
12 form with any one or more of the states of the United States,
13 and the General Assembly hereby signifies in advance its
14 approval and ratification of such compact:

15 SECTION 1. PURPOSE

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

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

30 SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

1 As used in this Compact, and except as otherwise provided,
2 the following definitions shall apply:

3 A. "Active Duty Military" means: full-time duty status in
4 the active uniformed service of the United States, including
5 members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders
6 pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Chapters 1209 (relating to active duty)
7 and 1211 (relating to national guard members in federal
8 service).

9 B. "Adverse Action" means: any administrative, civil,
10 equitable or criminal action permitted by a state's laws which
11 is imposed by a licensing board or other authority against an
12 audiologist or speech-language pathologist, including actions
13 against an individual's license or privilege to practice such as
14 revocation, suspension, probation, monitoring of the licensee,
15 or restriction on the licensee's practice.

16 C. "Alternative Program" means: a non-disciplinary
17 monitoring process approved by an audiology or speech-language
18 pathology licensing board to address impaired practitioners.

19 D. "Audiologist" means: an individual who is licensed by a
20 state to practice audiology.

21 E. "Audiology" means: the care and services provided by a
22 licensed audiologist as set forth in the member state's statutes
23 and rules.

24 F. "Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact
25 Commission" or "Commission" means: the national administrative
26 body whose membership consists of all states that have enacted
27 the Compact.

28 G. "Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Licensing
29 Board," "Audiology Licensing Board," "Speech-Language Pathology
30 Licensing Board," or "Licensing Board" means: the agency of a

1 state that is responsible for the licensing and regulation of
2 audiologists and/or speech-language pathologists.

3 H. "Compact Privilege" means: the authorization granted by
4 a remote state to allow a licensee from another member state to
5 practice as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist in the
6 remote state under its laws and rules. The practice of audiology
7 or speech-language pathology occurs in the member state where
8 the patient/client/student is located at the time of the
9 patient/client/student encounter.

10 I. "Current Significant Investigative Information" means:
11 investigative information that a licensing board, after an
12 inquiry or investigation that includes notification and an
13 opportunity for the audiologist or speech-language pathologist
14 to respond, if required by state law, has reason to believe is
15 not groundless and, if proved true, would indicate more than a
16 minor infraction.

17 J. "Data System" means: a repository of information about
18 licensees, including, but not limited to, continuing education,
19 examination, licensure, investigative, compact privilege and
20 adverse action.

21 K. "Encumbered License" means: a license in which an
22 adverse action restricts the practice of audiology or speech-
23 language pathology by the licensee and said adverse action has
24 been reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

25 L. "Executive Committee" means: a group of directors
26 elected or appointed to act on behalf of, and within the powers
27 granted to them by, the Commission.

28 M. "Home State" means: the member state that is the
29 licensee's primary state of residence.

30 N. "Impaired Practitioner" means: individuals whose

1 professional practice is adversely affected by substance abuse,
2 addiction, or other health-related conditions.

3 O. "Licensee" means: an individual who currently holds an
4 authorization from the state licensing board to practice as an
5 audiologist or speech-language pathologist.

6 P. "Member State" means: a state that has enacted the
7 Compact.

8 Q. "Privilege to Practice" means: a legal authorization
9 permitting the practice of audiology or speech-language
10 pathology in a remote state.

11 R. "Remote State" means: a member state other than the home
12 state where a licensee is exercising or seeking to exercise the
13 compact privilege.

14 S. "Rule" means: a regulation, principle or directive
15 promulgated by the Commission that has the force of law.

16 T. "Single-State License" means: an audiology or speech-
17 language pathology license issued by a member state that
18 authorizes practice only within the issuing state and does not
19 include a privilege to practice in any other member state.

20 U. "Speech-Language Pathologist" means: an individual who
21 is licensed by a state to practice speech-language pathology.

22 V. "Speech-Language Pathology" means: the care and services
23 provided by a licensed speech-language pathologist as set forth
24 in the member state's statutes and rules.

25 W. "State" means: any state, commonwealth, district or
26 territory of the United States of America that regulates the
27 practice of audiology and speech-language pathology.

28 X. "State Practice Laws" means: a member state's laws,
29 rules and regulations that govern the practice of audiology or
30 speech-language pathology, define the scope of audiology or

1 speech-language pathology practice, and create the methods and
2 grounds for imposing discipline.

3 Y. "Telehealth" means: the application of telecommunication
4 technology to deliver audiology or speech-language pathology
5 services at a distance for assessment, intervention and/or
6 consultation.

7 SECTION 3. STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT

8 A. A license issued to an audiologist or speech-language
9 pathologist by a home state to a resident in that state shall be
10 recognized by each member state as authorizing an audiologist or
11 speech-language pathologist to practice audiology or speech-
12 language pathology, under a privilege to practice, in each
13 member state.

14 B. A state must implement or utilize procedures for
15 considering the criminal history records of applicants for
16 initial privilege to practice. These procedures shall include
17 the submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based
18 information by applicants for the purpose of obtaining an
19 applicant's criminal history record information from the Federal
20 Bureau of Investigation and the agency responsible for retaining
21 that state's criminal records:

22 1. A member state must fully implement a criminal
23 background check requirement, within a time frame established
24 by rule, by receiving the results of the Federal Bureau of
25 Investigation record search on criminal background checks and
26 use the results in making licensure decisions; and

27 2. Communication between a member state, the Commission
28 and among member states regarding the verification of
29 eligibility for licensure through the Compact shall not
30 include any information received from the Federal Bureau of

1 Investigation relating to a federal criminal records check
2 performed by a member state under the Federal Bureau of
3 Investigation appropriation of Title II of Public Law 92-544,
4 86 Stat. 1115.

5 C. Upon application for a privilege to practice, the
6 licensing board in the issuing remote state shall ascertain,
7 through the data system, whether the applicant has ever held, or
8 is the holder of, a license issued by any other state, whether
9 there are any encumbrances on any license or privilege to
10 practice held by the applicant, whether any adverse action has
11 been taken against any license or privilege to practice held by
12 the applicant.

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

17 E. For an audiologist:

18 1. Must meet one of the following educational
19 requirements:

20 a. On or before, December 31, 2007, has graduated
21 with a master's degree or doctorate in audiology, or
22 equivalent degree regardless of degree name, from a
23 program that is accredited by an accrediting agency
24 recognized by the Council for Higher Education
25 Accreditation, or its successor, or by the United States
26 Department of Education and operated by a college or
27 university accredited by a regional or national
28 accrediting organization recognized by the board; or

29 b. On or after, January 1, 2008, has graduated with
30 a Doctoral degree in audiology, or equivalent degree,

1 regardless of degree name, from a program that is
2 accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the
3 Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or its
4 successor, or by the United States Department of
5 Education and operated by a college or university
6 accredited by a regional or national accrediting
7 organization recognized by the board; or

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

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

19 3. Has successfully passed a national examination
20 approved by the Commission;

21 4. Holds an active, unencumbered license;

22 5. Has not been convicted or found guilty, and has not
23 entered into an agreed disposition, of a felony related to
24 the practice of audiology, under applicable state or federal
25 criminal law; and

26 6. Has a valid United States Social Security or National
27 Practitioner Identification number.

28 F. For a speech-language pathologist:

29 1. Must meet one of the following educational
30 requirements:

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

7 b. Has graduated from a speech-language pathology
8 program that is housed in an institution of higher
9 education outside of the United States:

10 (a) for which the program and institution
11 have been approved by the authorized accrediting
12 body in the applicable country; and

13 (b) the degree program has been verified by
14 an independent credentials review agency to be
15 comparable to a state licensing board-approved
16 program.

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

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

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

24 5. Holds an active, unencumbered license;

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

29 7. Has a valid United States Social Security or National
30 Practitioner Identification number.

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

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

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

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

25 K. Member states must comply with the bylaws and rules and
26 regulations of the Commission.

27 SECTION 4. COMPACT PRIVILEGE

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

- 1 1. Hold an active license in the home state;
- 2 2. Have no encumbrance on any state license;
- 3 3. Be eligible for a compact privilege in any member
- 4 state in accordance with Section 3;
- 5 4. Have not had any adverse action against any license
- 6 or compact privilege within the previous two years from date
- 7 of application;
- 8 5. Notify the Commission that the licensee is seeking
- 9 the compact privilege within a remote state(s);
- 10 6. Pay any applicable fees, including any state fee, for
- 11 the compact privilege;
- 12 7. Report to the Commission adverse action taken by any
- 13 non-member state within 30 days from the date the adverse
- 14 action is taken.

15 B. For the purposes of the compact privilege, an audiologist

16 or speech-language pathologist shall only hold one home state

17 license at a time.

18 C. Except as provided in Section 6, if an audiologist or

19 speech-language pathologist changes primary state of residence

20 by moving between two-member states, the audiologist or speech-

21 language pathologist must apply for licensure in the new home

22 state, and the license issued by the prior home state shall be

23 deactivated in accordance with applicable rules adopted by the

24 Commission.

25 D. The audiologist or speech-language pathologist may apply

26 for licensure in advance of a change in primary state of

27 residence.

28 E. A license shall not be issued by the new home state until

29 the audiologist or speech-language pathologist provides

30 satisfactory evidence of a change in primary state of residence

1 to the new home state and satisfies all applicable requirements
2 to obtain a license from the new home state.

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

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

12 H. A licensee providing audiology or speech-language
13 pathology services in a remote state under the compact privilege
14 shall function within the laws and regulations of the remote
15 state.

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

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

26 1. The home state license is no longer encumbered; and
27 2. Two years have elapsed from the date of the adverse
28 action.

29 K. Once an encumbered license in the home state is restored
30 to good standing, the licensee must meet the requirements of

1 Section 4A to obtain a compact privilege in any remote state.

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

5 SECTION 5. COMPACT PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE TELEHEALTH

6 Member states shall recognize the right of an audiologist or
7 speech-language pathologist, licensed by a home state in
8 accordance with Section 3 and under rules promulgated by the
9 Commission, to practice audiology or speech-language pathology
10 in any member state via telehealth under a privilege to practice
11 as provided in the Compact and rules promulgated by the
12 Commission.

13 SECTION 6. ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL OR THEIR SPOUSES

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

21 SECTION 7. ADVERSE ACTIONS

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

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

28 2. Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations
29 that require the attendance and testimony of witnesses as
30 well as the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a

1 licensing board in a member state for the attendance and
2 testimony of witnesses or the production of evidence from
3 another member state shall be enforced in the latter state by
4 any court of competent jurisdiction, according to the
5 practice and procedure of that court applicable to subpoenas
6 issued in proceedings pending before it. The issuing
7 authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses,
8 mileage and other fees required by the service statutes of
9 the state in which the witnesses or evidence are located.

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

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

18 C. The home state shall complete any pending investigations
19 of an audiologist or speech-language pathologist who changes
20 primary state of residence during the course of the
21 investigations. The home state shall also have the authority to
22 take appropriate action(s) and shall promptly report the
23 conclusions of the investigations to the administrator of the
24 data system. The administrator of the coordinated licensure
25 information system shall promptly notify the new home state of
26 any adverse actions.

27 D. If otherwise permitted by state law, the member state may
28 recover from the affected audiologist or speech-language
29 pathologist the costs of investigations and disposition of cases
30 resulting from any adverse action taken against that audiologist

1 or speech-language pathologist.

2 E. The member state may take adverse action based on the
3 factual findings of the remote state, provided that the member
4 state follows the member state's own procedures for taking the
5 adverse action.

6 F. Joint Investigations

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

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

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

27 H. If a member state takes adverse action, it shall promptly
28 notify the administrator of the data system. The administrator
29 of the data system shall promptly notify the home state of any
30 adverse actions by remote states.

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

SECTION 8. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGY COMPACT COMMISSION

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

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

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

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

B. Membership, Voting and Meetings

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

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

3. Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office

1 as provided by the law of the state from which the delegate
2 is appointed.

3 4. The member state board shall fill any vacancy
4 occurring on the Commission, within 90 days.

5 5. Each delegate shall be entitled to one (1) vote with
6 regard to the promulgation of rules and creation of bylaws
7 and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the
8 business and affairs of the Commission.

9 6. A delegate shall vote in person or by other means as
10 provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates'
11 participation in meetings by telephone or other means of
12 communication.

13 7. The Commission shall meet at least once during each
14 calendar year. Additional meetings shall be held as set forth
15 in the bylaws.

16 C. The Commission shall have the following powers and
17 duties:

18 1. Establish the fiscal year of the Commission;
19 2. Establish bylaws;
20 3. Establish a Code of Ethics;
21 4. Maintain its financial records in accordance with the
22 bylaws;

23 5. Meet and take actions as are consistent with the
24 provisions of this Compact and the bylaws;

25 6. Promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate
26 implementation and administration of this Compact. The rules
27 shall have the force and effect of law and shall be binding
28 in all member states;

29 7. Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in
30 the name of the Commission, provided that the standing of any

1 state audiology or speech-language pathology licensing board
2 to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected;

3 8. Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

4 9. Borrow, accept, or contract for services of
5 personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a
6 member state;

7 10. Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix
8 compensation, define duties, grant individuals appropriate
9 authority to carry out the purposes of the Compact, and to
10 establish the Commission's personnel policies and programs
11 relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of
12 personnel, and other related personnel matters;

13 11. Accept any and all appropriate donations and grants
14 of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services, and to
15 receive, utilize and dispose of the same; provided that at
16 all times the Commission shall avoid any appearance of
17 impropriety and/or conflict of interest;

18 12. Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or
19 donations of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve or use, any
20 property, real, personal or mixed; provided that at all times
21 the Commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety;

22 13. Sell convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange,
23 abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property real, personal,
24 or mixed;

25 14. Establish a budget and make expenditures;

26 15. Borrow money;

27 16. Appoint committees, including standing committees
28 composed of members, and other interested persons as may be
29 designated in this Compact and the bylaws;

30 17. Provide and receive information from, and cooperate

1 with, law enforcement agencies;

2 18. Establish and elect an Executive Committee; and

3 19. Perform other functions as may be necessary or
4 appropriate to achieve the purposes of this Compact
5 consistent with the state regulation of audiology and speech-
6 language pathology licensure and practice.

7 D. The Executive Committee

8 The Executive Committee shall have the power to act on behalf
9 of the Commission according to the terms of this Compact:

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

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

14 b. Two (2) ex-officios, consisting of one nonvoting
15 member from a recognized national audiology professional
16 association and one nonvoting member from a recognized
17 national speech-language pathology association; and

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

21 E. The ex-officio members shall be selected by their
22 respective organizations.

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

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

26 3. The Executive Committee shall have the following
27 duties and responsibilities:

28 a. Recommend to the entire Commission changes to the
29 rules or bylaws, changes to this Compact legislation,
30 fees paid by Compact member states such as annual dues,

1 and any commission Compact fee charged to licensees for
2 the compact privilege;

3 b. Ensure Compact administration services are
4 appropriately provided, contractual or otherwise;

5 c. Prepare and recommend the budget;

6 d. Maintain financial records on behalf of the
7 Commission;

8 e. Monitor Compact compliance of member states and
9 provide compliance reports to the Commission;

10 f. Establish additional committees as necessary; and

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

12 4. Meetings of the Commission

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

16 5. The Commission or the Executive Committee or other
17 committees of the Commission may convene in a closed, non-
18 public meeting if the Commission or Executive Committee or
19 other committees of the Commission must discuss:

20 a. Non-compliance of a member state with its
21 obligations under the Compact;

22 b. The employment, compensation, discipline or other
23 matters, practices or procedures related to specific
24 employees or other matters related to the Commission's
25 internal personnel practices and procedures;

26 c. Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated
27 litigation;

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

30 e. Accusing any person of a crime or formally

1 censuring any person;

2 f. Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or

3 financial information that is privileged or confidential;

4 g. Disclosure of information of a personal nature

5 where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted

6 invasion of personal privacy;

7 h. Disclosure of investigative records compiled for

8 law enforcement purposes;

9 i. Disclosure of information related to any

10 investigative reports prepared by or on behalf of or for

11 use of the Commission or other committee charged with

12 responsibility of investigation or determination of

13 compliance issues pursuant to the Compact; or

14 j. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by

15 federal or member state statute.

16 6. If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed

17 pursuant to this provision, the Commission's legal counsel or

18 designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and

19 shall reference each relevant exempting provision.

20 7. The Commission shall keep minutes that fully and

21 clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall

22 provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the

23 reasons therefore, including a description of the views

24 expressed. All documents considered in connection with an

25 action shall be identified in minutes. All minutes and

26 documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal,

27 subject to release by a majority vote of the Commission or

28 order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

29 8. Financing of the Commission

30 a. The Commission shall pay, or provide for the

1 payment of, the reasonable expenses of its establishment,
2 organization, and ongoing activities.

3 b. The Commission may accept any and all appropriate
4 revenue sources, donations, and grants of money,
5 equipment, supplies, materials, and services.

6 c. The Commission may levy on and collect an annual
7 assessment from each member state or impose fees on other
8 parties to cover the cost of the operations and
9 activities of the Commission and its staff, which must be
10 in a total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget
11 as approved each year for which revenue is not provided
12 by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount
13 shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined
14 by the Commission, which shall promulgate a rule binding
15 upon all member states.

16 9. The Commission shall not incur obligations of any
17 kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same;
18 nor shall the Commission pledge the credit of any of the
19 member states, except by and with the authority of the member
20 state.

21 10. The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all
22 receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of
23 the Commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting
24 procedures established under its bylaws. However, all
25 receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the Commission
26 shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public
27 accountant, and the report of the audit shall be included in
28 and become part of the annual report of the Commission.

29 F. Qualified Immunity, Defense, and Indemnification

30 1. The members, officers, executive director, employees

1 and representatives of the Commission shall be immune from
2 suit and liability, either personally or in their official
3 capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or
4 personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising
5 out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that
6 occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is made
7 had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the
8 scope of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities;
9 provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to
10 protect any person from suit and/or liability for any damage,
11 loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional or
12 willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

13 2. The Commission shall defend any member, officer,
14 executive director, employee or representative of the
15 Commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability
16 arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission
17 that occurred within the scope of Commission employment,
18 duties, or responsibilities, or that the person against whom
19 the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing
20 occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties,
21 or responsibilities; provided that nothing herein shall be
22 construed to prohibit that person from retaining his or her
23 own counsel; and provided further, that the actual or alleged
24 act, error, or omission did not result from that person's
25 intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.

26 3. The Commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any
27 member, officer, executive director, employee, or
28 representative of the Commission for the amount of any
29 settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising
30 out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that

1 occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties,
2 or responsibilities, or that person had a reasonable basis
3 for believing occurred within the scope of Commission
4 employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the
5 actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from
6 the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that
7 person.

8 SECTION 9. DATA SYSTEM

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

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

19 1. Identifying information;
20 2. Licensure data;
21 3. Adverse actions against a license or compact
22 privilege;

23 4. Non-confidential information related to alternative
24 program participation;

25 5. Any denial of application for licensure, and the
26 reason(s) for denial; and

27 6. Other information that may facilitate the
28 administration of this Compact, as determined by the rules of
29 the Commission.

30 C. Investigative information pertaining to a licensee in any

1 member state shall only be available to other member states.

2 D. The Commission shall promptly notify all member states of
3 any adverse action taken against a licensee or an individual
4 applying for a license. Adverse action information pertaining to
5 a licensee in any member state shall be available to any other
6 member state.

7 E. Member states contributing information to the data system
8 may designate information that may not be shared with the public
9 without the express permission of the contributing state.

10 F. Any information submitted to the data system that is
11 subsequently required to be expunged by the laws of the member
12 state contributing the information shall be removed from the
13 data system.

14 SECTION 10. RULEMAKING

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

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

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

26 D. Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or
27 rules by the Commission, and at least thirty (30) days in
28 advance of the meeting at which the rule shall be considered and
29 voted upon, the Commission shall file a Notice of Proposed
30 Rulemaking:

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

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

7 E. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking shall include:

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

10 2. The text of the proposed rule or amendment and the
11 reason for the proposed rule;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 H. If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment,
29 the Commission shall publish the place, time, and date of the
30 scheduled public hearing. If the hearing is held via electronic

1 means, the Commission shall publish the mechanism for access to
2 the electronic hearing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 L. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the
30 Commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule without

1 prior notice, opportunity for comment, or hearing, provided that
2 the usual rulemaking procedures provided in the Compact and in
3 this section shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon
4 as reasonably possible, in no event later than ninety (90) days
5 after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this
6 provision, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted
7 immediately in order to:

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

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

12 3. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an
13 administrative rule that is established by federal law or
14 rule.

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

29 SECTION 11. OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AND ENFORCEMENT

30 A. Dispute Resolution

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

4 2. The Commission shall promulgate a rule providing for
5 both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as
6 appropriate.

7 B. Enforcement

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

11 2. By majority vote, the Commission may initiate legal
12 action in the United States District Court for the District
13 of Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has
14 its principal offices against a member state in default to
15 enforce compliance with the provisions of the Compact and its
16 promulgated rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include
17 both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial
18 enforcement is necessary, the prevailing member shall be
19 awarded all costs of litigation, including reasonable
20 attorney's fees.

21 3. The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive
22 remedies of the Commission. The Commission may pursue any
23 other remedies available under federal or state law.

24 SECTION 12. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION
25 FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY PRACTICE
26 AND ASSOCIATED RULES, WITHDRAWAL, AND AMENDMENT

27 A. The Compact shall come into effect on the date on which
28 the Compact statute is enacted into law in the 10th member
29 state. The provisions, which become effective at that time,
30 shall be limited to the powers granted to the Commission

1 relating to assembly and the promulgation of rules. Thereafter,
2 the Commission shall meet and exercise rulemaking powers
3 necessary to the implementation and administration of the
4 Compact.

5 B. Any state that joins the Compact subsequent to the
6 Commission's initial adoption of the rules shall be subject to
7 the rules as they exist on the date on which the Compact becomes
8 law in that state. Any rule that has been previously adopted by
9 the Commission shall have the full force and effect of law on
10 the day the Compact becomes law in that state.

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

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

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

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

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

30 SECTION 13. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

1 This Compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate
2 the purposes thereof. The provisions of this Compact shall be
3 severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of
4 this Compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of
5 any member state or of the United States or the applicability
6 thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is
7 held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this Compact and
8 the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or
9 circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this Compact
10 shall be held contrary to the constitution of any member state,
11 the Compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the
12 remaining member states and in full force and effect as to the
13 member state affected as to all severable matters.

14 SECTION 14. BINDING EFFECT OF COMPACT AND OTHER LAWS

15 A. Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other law
16 of a member state that is not inconsistent with the Compact.

17 B. All laws in a member state in conflict with the Compact
18 are superseded to the extent of the conflict.

19 C. All lawful actions of the Commission, including all rules
20 and bylaws promulgated by the Commission, are binding upon the
21 member states.

22 D. All agreements between the Commission and the member
23 states are binding in accordance with their terms.

24 E. In the event any provision of the Compact exceeds the
25 constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of any member
26 state, the provision shall be ineffective to the extent of the
27 conflict with the constitutional provision in question in that
28 member state.

29 Section 3. Operation.

30 (a) General rule.--When the Governor executes the Audiology

1 and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact on behalf of
2 this State and files a verified copy with the Secretary of the
3 Commonwealth and when the compact is ratified by one or more
4 other states, districts or territories of the United States, the
5 compact shall become operative and effective between this State
6 and the other states, districts or territories of the United
7 States. The Governor is authorized and directed to take action
8 as may be necessary to complete the exchange of official
9 documents between this State and any other state, district or
10 territory of the United States ratifying the compact.

11 (b) Notice in Pennsylvania Bulletin.--The Secretary of the
12 Commonwealth shall transmit a notice to the Legislative
13 Reference Bureau for publication in the next available issue of
14 the Pennsylvania Bulletin when the conditions specified in
15 subsection (a) are satisfied and shall include in the notice the
16 date on which the compact became effective and operative between
17 this State and any other states, districts or territories of the
18 United States in accordance with this act.

19 (C) IMPLEMENTATION.--THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN SPEECH- <--
20 LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING
21 DUTIES:

22 (1) PROMULGATE TEMPORARY REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO
23 IMPLEMENT THIS ACT UNDER 63 P.A.C.S. § 3120 (RELATING TO
24 TEMPORARY RULEMAKING AUTHORITY) WITHIN 180 DAYS OF THE
25 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

26 (2) ACCEPT COMPACT PRIVILEGE APPLICATIONS AND ISSUE
27 COMPACT PRIVILEGES UNDER THIS ACT WITHIN 180 DAYS OF THE
28 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

29 Section 4. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect ~~in 18 months~~ IMMEDIATELY. <--