

1 SB125  
2 163123-6  
3 By Senators Reed, Waggoner, Dial, Marsh, Melson, Stutts and  
4 Bussman  
5 RFD: Health and Human Services  
6 First Read: 03-MAR-15

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3  
4 ENGROSSED

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7 A BILL  
8 TO BE ENTITLED  
9 AN ACT

10  
11 Relating to medical licensure, to provide and adopt  
12 the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact to develop a  
13 comprehensive licensing process complementing existing  
14 licensing and regulatory authority of state medical boards in  
15 member states; to provide a streamlined process for physicians  
16 to become licensed in multiple states; to provide eligibility  
17 requirements for physicians; to require the designation of a  
18 state of principal license; to provide for the application,  
19 issuance, and fees for expedited and continued licensure of  
20 physicians under the compact; to provide for a coordinated  
21 information system, joint investigations, and disciplinary  
22 actions; to establish the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact  
23 Commission, and to provide for membership, powers, duties, and  
24 terms of office; to provide for the funding of and rulemaking  
25 functions of the interstate commission; to provide for  
26 oversight of the compact, enforcement of the compact, default

1 procedures, dispute resolution, and the withdrawal of member  
2 states; and to provide for dissolution of the compact.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

4 Section 1. Purpose.

5 In order to strengthen access to health care, and in  
6 recognition of the advances in the delivery of health care,  
7 the member states of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact  
8 have allied in common purpose to develop a comprehensive  
9 process that complements the existing licensing and regulatory  
10 authority of state medical boards, provides a streamlined  
11 process that allows physicians to become licensed in multiple  
12 states, thereby enhancing the portability of a medical license  
13 and promoting the safety of patients. The compact creates  
14 another pathway for licensure and does not otherwise change a  
15 state's existing medical practice act. The compact also adopts  
16 the prevailing standard for licensure and affirms that the  
17 practice of medicine occurs where the patient is located at  
18 the time of the physician-patient encounter, and therefore,  
19 requires the physician to be under the jurisdiction of the  
20 state medical board where the patient is located. State  
21 medical boards that participate in the compact retain the  
22 jurisdiction to impose an adverse action against a license to  
23 practice medicine in that state issued to a physician through  
24 the procedures in the compact.

25 Section 2. Definitions.

26 In this compact, the following terms have the  
27 following meanings:

1 (a) BYLAWS. Those bylaws established by the  
2 interstate commission pursuant to Section 11 for its  
3 governance, or for directing and controlling its actions and  
4 conduct.

5 (b) COMMISSIONER. The voting representative  
6 appointed by each member board pursuant to Section 11.

7 (c) CONVICTION. A finding by a court that an  
8 individual is guilty of a criminal offense through  
9 adjudication, or entry of a plea of guilty or no contest to  
10 the charge by the offender. Evidence of an entry of a  
11 conviction of a criminal offense by the court shall be  
12 considered final for purposes of disciplinary action by a  
13 member board.

14 (d) EXPEDITED LICENSE. A full and unrestricted  
15 medical license granted by a member state to an eligible  
16 physician through the process set forth in the compact.

17 (e) INTERSTATE COMMISSION. The interstate commission  
18 created pursuant to Section 11.

19 (f) LICENSE. Authorization by a state for a  
20 physician to engage in the practice of medicine, which would  
21 be unlawful without the authorization.

22 (g) MEDICAL PRACTICE ACT. Laws and regulations  
23 governing the practice of allopathic and osteopathic medicine  
24 within a member state.

25 (h) MEMBER BOARD. A state agency in a member state  
26 that acts in the sovereign interests of the state by

1 protecting the public through licensure, regulation, and  
2 education of physicians as directed by the state government.

3 (i) MEMBER STATE. A state that has enacted the  
4 compact.

5 (j) PRACTICE OF MEDICINE. The clinical prevention,  
6 diagnosis, or treatment of human disease, injury, or condition  
7 requiring a physician to obtain and maintain a license in  
8 compliance with the medical practice act of a member state.

9 (k) PHYSICIAN. Any person who:

10 (1) Is a graduate of a medical school accredited by  
11 the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the Commission on  
12 Osteopathic College Accreditation, or a medical school listed  
13 in the International Medical Education Directory or its  
14 equivalent;

15 (2) Passed each component of the United States  
16 Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) or the Comprehensive  
17 Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX-USA) within  
18 three attempts, or any of its predecessor examinations  
19 accepted by a state medical board as an equivalent examination  
20 for licensure purposes;

21 (3) Successfully completed graduate medical  
22 education approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate  
23 Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association;

24 (4) Holds specialty certification or a  
25 time-unlimited specialty certificate recognized by the  
26 American Board of Medical Specialties or the American  
27 Osteopathic Association's Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists;

1 (5) Possesses a full and unrestricted license to  
2 engage in the practice of medicine issued by a member board;

3 (6) Has never been convicted, received adjudication,  
4 deferred adjudication, community supervision, or deferred  
5 disposition for any offense by a court of appropriate  
6 jurisdiction;

7 (7) Has never held a license authorizing the  
8 practice of medicine subjected to discipline by a licensing  
9 agency in any state, federal, or foreign jurisdiction,  
10 excluding any action related to nonpayment of fees related to  
11 a license;

12 (8) Has never had a controlled substance license or  
13 permit suspended or revoked by a state or the United States  
14 Drug Enforcement Administration; and

15 (9) Is not under active investigation by a licensing  
16 agency or law enforcement authority in any state, federal, or  
17 foreign jurisdiction.

18 (1) OFFENSE. A felony, gross misdemeanor, or crime  
19 of moral turpitude.

20 (m) RULE. A written statement by the interstate  
21 commission promulgated pursuant to Section 12 of the compact  
22 that is of general applicability, implements, interprets, or  
23 prescribes a policy or provision of the compact, or an  
24 organizational, procedural, or practice requirement of the  
25 interstate commission, and has the force and effect of  
26 statutory law in a member state, and includes the amendment,  
27 repeal, or suspension of an existing rule.

1 (n) STATE. Any state, commonwealth, district, or  
2 territory of the United States.

3 (o) STATE OF PRINCIPAL LICENSE. A member state where  
4 a physician holds a license to practice medicine and which has  
5 been designated as such by the physician for purposes of  
6 registration and participation in the compact.

7 Section 3. Eligibility.

8 (a) A physician must meet the eligibility  
9 requirements as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 2 to  
10 receive an expedited license under the terms and provisions of  
11 the compact.

12 (b) A physician who does not meet the requirements  
13 of subdivision (k) of Section 2 may obtain a license to  
14 practice medicine in a member state if the individual complies  
15 with all laws and requirements, other than the compact,  
16 relating to the issuance of a license to practice medicine in  
17 that state.

18 Section 4. Designation of state of principal  
19 license.

20 (a) A physician shall designate a member state as  
21 the state of principal license for purposes of registration  
22 for expedited licensure through the compact if the physician  
23 possesses a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine  
24 in that state, and the state is:

25 (1) The state of primary residence for the  
26 physician; or

1           (2) The state where at least 25 percent of the  
2 practice of medicine occurs; or

3           (3) The location of the physician's employer; or

4           (4) If no state qualifies under subdivision (1),  
5 subdivision (2), or subdivision (3), the state designated as  
6 state of residence for purpose of federal income tax.

7           (b) A physician may redesignate a member state as  
8 state of principal license at any time, as long as the state  
9 meets the requirements in subsection (a).

10           (c) The interstate commission is authorized to  
11 develop rules to facilitate redesignation of another member  
12 state as the state of principal license.

13           Section 5. Application and issuance of expedited  
14 licensure.

15           (a) A physician seeking licensure through the  
16 compact shall file an application for an expedited license  
17 with the member board of the state selected by the physician  
18 as the state of principal license.

19           (b) Upon receipt of an application for an expedited  
20 license, the member board within the state selected as the  
21 state of principal license shall evaluate whether the  
22 physician is eligible for expedited licensure and issue a  
23 letter of qualification, verifying or denying the physician's  
24 eligibility, to the interstate commission.

25           (1) Static qualifications, which include  
26 verification of medical education, graduate medical education,  
27 results of any medical or licensing examination, and other

1 qualifications as determined by the interstate commission  
2 through rule, shall not be subject to additional primary  
3 source verification where already primary source verified by  
4 the state of principal license.

5 (2) The member board within the state selected as  
6 the state of principal license, in the course of verifying  
7 eligibility, shall perform a criminal background check of an  
8 applicant, including the use of the results of fingerprint or  
9 other biometric data checks compliant with the requirements of  
10 the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with the exception of  
11 federal employees who have suitability determination in  
12 accordance with U.S. C.F.R. §731.202.

13 (3) Appeal on the determination of eligibility shall  
14 be made to the member state where the application was filed  
15 and shall be subject to the law of that state.

16 (c) Upon verification in subsection (b), physicians  
17 eligible for an expedited license shall complete the  
18 registration process established by the interstate commission  
19 to receive a license in a member state selected pursuant to  
20 subsection (a), including the payment of any applicable fees.

21 (d) After receiving verification of eligibility  
22 under subsection (b) and any fees under subsection (c), a  
23 member board shall issue an expedited license to the  
24 physician. This license shall authorize the physician to  
25 practice medicine in the issuing state consistent with the  
26 medical practice act and all applicable laws and regulations  
27 of the issuing member board and member state.

1 (e) An expedited license shall be valid for a period  
2 consistent with the licensure period in the member state and  
3 in the same manner as required for other physicians holding a  
4 full and unrestricted license within the member state.

5 (f) An expedited license obtained through the compact  
6 shall be terminated if a physician fails to maintain a license  
7 in the state of principal licensure for a nondisciplinary  
8 reason, without redesignation of a new state of principal  
9 licensure.

10 (g) The interstate commission is authorized to  
11 develop rules regarding the application process, including  
12 payment of any applicable fees, and the issuance of an  
13 expedited license.

14 Section 6. Fees for expedited licensure.

15 (a) A member state issuing an expedited license  
16 authorizing the practice of medicine in that state may impose  
17 a fee for a license issued or renewed through the compact.

18 (b) The interstate commission is authorized to  
19 develop rules regarding fees for expedited licenses.

20 Section 7. Renewal and continued participation.

21 (a) A physician seeking to renew an expedited  
22 license granted in a member state shall complete a renewal  
23 process with the interstate commission if the physician:

24 (1) Maintains a full and unrestricted license in a  
25 state of principal license;

26 (2) Has not been convicted, received adjudication,  
27 deferred adjudication, community supervision, or deferred

1 disposition for any offense by a court of appropriate  
2 jurisdiction;

3 (3) Has not had a license authorizing the practice  
4 of medicine subject to discipline by a licensing agency in any  
5 state, federal, or foreign jurisdiction, excluding any action  
6 related to nonpayment of fees related to a license; and

7 (4) Has not had a controlled substance license or  
8 permit suspended or revoked by a state or the United States  
9 Drug Enforcement Administration.

10 (b) Physicians shall comply with all continuing  
11 professional development or continuing medical education  
12 requirements for renewal of a license issued by a member  
13 state.

14 (c) The interstate commission shall collect any  
15 renewal fees charged for the renewal of a license and  
16 distribute the fees to the applicable member board.

17 (d) Upon receipt of any renewal fees collected in  
18 subsection (c), a member board shall renew the physician's  
19 license.

20 (e) Physician information collected by the  
21 interstate commission during the renewal process will be  
22 distributed to all member boards.

23 (f) The interstate commission is authorized to  
24 develop rules to address renewal of licenses obtained through  
25 the compact.

26 Section 8. Coordinated information system.

1 (a) The interstate commission shall establish a  
2 database of all physicians licensed, or who have applied for  
3 licensure, under Section 5.

4 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,  
5 member boards shall report to the interstate commission any  
6 public action or complaints against a licensed physician who  
7 has applied or received an expedited license through the  
8 compact.

9 (c) Member boards shall report disciplinary or  
10 investigatory information determined as necessary and proper  
11 by rule of the interstate commission.

12 (d) Member boards may report any nonpublic  
13 complaint, disciplinary, or investigatory information not  
14 required by subsection (c) to the interstate commission.

15 (e) Member boards shall share complaint or  
16 disciplinary information about a physician upon request of  
17 another member board.

18 (f) All information provided to the interstate  
19 commission or distributed by member boards shall be  
20 confidential, filed under seal, and used only for  
21 investigatory or disciplinary matters.

22 (g) The interstate commission is authorized to  
23 develop rules for mandated or discretionary sharing of  
24 information by member boards.

25 Section 9. Joint investigations.

26 (a) Licensure and disciplinary records of physicians  
27 are deemed investigative.

1 (b) In addition to the authority granted to a member  
2 board by its respective medical practice act or other  
3 applicable state law, a member board may participate with  
4 other member boards in joint investigations of physicians  
5 licensed by the member boards.

6 (c) A subpoena issued by a member state shall be  
7 enforceable in other member states.

8 (d) Member boards may share any investigative,  
9 litigation, or compliance materials in furtherance of any  
10 joint or individual investigation initiated under the compact.

11 (e) Any member state may investigate actual or  
12 alleged violations of the statutes authorizing the practice of  
13 medicine in any other member state in which a physician holds  
14 a license to practice medicine.

15 Section 10. Disciplinary actions.

16 (a) Any disciplinary action taken by any member  
17 board against a physician licensed through the compact shall  
18 be deemed unprofessional conduct which may be subject to  
19 discipline by other member boards, in addition to any  
20 violation of the medical practice act or regulations in that  
21 state.

22 (b) If a license granted to a physician by the  
23 member board in the state of principal license is revoked,  
24 surrendered, or relinquished in lieu of discipline, or  
25 suspended, then all licenses issued to the physician by member  
26 boards shall automatically be placed, without further action  
27 necessary by any member board, on the same status. If the

1 member board in the state of principal license subsequently  
2 reinstates the physician's license, a license issued to the  
3 physician by any other member board shall remain encumbered  
4 until that respective member board takes action to reinstate  
5 the license in a manner consistent with the medical practice  
6 act of that state.

7 (c) If disciplinary action is taken against a  
8 physician by a member board not in the state of principal  
9 license, any other member board may deem the action conclusive  
10 as to matter of law and fact decided, and:

11 (1) Impose the same or lesser sanction or sanctions  
12 against the physician so long as such sanction or sanctions  
13 are consistent with the medical practice act of that state; or

14 (2) Pursue separate disciplinary action against the  
15 physician under its respective medical practice act,  
16 regardless of the action taken in other member states.

17 (d) If a license granted to a physician by a member  
18 board is revoked, surrendered, or relinquished in lieu of  
19 discipline, or suspended, then any license or licenses issued  
20 to the physician by any other member board or boards shall be  
21 suspended, automatically and immediately without further  
22 action necessary by the other member board or boards, for 90  
23 days upon entry of the order by the disciplining board, to  
24 permit the member board or boards to investigate the basis for  
25 the action under the medical practice act of that state. A  
26 member board may terminate the automatic suspension of the  
27 license it issued prior to the completion of the 90-day

1 suspension period in a manner consistent with the medical  
2 practice act of that state.

3 Section 11. Interstate medical licensure compact  
4 commission.

5 (a) The member states hereby create the Interstate  
6 Medical Licensure Compact Commission.

7 (b) The purpose of the interstate commission is the  
8 administration of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact,  
9 which is a discretionary state function.

10 (c) The interstate commission shall be a body  
11 corporate and joint agency of the member states and shall have  
12 all the responsibilities, powers, and duties set forth in the  
13 compact, and such additional powers as may be conferred upon  
14 it by a subsequent concurrent action of the respective  
15 legislatures of the member states in accordance with the terms  
16 of the compact.

17 (d) The interstate commission shall consist of two  
18 voting representatives appointed by each member state who  
19 shall serve as commissioners. In states where allopathic and  
20 osteopathic physicians are regulated by separate member  
21 boards, or if the licensing and disciplinary authority is  
22 split between multiple member boards within a member state,  
23 the member state shall appoint one representative from each  
24 member board. A commissioner shall be:

25 (1) An allopathic or osteopathic physician appointed  
26 to a member board;

1                   (2) An executive director, executive secretary, or  
2 similar executive of a member board; or

3                   (3) A member of the public appointed to a member  
4 board.

5                   (e) The interstate commission shall meet at least  
6 once each calendar year. A portion of this meeting shall be a  
7 business meeting to address such matters as may properly come  
8 before the commission, including the election of officers. The  
9 chairperson may call additional meetings and shall call for a  
10 meeting upon the request of a majority of the member states.

11                   (f) The bylaws may provide for meetings of the  
12 interstate commission to be conducted by telecommunication or  
13 electronic communication.

14                   (g) Each commissioner participating at a meeting of  
15 the interstate commission is entitled to one vote. A majority  
16 of commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the transaction  
17 of business, unless a larger quorum is required by the bylaws  
18 of the interstate commission. A commissioner shall not  
19 delegate a vote to another commissioner. In the absence of its  
20 commissioner, a member state may delegate voting authority for  
21 a specified meeting to another person from that state who  
22 shall meet the requirements of subsection (d).

23                   (h) The interstate commission shall provide public  
24 notice of all meetings and all meetings shall be open to the  
25 public. The interstate commission may close a meeting, in full  
26 or in portion, where it determines by a two-thirds vote of the  
27 commissioners present that an open meeting would be likely to:

1           (1) Relate solely to the internal personnel  
2 practices and procedures of the interstate commission;

3           (2) Discuss matters specifically exempted from  
4 disclosure by federal statute;

5           (3) Discuss trade secrets, commercial, or financial  
6 information that is privileged or confidential;

7           (4) Involve accusing a person of a crime, or  
8 formally censuring a person;

9           (5) Discuss information of a personal nature where  
10 disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of  
11 personal privacy;

12           (6) Discuss investigative records compiled for law  
13 enforcement purposes; or

14           (7) Specifically relate to the participation in a  
15 civil action or other legal proceeding.

16           (i) The interstate commission shall keep minutes  
17 which shall fully describe all matters discussed in a meeting  
18 and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions  
19 taken, including record of any roll call votes.

20           (j) The interstate commission shall make its  
21 information and official records, to the extent not otherwise  
22 designated in the compact or by its rules, available to the  
23 public for inspection.

24           (k) The interstate commission shall establish an  
25 executive committee, which shall include officers, members,  
26 and others as determined by the bylaws. The executive  
27 committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the

1 interstate commission, with the exception of rulemaking,  
2 during periods when the interstate commission is not in  
3 session. When acting on behalf of the interstate commission,  
4 the executive committee shall oversee the administration of  
5 the compact including enforcement and compliance with the  
6 provisions of the compact, its bylaws and rules, and other  
7 such duties as necessary.

8 (1) The interstate commission may establish other  
9 committees for governance and administration of the compact.

10 Section 12. Powers and duties of the interstate  
11 commission.

12 The interstate commission shall have the duty and  
13 power to do all of the following:

14 (a) Oversee and maintain the administration of the  
15 compact.

16 (b) Promulgate rules which shall be binding to the  
17 extent and in the manner provided for in the compact.

18 (c) Issue, upon the request of a member state or  
19 member board, advisory opinions concerning the meaning or  
20 interpretation of the compact, its bylaws, rules, and actions.

21 (d) Enforce compliance with compact provisions, the  
22 rules promulgated by the interstate commission, and the  
23 bylaws, using all necessary and proper means, including, but  
24 not limited to, the use of judicial process.

25 (e) Establish and appoint committees including, but  
26 not limited to, an executive committee as required by Section

1 11, which shall have the power to act on behalf of the  
2 interstate commission in carrying out its powers and duties.

3 (f) Pay, or provide for the payment of the expenses  
4 related to the establishment, organization, and ongoing  
5 activities of the interstate commission.

6 (g) Establish and maintain one or more offices.

7 (h) Borrow, accept, hire, or contract for services  
8 of personnel.

9 (i) Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds.

10 (j) Employ an executive director who shall have such  
11 powers to employ, select, or appoint employees, agents, or  
12 consultants, and determine their qualifications, define their  
13 duties, and fix their compensation.

14 (k) Establish personnel policies and programs  
15 relating to conflicts of interest, rates of compensation, and  
16 qualifications of personnel.

17 (l) Accept donations and grants of money, equipment,  
18 supplies, materials, and services, and receive, utilize, and  
19 dispose of it in a manner consistent with the conflict of  
20 interest policies established by the interstate commission.

21 (m) Lease, purchase, accept contributions or  
22 donations of, or otherwise own, hold, improve, or use, any  
23 property, real, personal, or mixed.

24 (n) Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange,  
25 abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property, real, personal,  
26 or mixed.

27 (o) Establish a budget and make expenditures.

1           (p) Adopt a seal and bylaws governing the management  
2 and operation of the interstate commission.

3           (q) Report annually to the legislatures and  
4 governors of the member states concerning the activities of  
5 the interstate commission during the preceding year. Such  
6 reports shall also include reports of financial audits and any  
7 recommendations that may have been adopted by the interstate  
8 commission.

9           (r) Coordinate education, training, and public  
10 awareness regarding the compact, its implementation, and its  
11 operation.

12           (s) Maintain records in accordance with the bylaws.

13           (t) Seek and obtain trademarks, copyrights, and  
14 patents.

15           (u) Perform such functions as may be necessary or  
16 appropriate to achieve the purposes of the compact.

17           Section 13. Finance powers.

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

1           (b) The interstate commission shall not incur  
2 obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate  
3 to meet the same.

4           (c) The interstate commission shall not pledge the  
5 credit of any of the member states, except by, and with the  
6 authority of, the member state.

7           (d) The interstate commission shall be subject to a  
8 yearly financial audit conducted by a certified or licensed  
9 public accountant and the report of the audit shall be  
10 included in the annual report of the interstate commission.

11           Section 14. Organization and operation of the  
12 interstate commission.

13           (a) The interstate commission, by a majority of  
14 commissioners present and voting, shall adopt bylaws to govern  
15 its conduct as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out  
16 the purposes of the compact within 12 months of the first  
17 interstate commission meeting.

18           (b) The interstate commission shall elect or appoint  
19 annually from among its commissioners a chairperson, a vice  
20 chairperson, and a treasurer, each of whom shall have such  
21 authority and duties as may be specified in the bylaws. The  
22 chairperson, or in the chairperson's absence or disability,  
23 the vice chairperson, shall preside at all meetings of the  
24 interstate commission.

25           (c) Officers selected in subsection (b) shall serve  
26 without remuneration from the interstate commission.

1 (d) The officers and employees of the interstate  
2 commission shall be immune from suit and liability, either  
3 personally or in their official capacity, for a claim for  
4 damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other  
5 civil liability caused or arising out of, or relating to, an  
6 actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or  
7 that such person had a reasonable basis for believing  
8 occurred, within the scope of interstate commission  
9 employment, duties, or responsibilities; provided that this  
10 subsection expressly incorporates Section 36-1-12 of the Code  
11 of Alabama 1975, and neither expands nor limits the  
12 protections under that statute.

13 (1) The liability of the executive director and  
14 employees of the interstate commission or representatives of  
15 the interstate commission, acting within the scope of such  
16 person's employment or duties for acts, errors, or omissions  
17 occurring within such person's state, may not exceed the  
18 limits of liability set forth under the constitution and laws  
19 of that state for state officials, employees, and agents. The  
20 interstate commission is considered to be an instrumentality  
21 of the states for the purposes of any such action. This  
22 subdivision expressly incorporates Section 36-1-12 of the Code  
23 of Alabama 1975, and neither expands nor limits the  
24 protections under that statute.

25 (2) The interstate commission shall defend the  
26 executive director, its employees, and subject to the approval  
27 of the attorney general or other appropriate legal counsel of

1 the member state represented by an interstate commission  
2 representative, shall defend such interstate commission  
3 representative in any civil action seeking to impose liability  
4 arising out of an actual or alleged act, error, or omission  
5 that occurred within the scope of interstate commission  
6 employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that the defendant  
7 had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope  
8 of interstate commission employment, duties, or  
9 responsibilities, provided that this subdivision expressly  
10 incorporates Section 36-1-12 of the Code of Alabama 1975, and  
11 neither expands nor limits the protections under that statute.

12 (3) To the extent not covered by the state involved,  
13 member state, or the interstate commission, the  
14 representatives or employees of the interstate commission  
15 shall be held harmless in the amount of a settlement or  
16 judgment, including attorney's fees and costs, obtained  
17 against such persons arising out of an actual or alleged act,  
18 error, or omission that occurred within the scope of  
19 interstate commission employment, duties, or responsibilities,  
20 or that such persons had a reasonable basis for believing  
21 occurred within the scope of interstate commission employment,  
22 duties, or responsibilities, provided that this subdivision  
23 expressly incorporates Section 36-1-12 of the Code of Alabama  
24 1975, and neither expands nor limits the protections under  
25 that statute.

26 Section 15. Rulemaking functions of the interstate  
27 commission.

1           (a) The interstate commission shall promulgate  
2 reasonable rules in order to effectively and efficiently  
3 achieve the purposes of the compact. Notwithstanding the  
4 foregoing, in the event the interstate commission exercises  
5 its rulemaking authority in a manner that is beyond the scope  
6 of the purposes of the compact, or the powers granted  
7 hereunder, then such an action by the interstate commission  
8 shall be invalid and have no force or effect.

9           (b) Rules deemed appropriate for the operations of  
10 the interstate commission shall be made pursuant to a  
11 rulemaking process that substantially conforms to the Model  
12 State Administrative Procedure Act of 2010, and subsequent  
13 amendments thereto.

14           (c) Not later than 30 days after a rule is  
15 promulgated, any person may file a petition for judicial  
16 review of the rule in the United States District Court for the  
17 District of Columbia or the federal district where the  
18 interstate commission has its principal offices, provided that  
19 the filing of such a petition shall not stay or otherwise  
20 prevent the rule from becoming effective unless the court  
21 finds that the petitioner has a substantial likelihood of  
22 success. The court shall give deference to the actions of the  
23 interstate commission consistent with applicable law and shall  
24 not find the rule to be unlawful if the rule represents a  
25 reasonable exercise of the authority granted to the interstate  
26 commission.

27           Section 16. Oversight of interstate compact.

1           (a) The executive, legislative, and judicial  
2 branches of state government in each member state shall  
3 enforce the compact and shall take all actions necessary and  
4 appropriate to effectuate the purposes and intent of the  
5 compact. The provisions of the compact and the rules  
6 promulgated hereunder shall have standing as statutory law but  
7 shall not override existing state authority to regulate the  
8 practice of medicine.

9           (b) All courts shall take judicial notice of the  
10 compact and the rules in any judicial or administrative  
11 proceeding in a member state pertaining to the subject matter  
12 of the compact which may affect the powers, responsibilities,  
13 or actions of the interstate commission.

14           (c) The interstate commission shall be entitled to  
15 receive all service of process in any such proceeding, and  
16 shall have standing to intervene in the proceeding for all  
17 purposes. Failure to provide service of process to the  
18 interstate commission shall render a judgment or order void as  
19 to the interstate commission, the compact, or promulgated  
20 rules.

21           Section 17. Enforcement of interstate compact.

22           (a) The interstate commission, in the reasonable  
23 exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the provisions and  
24 rules of the compact.

25           (b) The interstate commission, by majority vote of  
26 the commissioners, may initiate legal action in the United  
27 States District Court for the District of Columbia, or, at the

1 discretion of the interstate commission, in the federal  
2 district where the interstate commission has its principal  
3 offices, to enforce compliance with the provisions of the  
4 compact, and its promulgated rules and bylaws, against a  
5 member state in default. The relief sought may include both  
6 injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial  
7 enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party, which is  
8 expressly limited to the interstate commission or a member  
9 state, shall be awarded all costs of such litigation including  
10 reasonable attorney's fees, but this provision does not apply  
11 to third parties or private citizens.

12 (c) The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive  
13 remedies of the interstate commission. The interstate  
14 commission may avail itself of any other remedies available  
15 under state law or the regulation of a profession.

16 Section 18. Default procedures.

17 (a) The grounds for default include, but are not  
18 limited to, failure of a member state to perform such  
19 obligations or responsibilities imposed upon it by the  
20 compact, or the rules and bylaws of the interstate commission  
21 promulgated under the compact.

22 (b) If the interstate commission determines that a  
23 member state has defaulted in the performance of its  
24 obligations or responsibilities under the compact, or the  
25 bylaws or promulgated rules, the interstate commission shall:

26 (1) Provide written notice to the defaulting state  
27 and other member states, of the nature of the default, the

1 means of curing the default, and any action taken by the  
2 interstate commission. The interstate commission shall specify  
3 the conditions by which the defaulting state must cure its  
4 default; and

5 (2) Provide remedial training and specific technical  
6 assistance regarding the default.

7 (c) If the defaulting state fails to cure the  
8 default, the defaulting state shall be terminated from the  
9 compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the  
10 commissioners and all rights, privileges, and benefits  
11 conferred by the compact shall terminate on the effective date  
12 of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the  
13 offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during  
14 the period of the default.

15 (d) Termination of membership in the compact shall  
16 be imposed only after all other means of securing compliance  
17 have been exhausted. Notice of intent to terminate shall be  
18 given by the interstate commission to the governor, the  
19 majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's  
20 legislature, and each of the member states.

21 (e) The interstate commission shall establish rules  
22 and procedures to address licenses and physicians that are  
23 materially impacted by the termination of a member state, or  
24 the withdrawal of a member state.

25 (f) The member state which has been terminated is  
26 responsible for all dues, obligations, and liabilities  
27 incurred through the effective date of termination including

1 obligations, the performance of which extends beyond the  
2 effective date of termination.

3 (g) The interstate commission shall not bear any  
4 costs relating to any state that has been found to be in  
5 default or which has been terminated from the compact, unless  
6 otherwise mutually agreed upon in writing between the  
7 interstate commission and the defaulting state.

8 (h) The defaulting state may appeal the action of  
9 the interstate commission by petitioning the United States  
10 District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal  
11 district where the interstate commission has its principal  
12 offices. The prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of  
13 such litigation including reasonable attorney's fees.

14 Section 19. Dispute resolution.

15 (a) The interstate commission, upon the request of a  
16 member state, shall attempt to resolve disputes which are  
17 subject to the compact and which may arise among member states  
18 or member boards.

19 (b) The interstate commission shall promulgate rules  
20 providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution as  
21 appropriate.

22 Section 20. Member states, effective date, and  
23 amendment.

24 (a) Any state is eligible to become a member state  
25 of the compact.

26 (b) The compact shall become effective and binding  
27 upon legislative enactment of the compact into law by no less

1 than seven states. Thereafter, it shall become effective and  
2 binding on a state upon enactment of the compact into law by  
3 that state.

4 (c) The governors of nonmember states, or their  
5 designees, shall be invited to participate in the activities  
6 of the interstate commission on a nonvoting basis prior to  
7 adoption of the compact by all states.

8 (d) The interstate commission may propose amendments  
9 to the compact for enactment by the member states. No  
10 amendment shall become effective and binding upon the  
11 interstate commission and the member states unless and until  
12 it is enacted into law by unanimous consent of the member  
13 states.

#### 14 Section 21. Withdrawal.

15 (a) Once effective, the compact shall continue in  
16 force and remain binding upon each and every member state;  
17 provided that a member state may withdraw from the compact by  
18 specifically repealing the statute which enacted the compact  
19 into law.

20 (b) Withdrawal from the compact shall be by the  
21 enactment of a statute repealing the same, but shall not take  
22 effect until one year after the effective date of such statute  
23 and until written notice of the withdrawal has been given by  
24 the withdrawing state to the governor of each other member  
25 state.

26 (c) The withdrawing state shall immediately notify  
27 the chairperson of the interstate commission in writing upon

1 the introduction of legislation repealing the compact in the  
2 withdrawing state.

3 (d) The interstate commission shall notify the other  
4 member states of the withdrawing state's intent to withdraw  
5 within 60 days of its receipt of notice provided under  
6 subsection (c).

7 (e) The withdrawing state is responsible for all  
8 dues, obligations, and liabilities incurred through the  
9 effective date of withdrawal, including obligations, the  
10 performance of which extend beyond the effective date of  
11 withdrawal.

12 (f) Reinstatement following withdrawal of a member  
13 state shall occur upon the withdrawing state reenacting the  
14 compact or upon such later date as determined by the  
15 interstate commission.

16 (g) The interstate commission is authorized to  
17 develop rules to address the impact of the withdrawal of a  
18 member state on licenses granted in other member states to  
19 physicians who designated the withdrawing member state as the  
20 state of principal license.

21 Section 22. Dissolution.

22 (a) The compact shall dissolve effective upon the  
23 date of the withdrawal or default of the member state which  
24 reduces the membership in the compact to one member state.

25 (b) Upon the dissolution of the compact, the compact  
26 becomes null and void and shall be of no further force or  
27 effect, and the business and affairs of the interstate

1 commission shall be concluded and surplus funds shall be  
2 distributed in accordance with the bylaws.

3 Section 23. Severability and construction.

4 (a) The provisions of the compact shall be  
5 severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision  
6 is deemed unenforceable, the remaining provisions of the  
7 compact shall be enforceable.

8 (b) The provisions of the compact shall be liberally  
9 construed to effectuate its purposes.

10 (c) Nothing in the compact shall be construed to  
11 prohibit the applicability of other interstate compacts to  
12 which the states are members.

13 Section 24. Binding effect of compact and other  
14 laws.

15 (a) Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any  
16 other law of a member state that is not inconsistent with the  
17 compact.

18 (b) All laws in a member state in conflict with the  
19 compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.

20 (c) All lawful actions of the interstate commission,  
21 including all rules and bylaws promulgated by the commission,  
22 are binding upon the member states.

23 (d) All agreements between the interstate commission  
24 and the member states are binding in accordance with their  
25 terms.

26 (e) In the event any provision of the compact  
27 exceeds the constitutional limits imposed on the legislature

1 of any member state, such provision shall be ineffective to  
2 the extent of the conflict with the constitutional provision  
3 in question in that member state.

4 Section 25. This act shall become effective on the  
5 first day of the third month following its passage and  
6 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Senate

Read for the first time and referred to the Senate  
committee on Health and Human Services..... 03-MAR-15

Read for the second time and placed on the calen-  
dar 1 amendment..... 09-APR-15

Read for the third time and passed as amended .... 16-APR-15

Yeas 32  
Nays 0

Patrick Harris  
Secretary