

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2017 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 659**

BY SENATOR BLAIR

[Introduced March 18, 2017; Referred  
to the Committee on Interstate Cooperation; and then  
to the Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,  
2 designated §16-52-1, relating to enacting the Recognition of Emergency Medical Services  
3 Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact; and entering into the compact with all  
4 jurisdictions also enacting the compact.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

1 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new  
2 article, designated §16-52-1, to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 52. RECOGNITION OF EMS PERSONNEL LICENSURE INTERSTATE  
COMPACT.**

**§16-52-1 Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate  
Compact.**

1 The Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact  
2 is hereby enacted into law and entered into with all jurisdictions legally joining therein in the form  
3 substantially as follows:

4 **SECTION 1. PURPOSE**

5 In order to protect the public through verification of competency and ensure accountability  
6 for patient-care-related activities, all states license emergency medical services (EMS) personnel,  
7 such as emergency medical technicians (EMTs), advanced EMTs, and paramedics. This compact  
8 is intended to facilitate the day-to-day movement of EMS personnel across state boundaries in  
9 the performance of their EMS duties as assigned by an appropriate authority and authorize state  
10 EMS offices to afford immediate legal recognition to EMS personnel licensed in a member state.  
11 This compact recognizes that states have a vested interest in protecting the public's health and  
12 safety through their licensing and regulation of EMS personnel and that such state regulation  
13 shared among the member states will best protect public health and safety. This compact is  
14 designed to achieve the following purposes and objectives:

15       1. Increase public access to EMS personnel;  
16       2. Enhance the states' ability to protect the public's health and safety, especially patient  
17       safety;  
18       3. Encourage the cooperation of member states in the areas of EMS licensure and  
19       regulation;  
20       4. Support licensing of military members who are separating from an active duty tour and  
21       licensing of their spouses;  
22       5. Facilitate the exchange of information between member states regarding EMS  
23       personnel licensure, adverse action, and significant investigatory information;  
24       6. Promote compliance with the laws governing EMS personnel practice in each member  
25       state; and  
26       7. Invest all member states with the authority to hold EMS personnel accountable through  
27       the mutual recognition of member state licenses.

## 28 SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

29       In this compact:

30       A. "Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)" means an individual licensed with  
31       cognitive knowledge and a scope of practice that corresponds to that level in the National EMS  
32       Education Standards and National EMS Scope of Practice Model.

33       B. "Adverse action" means any administrative, civil, equitable, or criminal action permitted  
34       by a state's laws which may be imposed against licensed EMS personnel by a state EMS authority  
35       or state court, including, but not limited to, actions against an individual's license such as  
36       revocation, suspension, probation, consent agreement, monitoring or other limitation or  
37       encumbrance on the individual's practice, letters of reprimand or admonition, fines, criminal  
38       convictions, and state court judgments enforcing adverse actions by the state EMS authority.

39       C. "Alternative program" means a voluntary, nondisciplinary substance abuse recovery  
40       program approved by a state EMS authority.

41       D. "Certification" means the successful verification of entry-level cognitive and  
42       psychomotor competency using a reliable, validated, and legally defensible examination.

43       E. "Commission" means the national administrative body of which all states that have  
44       enacted the compact are members.

45       F. "Emergency medical technician (EMT)" means an individual licensed with cognitive  
46       knowledge and a scope of practice that corresponds to that level in the National EMS Education  
47       Standards and National EMS Scope of Practice Model.

48       G. "Home state" means a member state where an individual is licensed to practice  
49       emergency medical services.

50       H. "License" means the authorization by a state for an individual to practice as an EMT,  
51       AEMT, or paramedic or at a level in between EMT and paramedic.

52       I. "Medical director" means a physician licensed in a member state who is accountable for  
53       the care delivered by EMS personnel.

54       J. "Member state" means a state that has enacted this compact.

55       K. "Privilege to practice" means an individual's authority to deliver emergency medical  
56       services in remote states as authorized under this compact.

57       L. "Paramedic" means an individual licensed with cognitive knowledge and a scope of  
58       practice that corresponds to that level in the National EMS Education Standards and National  
59       EMS Scope of Practice Model.

60       M. "Remote state" means a member state in which an individual is not licensed.

61       N. "Restricted" means the outcome of an adverse action that limits a license or the  
62       privilege to practice.

63       O. "Rule" means a written statement by the interstate Commission promulgated pursuant  
64       to Section 12 of this compact that is of general applicability; implements, interprets, or prescribes  
65       a policy or provision of the compact; or is an organizational, procedural, or practice requirement  
66       of the Commission and has the force and effect of statutory law in a member state and includes

67     the amendment, repeal, or suspension of an existing rule.

68       P. "Scope of practice" means defined parameters of various duties or services that may  
69       be provided by an individual with specific credentials. Whether regulated by rule, statute, or court  
70       decision, it tends to represent the limits of services an individual may perform.

71       Q. "Significant investigatory information" means:

72           1. Investigative information that a state EMS authority, after a preliminary inquiry that  
73       includes notification and an opportunity to respond if required by state law, has reason to believe,  
74       if proved true, would result in the imposition of an adverse action on a license or privilege to  
75       practice; or

76           2. Investigative information that indicates that the individual represents an immediate  
77       threat to public health and safety regardless of whether the individual has been notified and had  
78       an opportunity to respond.

79       R. "State" means any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States.

80       S. "State EMS authority" means the board, office, or other agency with the legislative  
81       mandate to license EMS personnel.

### SECTION 3. HOME STATE LICENSURE

83       A. Any member state in which an individual holds a current license shall be deemed a  
84       home state for purposes of this compact.

85       B. Any member state may require an individual to obtain and retain a license to be  
86       authorized to practice in the member state under circumstances not authorized by the privilege to  
87       practice under the terms of this compact.

88       C. A home state's license authorizes an individual to practice in a remote state under the  
89       privilege to practice only if the home state:

90           1. Currently requires the use of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians  
91       (NREMT) examination as a condition of issuing initial licenses at the EMT and paramedic levels;

92           2. Has a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints about individuals;

93       3. Notifies the Commission, in compliance with the terms herein, of any adverse action or  
94       significant investigatory information regarding an individual;

95       4. No later than five years after activation of the compact, requires a criminal background  
96       check of all applicants for initial licensure, including the use of the results of fingerprint or other  
97       biometric data checks compliant with the requirements of the Federal Bureau of Investigation with  
98       the exception of federal employees who have suitability determination in accordance with 5 C.F.R.  
99       §731.202 and submit documentation of such as promulgated in the rules of the Commission; and

100       5. Complies with the rules of the Commission.

101       SECTION 4. COMPACT PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE

102       A. Member states shall recognize the privilege to practice of an individual licensed in  
103       another member state that is in conformance with Section 3.

104       B. To exercise the privilege to practice under the terms and provisions of this compact, an  
105       individual must:

106       1. Be at least 18 years of age;

107       2. Possess a current unrestricted license in a member state as an EMT, AEMT, paramedic,  
108       or state recognized and licensed level with a scope of practice and authority between EMT and  
109       paramedic; and

110       3. Practice under the supervision of a medical director.

111       C. An individual providing patient care in a remote state under the privilege to practice  
112       shall function within the scope of practice authorized by the home state unless and until modified  
113       by an appropriate authority in the remote state as may be defined in the rules of the Commission.

114       D. Except as provided in Section 4 subsection C, an individual practicing in a remote state  
115       will be subject to the remote state's authority and laws. A remote state may, in accordance with  
116       due process and that state's laws, restrict, suspend, or revoke an individual's privilege to practice  
117       in the remote state and may take any other necessary actions to protect the health and safety of  
118       its citizens. If a remote state takes action, it shall promptly notify the home state and the

119     Commission.

120         E. If an individual's license in any home state is restricted or suspended, the individual  
121         shall not be eligible to practice in a remote state under the privilege to practice until the individual's  
122         home state license is restored.

123         F. If an individual's privilege to practice in any remote state is restricted, suspended, or  
124         revoked, the individual shall not be eligible to practice in any remote state until the individual's  
125         privilege to practice is restored.

126     **SECTION 5. CONDITIONS OF PRACTICE IN A REMOTE STATE**

127         An individual may practice in a remote state under a privilege to practice only in the  
128         performance of the individual's EMS duties as assigned by an appropriate authority, as defined  
129         in the rules of the Commission, and under the following circumstances:

130             1. The individual originates a patient transport in a home state and transports the patient  
131             to a remote state;

132             2. The individual originates in the home state and enters a remote state to pick up a patient  
133             and provide care and transport of the patient to the home state;

134             3. The individual enters a remote state to provide patient care and/or transport within that  
135             remote state;

136             4. The individual enters a remote state to pick up a patient and provide care and transport  
137             to a third member state;

138             5. Other conditions as determined by rules promulgated by the Commission.

139     **SECTION 6. RELATIONSHIP TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT**

140         Upon a member state's Governor's declaration of a state of emergency or disaster that  
141         activates the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), all relevant terms and  
142         provisions of EMAC shall apply and to the extent any terms or provisions of this compact conflict  
143         with EMAC, the terms of EMAC shall prevail with respect to any individual practicing in the remote  
144         state in response to such declaration.

145 SECTION 7. VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS SEPARATING FROM ACTIVE DUTY  
146 MILITARY, AND THEIR SPOUSES

147       A. Member states shall consider a veteran, active military service member, and member  
148 of the National Guard and Reserves separating from an active duty tour, and a spouse thereof,  
149 who holds a current valid and unrestricted NREMT certification at or above the level of the state  
150 license being sought as satisfying the minimum training and examination requirements for such  
151 licensure.

152       B. Member states shall expedite the processing of licensure applications submitted by  
153 veterans, active military service members, and members of the National Guard and Reserves  
154 separating from an active duty tour, and their spouses.

155       C. All individuals functioning with a privilege to practice under this Section remain subject  
156 to the adverse actions provisions of Section 8.

157 SECTION 8. ADVERSE ACTIONS

158       A. A home state shall have exclusive power to impose adverse action against an  
159 individual's license issued by the home state.

160       B. If an individual's license in any home state is restricted or suspended, the individual  
161 shall not be eligible to practice in a remote state under the privilege to practice until the individual's  
162 home state license is restored.

163       1. All home state adverse action orders shall include a statement that the individual's  
164 compact privileges are inactive. The order may allow the individual to practice in remote states  
165 with prior written authorization from both the home state and remote state's EMS authority.

166       2. An individual currently subject to adverse action in the home state shall not practice in  
167 any remote state without prior written authorization from both the home state and remote state's  
168 EMS authority.

169       C. A member state shall report adverse actions and any occurrences that the individual's  
170 compact privileges are restricted, suspended, or revoked to the Commission in accordance with

171     the rules of the Commission.

172         D. A remote state may take adverse action on an individual's privilege to practice within  
173         that state.

174         E. Any member state may take adverse action against an individual's privilege to practice  
175         in that state based on the factual findings of another member state, so long as each state follows  
176         its own procedures for imposing such adverse action.

177         F. A home state's EMS authority shall investigate and take appropriate action with respect  
178         to reported conduct in a remote state as it would if such conduct had occurred within the home  
179         state. In such cases, the home state's law shall control in determining the appropriate adverse  
180         action.

181         G. Nothing in this compact shall override a member state's decision that participation in  
182         an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action and that such participation shall  
183         remain nonpublic if required by the member state's laws. Member states must require individuals  
184         who enter any alternative programs to agree not to practice in any other member state during the  
185         term of the alternative program without prior authorization from such other member state.

#### 186     **SECTION 9. ADDITIONAL POWERS INVESTED IN A MEMBER STATE'S EMS AUTHORITY**

187         A member state's EMS authority, in addition to any other powers granted under state law,  
188         is authorized under this compact to:

189             1. Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and  
190             testimony of witnesses and the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a member state's  
191             EMS authority for the attendance and testimony of witnesses, and/or the production of evidence  
192             from another member state, shall be enforced in the remote state by any court of competent  
193             jurisdiction, according to that court's practice and procedure in considering subpoenas issued in  
194             its own proceedings. The issuing state's EMS authority shall pay any witness fees, travel  
195             expenses, mileage, and other fees required by the service statutes of the state where the  
196             witnesses and/or evidence are located; and

197       2. Issue cease and desist orders to restrict, suspend, or revoke an individual's privilege to  
198       practice in the state.

199       SECTION 10. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR EMS  
200       PERSONNEL PRACTICE

201       A. The compact states hereby create and establish a joint public agency known as the  
202       Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice.

203       1. The Commission is a body politic and an instrumentality of the compact states.  
204       2. Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the Commission shall be brought  
205       solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the  
206       Commission is located. The Commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses to the  
207       extent it adopts or consents to participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

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

209       B. Membership, Voting, and Meetings.

210       1. Each member state shall have and be limited to one (1) delegate. The responsible  
211       official of the state EMS authority or his designee shall be the delegate to this compact for each  
212       member state. Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office as provided by the law of  
213       the state from which the delegate is appointed. Any vacancy occurring in the Commission shall  
214       be filled in accordance with the laws of the member state in which the vacancy exists. In the event  
215       that more than one board, office, or other agency with the legislative mandate to license EMS  
216       personnel at and above the level of EMT exists, the Governor of the state will determine which  
217       entity will be responsible for assigning the delegate.

218       2. Each delegate shall be entitled to one (1) vote with regard to the promulgation of rules  
219       and creation of bylaws and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the business and  
220       affairs of the Commission. A delegate shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in  
221       the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates' participation in meetings by telephone or other  
222       means of communication.

223       3. The Commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. Additional  
224       meetings shall be held as set forth in the bylaws.

225       4. All meetings shall be open to the public, and public notice of meetings shall be given in  
226       the same manner as required under the rulemaking provisions in Section 12.

227       5. The Commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting if the Commission must  
228       discuss:

229           a. Noncompliance of a member state with its obligations under the compact;

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

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

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

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

236           f. Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or  
237       confidential;

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

240           h. Disclosure of investigatory records compiled for law-enforcement purposes;

241           i. Disclosure of information related to any investigatory reports prepared by or on behalf  
242       of or for use of the Commission or other committee charged with responsibility of investigation or  
243       determination of compliance issues pursuant to the compact; or

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

245       6. If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to this provision, the  
246       Commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and shall  
247       reference each relevant exempting provision. The Commission shall keep minutes that fully and  
248       clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary

249 of actions taken, and the reasons therefor, including a description of the views expressed. All  
250 documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes  
251 and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release by a majority vote  
252 of the Commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

253       C. The Commission shall, by a majority vote of the delegates, prescribe bylaws and/or  
254 rules to govern its conduct as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes and  
255 exercise the powers of the compact, including but not limited to:

256           1. Establishing the fiscal year of the Commission;  
257           2. Providing reasonable standards and procedures:  
258              a. For the establishment and meetings of other committees; and  
259              b. Governing any general or specific delegation of any authority or function of the  
260 Commission;

261           3. Providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting meetings of the  
262 Commission, ensuring reasonable advance notice of all meetings, and providing an opportunity  
263 for attendance of such meetings by interested parties, with enumerated exceptions designed to  
264 protect the public's interest, the privacy of individuals, and proprietary information, including trade  
265 secrets. The Commission may meet in closed session only after a majority of the membership  
266 votes to close a meeting in whole or in part. As soon as practicable, the Commission must make  
267 public a copy of the vote to close the meeting revealing the vote of each member with no proxy  
268 votes allowed;

269           4. Establishing the titles, duties and authority, and reasonable procedures for the election  
270 of the officers of the Commission;

271           5. Providing reasonable standards and procedures for the establishment of the personnel  
272 policies and programs of the Commission. Notwithstanding any civil service or other similar laws  
273 of any member state, the bylaws shall exclusively govern the personnel policies and programs of  
274 the Commission;

275       6. Promulgating a code of ethics to address permissible and prohibited activities of  
276       Commission members and employees;

277       7. Providing a mechanism for winding up the operations of the Commission and the  
278       equitable disposition of any surplus funds that may exist after the termination of the compact after  
279       the payment and/or reserving of all of its debts and obligations;

280       8. Publishing its bylaws and filing a copy thereof, and a copy of any amendment thereto,  
281       with the appropriate agency or officer in each of the member states, if any;

282       9. Maintaining its financial records in accordance with the bylaws; and

283       10. Meeting and taking such actions as are consistent with the provisions of this compact  
284       and the bylaws.

285       D. The Commission shall have the following powers:

286       1. To promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and  
287       administration of this compact. The rules shall have the force and effect of law and shall be binding  
288       in all member states;

289       2. To bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the Commission,  
290       provided that the standing of any state EMS authority or other regulatory body responsible for  
291       EMS personnel licensure to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected;

292       3. To purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

293       4. To borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including, but not limited to,  
294       employees of a member state;

295       5. To hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant such  
296       individuals appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the compact, and to establish the  
297       Commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of  
298       personnel, and other related personnel matters;

299       6. To accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies,  
300       materials, and services and to receive, utilize, and dispose of the same, provided that at all times

301       the Commission shall strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety and/or conflict of interest;

302           7. To lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise own, hold,

303       improve, or use any property, real, personal, or mixed, provided that at all times the Commission

304       shall strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety;

305           8. To sell convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose of

306       any property, real, personal, or mixed;

307           9. To establish a budget and make expenditures;

308           10. To borrow money;

309           11. To appoint committees, including advisory committees composed of members, state

310       regulators, state legislators or their representatives, and consumer representatives and such

311       other interested persons as may be designated in this compact and the bylaws;

312           12. To provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law-enforcement

313       agencies;

314           13. To adopt and use an official seal; and

315           14. To perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the

316       purposes of this compact consistent with the state regulation of EMS personnel licensure and

317       practice.

318           E. Financing of the Commission.

319           1. The Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable expenses of

320       its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.

321           2. The Commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue sources, donations, and

322       grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services.

323           3. The Commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each member

324       state or impose fees on other parties to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the

325       Commission and its staff, which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as

326       approved each year for which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual

327 assessment amount shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the  
328 Commission, which shall promulgate a rule binding upon all member states.

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

332 5. The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The  
333 receipts and disbursements of the Commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting  
334 procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds  
335 handled by the Commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant,  
336 and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the  
337 Commission.

338 F. Qualified Immunity, Defense, and Indemnification.

339 1. The members, officers, executive director, employees, and representatives of the  
340 Commission shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their official capacity,  
341 for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by  
342 or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that the person  
343 against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred, within the scope  
344 of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that nothing in this paragraph  
345 shall be construed to protect any such person from suit and/or liability for any damage, loss, injury,  
346 or liability caused by the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

347 2. The Commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director, employee, or  
348 representative of the Commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any  
349 actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of Commission  
350 employment, duties, or responsibilities or that the person against whom the claim is made had a  
351 reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or  
352 responsibilities, provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit that person from

353 retaining his or her own counsel, and provided further that the actual or alleged act, error, or  
354 omission did not result from that person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.

355       3. The Commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer, executive  
356 director, employee, or representative of the Commission for the amount of any settlement or  
357 judgment obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission  
358 that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities or that such  
359 person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission  
360 employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission  
361 did not result from the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

362 **SECTION 11. COORDINATED DATABASE**

363       A. The Commission shall provide for the development and maintenance of a coordinated  
364 database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action, and significant investigatory  
365 information on all licensed individuals in member states.

366       B. Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the contrary, a member state shall  
367 submit a uniform data set to the coordinated database on all individuals to whom this compact is  
368 applicable as required by the rules of the Commission, including:

369           1. Identifying information;  
370           2. Licensure data;  
371           3. Significant investigatory information;  
372           4. Adverse actions against an individual's license;  
373           5. An indicator that an individual's privilege to practice is restricted, suspended, or revoked;  
374           6. Nonconfidential information related to alternative program participation;  
375           7. Any denial of application for licensure and the reason(s) for such denial; and  
376           8. Other information that may facilitate the administration of this compact, as determined  
377 by the rules of the Commission.

378       C. The coordinated database administrator shall promptly notify all member states of any

379 adverse action taken against, or significant investigative information on, any individual in a  
380 member state.

381 D. Member states contributing information to the coordinated database may designate  
382 information that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of the  
383 contributing state.

384 E. Any information submitted to the coordinated database that is subsequently required to  
385 be expunged by the laws of the member state contributing the information shall be removed from  
386 the coordinated database.

387 **SECTION 12. RULEMAKING**

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

391 B. If a majority of the Legislatures of the member states rejects a rule, by enactment of a  
392 statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the compact, then such rule shall have no  
393 further force and effect in any member state.

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

396 D. Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules by the Commission, and at  
397 least sixty (60) days in advance of the meeting at which the rule will be considered and voted  
398 upon, the Commission shall file a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:

399 1. On the website of the Commission; and

400 2. On the website of each member state EMS authority or the publication in which each  
401 state would otherwise publish proposed rules.

402 E. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking shall include:

403 1. The proposed time, date, and location of the meeting in which the rule will be considered  
404 and voted upon;

405       2. The text of the proposed rule or amendment and the reason for the proposed rule;  
406       3. A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person; and  
407       4. The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the Commission of their  
408       intention to attend the public hearing and any written comments.

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

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

413       1. At least twenty-five (25) persons;  
414       2. A governmental subdivision or agency; or  
415       3. An association having at least twenty-five (25) members.

416       H. If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, the Commission shall publish  
417       the place, time, and date of the scheduled public hearing.

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

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

423       3. No transcript of the hearing is required, unless a written request for a transcript is made,  
424       in which case the person requesting the transcript shall bear the cost of producing the transcript.

425       A recording may be made in lieu of a transcript under the same terms and conditions as a  
426       transcript. This subsection shall not preclude the Commission from making a transcript or  
427       recording of the hearing if it so chooses.

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

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

434       J. The Commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take final action on the proposed  
435       rule and shall determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the rulemaking record and  
436       the full text of the rule.

437       K. If no written notice of intent to attend the public hearing by interested parties is received,  
438       the Commission may proceed with promulgation of the proposed rule without a public hearing.

439       L. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the Commission may consider and adopt  
440       an emergency rule without prior notice, opportunity for comment, or hearing, provided that the  
441       usual rulemaking procedures provided in the compact and in this section shall be retroactively  
442       applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than ninety (90) days after  
443       the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this provision, an emergency rule is one that  
444       must be adopted immediately in order to:

445            1. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;  
446            2. Prevent a loss of Commission or member state funds;  
447            3. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is established by  
448       federal law or rule; or  
449            4. Protect public health and safety.

450       M. The Commission or an authorized committee of the Commission may direct revisions  
451       to a previously adopted rule or amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors  
452       in format, errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be  
453       posted on the website of the Commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any  
454       person for a period of thirty (30) days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on  
455       grounds that the revision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made in  
456       writing and delivered to the chair of the Commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no

457 challenge is made, the revision will take effect without further action. If the revision is challenged,  
458 the revision may not take effect without the approval of the Commission.

459 **SECTION 13. OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AND ENFORCEMENT**

460       **A. Oversight.**

461       1. The executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government in each member  
462 state shall enforce this compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate the  
463 compact's purposes and intent. The provisions of this compact and the rules promulgated  
464 hereunder shall have standing as statutory law.

465       2. All courts shall take judicial notice of the compact and the rules in any judicial or  
466 administrative proceeding in a member state pertaining to the subject matter of this compact  
467 which may affect the powers, responsibilities, or actions of the Commission.

468       3. The Commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any such proceeding  
469 and shall have standing to intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide  
470 service of process to the Commission shall render a judgment or order void as to the Commission,  
471 this compact, or promulgated rules.

472       **B. Default, Technical Assistance, and Termination.**

473       1. If the Commission determines that a member state has defaulted in the performance of  
474 its obligations or responsibilities under this compact or the promulgated rules, the Commission  
475 shall:

476           a. Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other member states of the nature of  
477 the default, the proposed means of curing the default, and/or any other action to be taken by the  
478 Commission; and

479           b. Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance regarding the default.

480       2. If a state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting state may be terminated from  
481 the compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the member states, and all rights, privileges,  
482 and benefits conferred by this compact may be terminated on the effective date of termination. A

483     cure of the default does not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during  
484     the period of default.

485         3. Termination of membership in the compact shall be imposed only after all other means  
486         of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be  
487         given by the Commission to the Governor, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting  
488         state's Legislature, and each of the member states.

489         4. A state that has been terminated from the compact is responsible for all assessments,  
490         obligations, and liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination, including obligations  
491         that extend beyond the effective date of termination.

492         5. The Commission shall not bear any costs related to a state that is found to be in default  
493         or that has been terminated from the compact, unless agreed upon in writing between the  
494         Commission and the defaulting state.

495         6. The defaulting state may appeal the action of the Commission by petitioning the U.S.  
496         District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has its  
497         principal offices. The prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including  
498         reasonable attorney fees.

499             C. Dispute Resolution.

500         1. Upon request by a member state, the Commission shall attempt to resolve disputes  
501         related to the compact that arise among member states and between member and nonmember  
502         states.

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

505             D. Enforcement.

506         1. The Commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the  
507         provisions and rules of this compact.

508         2. By majority vote, the Commission may initiate legal action in the United States District

509     Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has its principal  
510     offices against a member state in default to enforce compliance with the provisions of the compact  
511     and its promulgated rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and  
512     damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing member shall be awarded  
513     all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney fees.

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

516     SECTION 14. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR EMS  
517     PERSONNEL PRACTICE AND ASSOCIATED RULES, WITHDRAWAL, AND AMENDMENT

518         A. The compact shall come into effect on the date on which the compact statute is enacted  
519         into law in the tenth member state. The provisions, which become effective at that time, shall be  
520         limited to the powers granted to the Commission relating to assembly and the promulgation of  
521         rules. Thereafter, the Commission shall meet and exercise rulemaking powers necessary to the  
522         implementation and administration of the compact.

523         B. Any state that joins the compact subsequent to the Commission's initial adoption of the  
524         rules shall be subject to the rules as they exist on the date on which the compact becomes law in  
525         that state. Any rule that has been previously adopted by the Commission shall have the full force  
526         and effect of law on the day the compact becomes law in that state.

527         C. Any member state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the  
528         same.

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

531             2. Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing state's EMS  
532             authority to comply with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of this act  
533             prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

534             D. Nothing contained in this compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any EMS

535 personnel licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a member state and  
536 a nonmember state that does not conflict with the provisions of this compact.

537 E. This compact may be amended by the member states. No amendment to this compact  
538 shall become effective and binding upon any member state until it is enacted into the laws of all  
539 member states.

540 **SECTION 15. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY**

541 1. This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. If  
542 this compact shall be held contrary to the Constitution of any member state thereto, the compact  
543 shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining member states. Nothing in this compact  
544 supersedes state law or rules related to licensure of EMS agencies.

545 2. That the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2021, if the Recognition of EMS  
546 Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact has not become effective as a result of enactment of the  
547 compact into law by at least 10 member states by that date.

548 3. That the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board shall review decisions of the  
549 Interstate Commission for Emergency Medical Services Personnel Practice established pursuant  
550 to this compact and, upon approval by the Interstate Commission for Emergency Medical Services  
551 Personnel Practice of any action that will have the result of increasing the cost to the state of  
552 membership in the compact, may recommend to the Legislature that the state withdraw from the  
553 compact.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to enact the Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact. The bill enters the state into the compact with all jurisdictions that also enact the compact.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.