

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2020 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 492

INTERIM
BILL

BY SENATORS SYPOLT, CLINE, IHLENFELD, MAYNARD,

PITSENBARGER, STOLLINGS, AND HAMILTON

[Introduced January 15, 2020; referred to the
Committee on Interstate Cooperation; and then to the
Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,
2 designated §16-59-1, §16-59-2, §16-59-3, §16-59-4, §16-59-5, §16-59-6, §16-59-7, §16-
3 59-8, §16-59-9, §16-59-10, §16-59-11, §16-59-12, §16-59-13, §16-59-14, and §16-59-15,
4 all relating to enacting the Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel
5 Licensure Interstate Compact; entering into the compact with all jurisdictions also enacting
6 the compact; stating purpose of compact; defining terms; identifying member states as
7 home states; retaining authority of member state to require license under circumstances
8 not covered by compact; setting conditions for home state's license to authorize practice
9 in a remote state under the compact; requiring member states to recognize licenses issued
10 by another member state under certain conditions; setting requirements for individuals to
11 exercise privilege to practice; setting scope of practice; making individuals practicing in
12 remote states subject to that state's laws; authorizing remote states to take action against
13 individual's privilege to practice within that state under certain circumstances; providing
14 effect of restrictions on license on compact privileges; setting conditions of practicing in
15 remote state under compact terms; defining relationship of compact with Emergency
16 Management Assistance Compact; setting terms and requirements for certification of
17 veterans, certain service members, and their spouses; recognizing exclusive power of
18 home states to impose adverse action against license issued by home state; providing
19 consequences for compact participation if individual's license is subject to adverse action
20 by home state; requiring member states to report adverse actions against licenses;
21 authorizing states to take action against individual's privilege to practice within that state;
22 requiring home state EMS authority investigate and take appropriate action based on
23 reported conduct in remote state; authorizing alternative programs in lieu of adverse
24 action; authorizing member state's EMS authority to issue subpoenas; authorizing
25 member state's EMS authority to issue certain cease and desist orders; establishing
26 Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice; providing venue; maintaining state

27 sovereign immunity; providing for membership; providing for voting; requiring annual
28 meetings; requiring meetings to be public; providing exceptions; authorizing commission
29 prescribe bylaws and/or rules to govern conduct; granting certain powers to commission;
30 providing for financing for the commission; making validity of annual assessment against
31 state contingent upon funds being appropriated by the Legislature or otherwise being
32 made available; providing for qualified immunity of certain persons; requiring commission
33 defend certain persons for actions arising out of actions occurring within the scope of
34 duties related to the commission; requiring commission indemnify and hold harmless
35 certain persons under certain circumstances; providing for development and maintenance
36 of coordinated database and reporting system; requiring member states provide certain
37 information to coordinated database; requiring notification by coordinated database
38 administrator of adverse action taken against individual in member state; authorizing
39 member state to designate information not to be shared with the public without express
40 permission of contributing state; providing for removal of information from database when
41 required to be expunged; authorizing rulemaking commission; providing scope of
42 rulemaking; providing procedures for rulemaking; authorizing emergency rulemaking by
43 the commission; providing that commission rules are not binding on the State of West
44 Virginia until they have been authorized as legislative rules; providing timeline and
45 procedure for proposing legislative rules; authorizing emergency rulemaking; directing
46 state government to enforce compact and take necessary actions to effectuate its
47 purposes and intent; directing courts take judicial notice of compact and rules promulgated
48 pursuant to compact; providing procedures for the commission to follow if member state
49 has defaulted; authorizing member state be terminated from the compact under certain
50 conditions; setting terms of termination; authorizing appeal; authorizing mediation and
51 binding dispute resolution between commission and member state; authorizing
52 enforcement of the compact by the commission; authorizing legal action; establishing

53 venue; providing for venue in West Virginia; providing implementation date for the
 54 compact; making any state joining after implementation subject to rules as they exist when
 55 the compact is adopted; authorizing member state withdraw from the compact;
 56 maintaining member state authority to enter into licensure or cooperative agreements with
 57 nonmember state; authorizing amendment of the compact; providing for liberal
 58 construction; providing for severability of the compact if it is found to violate Constitution
 59 of member state; directing Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council review
 60 decisions of the commission; and authorizing Emergency Medical Services Advisory
 61 Council make recommendation to Legislature for withdrawal from the compact.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

**ARTICLE 59. RECOGNITION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL
 LICENSURE INTERSTATE COMPACT.**

**§16-59-1. Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate
 Compact; purpose.**

1 (a) The Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate
 2 Compact is hereby enacted into law and entered into with all jurisdictions legally joining therein.

3 (b) This compact is intended to facilitate the day-to-day movement of EMS personnel
 4 across state boundaries in the performance of their EMS duties as assigned by an appropriate
 5 authority and authorize state EMS offices to afford immediate legal recognition to EMS personnel
 6 licensed in a member state. The compact recognizes that states have a vested interest in
 7 protecting the public’s health and safety through their licensing and regulation of EMS personnel
 8 and that such state regulation shared among the member states will best protect public health
 9 and safety. The compact is designed to achieve the following purposes and objectives:

- 10 (1) Increase public access to EMS personnel;
- 11 (2) Enhance the state’s ability to protect the public’s health and safety, especially patient

12 safety;

13 (3) Encourage the cooperation of member states in the areas of EMS licensure and
14 regulation;

15 (4) Support licensing of military members who are separating from an active duty tour and
16 licensing of their spouses;

17 (5) Facilitate the exchange of information between member states regarding EMS
18 personnel licensure, adverse action, and significant investigatory information;

19 (6) Promote compliance with the laws governing EMS personnel practice in each member
20 state; and

21 (7) Invest all member states with the authority to hold EMS personnel accountable through
22 the mutual recognition of member state licenses.

§16-59-2. Definitions.

1 “Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)” means an individual licensed with
2 cognitive knowledge and a scope of practice that corresponds to that level in the National EMS
3 Education Standards and National EMS Scope of Practice Model.

4 “Adverse action” means any administrative, civil, equitable, or criminal action permitted by
5 a state’s laws which may be imposed against licensed EMS personnel by a state EMS authority
6 or state court, including, but not limited to, actions against an individual’s license such as
7 revocation, suspension, probation, consent agreement, monitoring, or other limitation or
8 encumbrance on the individual’s practice, letters of reprimand or admonition, fines, criminal
9 convictions, and state court judgments enforcing adverse actions by the state EMS authority.

10 “Alternative program” means a voluntary, nondisciplinary substance abuse recovery
11 program approved by a state EMS authority.

12 “Certification” means the successful verification of entry-level cognitive and psychomotor
13 competency using a reliable, validated, and legally defensible examination.

14 “Commission” means the national administrative body of which all states that have

15 enacted the compact are members.

16 “Emergency medical technician (EMT)” means an individual licensed with cognitive
17 knowledge and a scope of practice that corresponds to that level in the National EMS Education
18 Standards and National EMS Scope of Practice Model.

19 “Home state” means a member state where an individual is licensed to practice
20 emergency medical services.

21 “License” means the authorization by a state for an individual to practice as an EMT,
22 AEMT, or paramedic or at a level in between EMT and paramedic.

23 “Medical director” means a physician licensed in a member state who is accountable for
24 the care delivered by EMS personnel.

25 “Member state” means a state that has enacted this compact.

26 “Privilege to practice” means an individual’s authority to deliver emergency medical
27 services in remote states as authorized under this compact.

28 “Paramedic” means an individual licensed with cognitive knowledge and a scope of
29 practice that corresponds to that level in the National EMS Education Standards and National
30 EMS Scope of Practice Model.

31 “Remote state” means a member state in which an individual is not licensed.

32 “Restricted” means the outcome of an adverse action that limits a license or the privilege
33 to practice.

34 “Rule” means a written statement by the interstate commission promulgated pursuant to
35 §16-59-12 of this code that is of general applicability; implements, interprets, or prescribes a policy
36 or provision of the compact; or is an organizational, procedural, or practice requirement of the
37 commission.

38 “Scope of practice” means defined parameters of various duties or services that may be
39 provided by an individual with specific credentials. Whether regulated by rule, statute, or court
40 decision, it tends to represent the limits of services an individual may perform.

41 “Significant investigatory information” means:
42 Investigative information that a state EMS authority, after a preliminary inquiry that
43 includes notification and an opportunity to respond if required by state law, has reason to believe,
44 if proved true, would result in the imposition of an adverse action on a license or privilege to
45 practice; or

46 Investigative information that indicates that the individual represents an immediate threat
47 to public health and safety regardless of whether the individual has been notified and had an
48 opportunity to respond.

49 “State” means any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States.

50 “State EMS authority” means the board, office, or other agency with the legislative
51 mandate to license EMS personnel.

§16-59-3. Home state licensure.

1 (a) Any member state in which an individual holds a current license shall be considered a
2 home state for purposes of this compact.

3 (b) Any member state may require an individual to obtain and retain a license to be
4 authorized to practice in the member state under circumstances not authorized by the privilege to
5 practice under the terms of this compact.

6 (c) A home state’s license authorizes an individual to practice in a remote state under the
7 privilege to practice only if the home state:

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

10 (2) Has a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints about individuals;

11 (3) Notifies the commission, in compliance with the terms herein, of any adverse action or
12 significant investigatory information regarding an individual;

13 (4) No later than five years after activation of the compact, requires a criminal background
14 check of all applicants for initial licensure, including the use of the results of fingerprint or other

15 biometric data checks compliant with the requirements of the Federal Bureau of Investigation with
16 the exception of federal employees who have suitability determination in accordance with 5 C.F.R.
17 §731.202 and submit documentation of such as promulgated in the rules of the commission; and
18 (5) Complies with the rules of the commission.

§16-59-4. Compact privilege to practice.

1 (a) Member states shall recognize the privilege to practice of an individual licensed in
2 another member state that is in conformance with §16-59-3 of this code.

3 (b) To exercise the privilege to practice under the terms and provisions of this compact,
4 an individual must:

5 (1) Be at least 18 years of age;

6 (2) Possess a current unrestricted license in a member state as an EMT, AEMT,
7 paramedic, or state-recognized and licensed level with a scope of practice and authority between
8 EMT and paramedic; and

9 (3) Practice under the supervision of a medical director.

10 (c) An individual providing patient care in a remote state under the privilege to practice
11 shall function within the scope of practice authorized by the home state unless and until modified
12 by an appropriate authority in the remote state as may be defined in the rules of the commission.

13 (d) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, an individual practicing in a remote
14 state is subject to the remote state's authority and laws. A remote state may, in accordance with
15 due process and that state's laws, restrict, suspend, or revoke an individual's privilege to practice
16 in the remote state and may take any other necessary actions to protect the health and safety of
17 its citizens. If a remote state takes action, it shall promptly notify the home state and the
18 commission.

19 (e) If an individual's license in any home state is restricted or suspended, the individual
20 may not be eligible to practice in a remote state under the privilege to practice until the individual's
21 home state license is restored.

22 (f) If an individual’s privilege to practice in any remote state is restricted, suspended, or
 23 revoked, the individual may not be eligible to practice in any remote state until the individual’s
 24 privilege to practice is restored.

§16-59-5. Conditions of practice in a remote state.

1 An individual may practice in a remote state under a privilege to practice only in the
 2 performance of the individual’s EMS duties as assigned by an appropriate authority, as defined
 3 in the rules of the commission, and under the following circumstances:

4 (1) The individual originates a patient transport in a home state and transports the patient
 5 to a remote state;

6 (2) The individual originates in the home state and enters a remote state to pick up a
 7 patient and provide care and transport of the patient to the home state;

8 (3) The individual enters a remote state to provide patient care and/or transport within that
 9 remote state;

10 (4) The individual enters a remote state to pick up a patient and provide care and transport
 11 to a third member state; and

12 (5) Other conditions as determined by rules promulgated by the commission.

§16-59-6. Relationship to Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

1 Upon a member state’s Governor’s declaration of a state of emergency or disaster that
 2 activates the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), all relevant terms and
 3 provisions of EMAC apply and to the extent any terms or provisions of this compact conflict with
 4 EMAC, the terms of EMAC shall prevail with respect to any individual practicing in the remote
 5 state in response to such declaration.

§16-59-7. Veterans, service members separating from active duty military, and their spouses.

1 (a) Member states shall consider a veteran, active military service member, and member
 2 of the National Guard and Reserves separating from an active duty tour, and a spouse thereof,

3 who holds a current valid and unrestricted NREMT certification at or above the level of the state
4 license being sought as satisfying the minimum training and examination requirements for the
5 licensure.

6 (b) Member states shall expedite the processing of licensure applications submitted by
7 veterans, active military service members, and members of the National Guard and Reserves
8 separating from an active duty tour, and their spouses.

9 (c) All individuals functioning with a privilege to practice under this section remain subject
10 to §16-59-8 of this code.

§16-59-8. Adverse actions.

1 (a) A home state has exclusive power to impose adverse action against an individual's
2 license issued by the home state.

3 (b) If an individual's license in any home state is restricted or suspended, the individual
4 may not be eligible to practice in a remote state under the privilege to practice until the individual's
5 home state license is restored.

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

9 (2) An individual currently subject to adverse action in the home state may not practice in
10 any remote state without prior written authorization from both the home state and remote state's
11 EMS authority.

12 (c) A member state shall report adverse actions and any occurrences where the
13 individual's compact privileges are restricted, suspended, or revoked to the commission in
14 accordance with the rules of the commission.

15 (d) A remote state may take adverse action on an individual's privilege to practice within
16 that state.

17 (e) Any member state may take adverse action against an individual's privilege to practice

18 in that state based on the factual findings of another member state, so long as each state follows
19 its own procedures for imposing such adverse action.

20 (f) A home state's EMS authority shall investigate and take such appropriate action with
21 respect to reported conduct in a remote state as it would if such conduct had occurred within the
22 home state. In such cases, the home state's law shall control in determining the appropriate
23 adverse action.

24 (g) Nothing in this compact may override a member state's decision that participation in
25 an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action and that such participation shall
26 remain nonpublic if required by the member state's laws. Member states must require individuals
27 who enter any alternative programs to agree not to practice in any other member state during the
28 term of the alternative program without prior authorization from such other member state.

§16-59-9. Additional powers vested in a member state's EMS authority.

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

3 (1) Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and
4 testimony of witnesses and the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a member state's
5 EMS authority for the attendance and testimony of witnesses, and/or the production of evidence
6 from another member state, shall be enforced in the remote state by any court of competent
7 jurisdiction, according to that court's practice and procedure in considering subpoenas issued in
8 its own proceedings. The issuing state's EMS authority shall pay any witness fees, travel
9 expenses, mileage, and other fees required by the service statutes of the state where the
10 witnesses and/or evidence are located; and

11 (2) Issue cease and desist orders to restrict, suspend, or revoke an individual's privilege
12 to practice in the state.

§16-59-10. Establishment of the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice.

1 (a) General. -- The compact states hereby create and establish a joint public agency

2 known as the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice.

3 (1) The commission is a body politic and an instrumentality of the compact states.

4 (2) Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the commission shall be brought
5 solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the
6 commission is located: *Provided*, That pursuant to article VI, section 35 of the Constitution of West
7 Virginia, neither the State of West Virginia nor any officer or agency thereof may be named as a
8 defendant in an any court of law or equity except in the State of West Virginia. The commission
9 may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to participate in
10 alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

11 (3) Nothing in this compact may be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity.

12 (b) *Membership, voting, and meetings.* --

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

21 (2) Each delegate is entitled to one vote with regard to the promulgation of rules and
22 creation of bylaws and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the business and
23 affairs of the commission. A delegate shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in
24 the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates' participation in meetings by telephone or other
25 means of communication.

26 (3) The commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. Additional
27 meetings shall be held as set forth in the bylaws.

28 (4) All meetings shall be open to the public, and public notice of meetings shall be given
29 in the same manner as required under the rulemaking provisions in §16-59-12 of this code.

30 (5) The commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting if the commission must
31 discuss:

32 (A) Noncompliance of a member state with its obligations under the compact;

33 (B) The employment, compensation, discipline or other personnel matters, practices, or
34 procedures related to specific employees or other matters related to the commission's internal
35 personnel practices and procedures;

36 (C) Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation;

37 (D) Negotiation of contracts for the purchase or sale of goods, services, or real estate;

38 (E) Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;

39 (F) Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or
40 confidential;

41 (G) Disclosure of information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a
42 clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

43 (H) Disclosure of investigatory records compiled for law-enforcement purposes;

44 (I) Disclosure of information related to any investigatory reports prepared by, on behalf of,
45 or for use of the commission or other committee charged with responsibility of investigation or
46 determination of compliance issues pursuant to the compact; or

47 (J) Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or member state statute.

48 (6) If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to this provision, the
49 commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and shall
50 reference each relevant exempting provision. The commission shall keep minutes that fully and
51 clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary
52 of actions taken, and the reasons therefor, including a description of the views expressed. All
53 documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes

54 and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release by a majority vote
55 of the commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

56 (c) Conduct of Commission proceedings. -- The commission shall, by a majority vote of
57 the delegates, prescribe bylaws and/or rules to govern its conduct as may be necessary or
58 appropriate to carry out the purposes and exercise the powers of the compact, including, but not
59 limited to:

60 (1) Establishing the fiscal year of the commission;

61 (2) Providing reasonable standards and procedures:

62 (A) For the establishment and meetings of other committees; and

63 (B) Governing any general or specific delegation of any authority or function of the
64 commission;

65 (3) Providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting meetings of the
66 commission, ensuring reasonable advance notice of all meetings, and providing an opportunity
67 for attendance of such meetings by interested parties, with enumerated exceptions designed to
68 protect the public's interest, the privacy of individuals, and proprietary information, including trade
69 secrets. The commission may meet in closed session only after a majority of the membership
70 votes to close a meeting, in whole or in part. As soon as practicable, the commission must make
71 public a copy of the vote to close the meeting revealing the vote of each member with no proxy
72 votes allowed;

73 (4) Establishing the titles, duties, and authority, and reasonable procedures for the election
74 of the officers of the commission;

75 (5) Providing reasonable standards and procedures for the establishment of the personnel
76 policies and programs of the commission. Notwithstanding any civil service or other similar laws
77 of any member state, the bylaws shall exclusively govern the personnel policies and programs of
78 the commission;

79 (6) Promulgating a code of ethics to address permissible and prohibited activities of

80 commission members and employees;

81 (7) Providing a mechanism for concluding the operations of the commission and the
82 equitable disposition of any surplus funds that may exist after the termination of the compact after
83 the payment and/or reserving of all of its debts and obligations;

84 (8) Publishing its bylaws and filing a copy thereof, and a copy of any amendment thereto,
85 with the appropriate agency or officer in each of the member states, if any;

86 (9) Maintaining its financial records in accordance with the bylaws; and

87 (10) Meeting and taking such actions as are consistent with the provisions of this compact
88 and the bylaws.

89 (d) Powers of the Commission. -- The commission may:

90 (1) Promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and
91 administration of this compact. The rules shall have the force and effect of law and shall be binding
92 in all member states once authorized by the Legislature pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-1 et
93 seq. of this code;

94 (2) Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the commission,
95 provided that the standing of any state EMS authority or other regulatory body responsible for
96 EMS personnel licensure to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected;

97 (3) Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

98 (4) Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including, but not limited to,
99 employees of a member state;

100 (5) Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant such
101 individuals appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the compact, and to establish the
102 commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of
103 personnel, and other related personnel matters;

104 (6) Accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies,
105 materials, and services and to receive, utilize, and dispose of the same, provided that at all times

106 the commission shall strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety and/or conflict of interest;

107 (7) Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise own, hold,
108 improve, or use any property, real, personal, or mixed, provided that at all times the commission
109 shall strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety;

110 (8) Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose of
111 any property, real, personal, or mixed;

112 (9) Establish a budget and make expenditures;

113 (10) Borrow money;

114 (11) Appoint committees, including advisory committees composed of members, state
115 regulators, State Legislators or their representatives, consumer representatives, and such other
116 interested persons as may be designated in this compact and the bylaws;

117 (12) Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law-enforcement agencies;

118 (13) Adopt and use an official seal; and

119 (14) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the
120 purposes of this compact consistent with the state regulation of EMS personnel licensure and
121 practice.

122 (e) *Financing of the Commission.* --

123 (1) The commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable expenses of
124 its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.

125 (2) The commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue sources, donations, and
126 grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services.

127 (3) The commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each member
128 state or impose fees on other parties to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the
129 commission and its staff, which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as
130 approved each year for which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual
131 assessment amount shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the

132 commission, which shall promulgate a rule binding upon all member states: *Provided*, That no
133 assessment may be binding upon the State of West Virginia unless the rule setting forth the
134 formula for determining the aggregate annual assessment has been authorized by the Legislature
135 pursuant to the legislative rulemaking procedures in §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code: *Provided*,
136 *however*, That the validity of any annual assessment levied on the State of West Virginia shall be
137 contingent upon funds being appropriated by the Legislature or otherwise being made available.

138 (4) The commission may not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds
139 adequate to meet the same; nor may the commission pledge the credit of any of the member
140 states, except by and with the authority of the member state.

141 (5) The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The
142 receipts and disbursements of the commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting
143 procedures established under its bylaws; however, all receipts and disbursements of funds
144 handled by the commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant,
145 and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the
146 commission.

147 (f) *Qualified immunity, defense, and indemnification.* --

148 (1) The members, officers, executive director, employees, and representatives of the
149 commission shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their official capacity,
150 for any claim for damage to or loss of property, or personal injury or other civil liability caused by
151 or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that the person
152 against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred, within the scope
153 of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that nothing in this paragraph
154 shall be construed to protect any such person from suit and/or liability for any damage, loss, injury,
155 or liability caused by the intentional, willful, or wanton misconduct of that person.

156 (2) The commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director, employee, or
157 representative of the commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any

158 actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of commission
159 employment, duties, or responsibilities or that the person against whom the claim is made had a
160 reasonable basis for believing it occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or
161 responsibilities: *Provided*, That nothing herein may be construed to prohibit that person from
162 retaining his or her own counsel, and that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not
163 result from that person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.

164 (3) The commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer, executive
165 director, employee, or representative of the commission for the amount of any settlement or
166 judgment obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission
167 that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities or that such
168 person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission
169 employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission
170 did not result from the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

§16-59-11. Coordinated database.

1 (a) The commission shall provide for the development and maintenance of a coordinated
2 database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action, and significant investigatory
3 information on all licensed individuals in member states.

4 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the contrary, a member state shall
5 submit a uniform data set to the coordinated database on all individuals to whom this compact is
6 applicable as required by the rules of the commission, including:

7 (1) Identifying information;

8 (2) Licensure data;

9 (3) Significant investigatory information;

10 (4) Adverse actions against an individual's license;

11 (5) An indicator that an individual's privilege to practice is restricted, suspended, or
12 revoked;

13 (6) Nonconfidential information related to alternative program participation;
14 (7) Any denial of application for licensure and the reason(s) for such denial; and
15 (8) Other information that may facilitate the administration of this compact, as determined
16 by the rules of the commission.

17 (c) The coordinated database administrator shall promptly notify all member states of any
18 adverse action taken against, or significant investigative information on, any individual in a
19 member state.

20 (d) Member states contributing information to the coordinated database may designate
21 information that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of the
22 contributing state.

23 (e) Any information submitted to the coordinated database that is subsequently required
24 to be expunged by the laws of the member state contributing the information shall be removed
25 from the coordinated database.

§16-59-12. Rulemaking.

1 (a) The commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set forth
2 in this section and the rules adopted thereunder. Rules and amendments shall become binding
3 as of the date specified in each rule or amendment: *Provided*, That no rule may become binding
4 on the State of West Virginia as law until it has been authorized by the Legislature pursuant to
5 the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

6 (b) If a majority of the Legislatures of the member states rejects a rule, by enactment of a
7 statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the compact, then such rule shall have no
8 further force and effect in any member state.

9 (c) Rules or amendments to the rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of
10 the commission.

11 (d) Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules by the commission, and at
12 least 60 days in advance of the meeting at which the rule will be considered and voted upon, the

13 commission shall file a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:

14 (1) On the website of the commission; and

15 (2) On the website of each member state EMS authority or the publication in which each
16 state would otherwise publish proposed rules.

17 (e) The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking shall include:

18 (1) The proposed time, date, and location of the meeting in which the rule will be
19 considered and voted upon;

20 (2) The text of the proposed rule or amendment and the reason for the proposed rule;

21 (3) A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person; and

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

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

26 (g) The commission shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing before it adopts a rule
27 or amendment if a hearing is requested by:

28 (1) At least 25 persons;

29 (2) A governmental subdivision or agency; or

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

31 (h) If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, the commission shall publish
32 the place, time, and date of the scheduled public hearing.

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

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

38 (3) No transcript of the hearing is required, unless a written request for a transcript is

39 made, in which case the person requesting the transcript shall bear the cost of producing the
40 transcript. A recording may be made in lieu of a transcript under the same terms and conditions
41 as a transcript. This subsection shall not preclude the commission from making a transcript or
42 recording of the hearing if it so chooses.

43 (4) Nothing in this section may be construed as requiring a separate hearing on each rule.
44 Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the commission at hearings required by this section.

45 (i) Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close of business on the scheduled
46 hearing date if the hearing was not held, the commission shall consider all written and oral
47 comments received.

48 (j) The commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take final action on the proposed
49 rule and shall determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the rulemaking record and
50 the full text of the rule.

51 (k) If no written notice of intent to attend the public hearing by interested parties is received,
52 the commission may proceed with promulgation of the proposed rule without a public hearing.

53 (l) Upon determination that an emergency exists, the commission may consider and adopt
54 an emergency rule without prior notice, opportunity for comment, or hearing, provided that the
55 usual rulemaking procedures provided in the compact and in this section shall be retroactively
56 applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than 90 days after the
57 effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this provision, an emergency rule is one that shall
58 be adopted immediately in order to:

59 (1) Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;

60 (2) Prevent a loss of commission or member state funds;

61 (3) Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is established by
62 federal law or rule; or

63 (4) Protect public health and safety.

64 (m) The commission or an authorized committee of the commission may direct revisions

65 to a previously adopted rule or amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors
66 in format, errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be
67 posted on the website of the commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any person
68 for a period of 30 days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the
69 revision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made in writing and delivered
70 to the chair of the commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the
71 revision will take effect without further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision may not
72 take effect without the approval of the commission.

73 (n) *Applicability of West Virginia Administrative Procedures Act.* --

74 (1) Notwithstanding any provision of this compact to the contrary, no rule proposed or
75 promulgated by the commission may become binding on the State of West Virginia as law until it
76 has been authorized by the Legislature pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

77 (2) Within 30 days of a rule or operating procedure that affects the regulation of emergency
78 medical services in the State of West Virginia is promulgated by the commission, the
79 Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health shall propose the rule for legislative approval in
80 accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

81 (3) The commissioner has emergency rulemaking authority. For purposes of this section,
82 the Legislature finds that the promulgation of a rule or operating procedure by the commission
83 that affects the regulation of emergency medical services in the State of West Virginia constitutes
84 an emergency for the purposes of filing an emergency rule pursuant to §29A-3-15 of this code.

85 (4) A rejection of a legislative rule proposed pursuant to this subsection shall have the
86 effect of making that rule not binding on the State of West Virginia, notwithstanding any
87 emergency rule previously promulgated pursuant thereto, and notwithstanding the failure of a
88 majority of states to take action to invalidate the rule pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b)
89 of this section.

§16-59-13. Oversight, dispute resolution and enforcement.

1 (a) Oversight. --

2 (1) The executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government in each member
3 state shall enforce this compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate the
4 compact's purposes and intent. The provisions of this compact and the rules promulgated
5 hereunder shall have standing as statutory law once authorized by the Legislature pursuant to
6 the provisions of §29A-3-1, et seq. of this code.

7 (2) All courts shall take judicial notice of the compact and the rules in any judicial or
8 administrative proceeding in a member state pertaining to the subject matter of this compact
9 which may affect the powers, responsibilities, or actions of the commission.

10 (3) The commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any such proceeding
11 and shall have standing to intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide
12 service of process to the commission shall render a judgment or order void as to the commission,
13 this compact, or promulgated rules.

14 (b) Default, technical assistance, and termination. --

15 (1) If the commission determines that a member state has defaulted in the performance
16 of its obligations or responsibilities under this compact or the promulgated rules, the commission
17 shall:

18 (A) Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other member states of the nature of
19 the default, the proposed means of curing the default, and/or any other action to be taken by the
20 commission; and

21 (B) Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance regarding the default.

22 (2) If a state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting state may be terminated from
23 the compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the member states, and all rights, privileges,
24 and benefits conferred by this compact may be terminated on the effective date of termination. A
25 cure of the default does not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during
26 the period of default.

27 (3) Termination of membership in the compact shall be imposed only after all other means
28 of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be
29 given by the commission to the Governor, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting
30 state's Legislature, and each of the member states.

31 (4) A state that has been terminated from the compact is responsible for all assessments,
32 obligations, and liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination, including obligations
33 that extend beyond the effective date of termination.

34 (5) The commission may not bear any costs related to a state that is found to be in default
35 or that has been terminated from the compact, unless agreed upon in writing between the
36 commission and the defaulting state.

37 (6) The defaulting state may appeal the action of the commission by petitioning the U.S.
38 District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the commission has its
39 principal offices. The prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including
40 reasonable attorney fees.

41 (c) Dispute Resolution. --

42 (1) Upon request by a member state, the commission shall attempt to resolve disputes
43 related to the compact that arise among member states and between member and nonmember
44 states.

45 (2) The commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding
46 dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate, subject to the provisions of §16-59-12(n) of this
47 code.

48 (d) Enforcement. --

49 (1) The commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the
50 provisions and rules of this compact.

51 (2) By majority vote, the commission may initiate legal action in the United States District
52 Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the commission has its principal

53 offices, against a member state in default to enforce compliance with the provisions of the
54 compact and its promulgated rules and bylaws: *Provided*, That pursuant to article VI, section 35
55 of the Constitution of West Virginia, neither the State of West Virginia nor any officer or agency
56 thereof shall be named as a defendant in any court of law or equity except in the State of West
57 Virginia. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial
58 enforcement is necessary, the prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation,
59 including reasonable attorney fees.

60 (3) The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the commission. The
61 commission may pursue any other remedies available under federal or state law.

§16-59-14. Date of implementation of the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel
Practice and associated rules; withdrawal; amendment.

1 (a) The compact shall come into effect on the date on which the compact statute is enacted
2 into law in the tenth member state. The provisions, which become effective at that time, shall be
3 limited to the powers granted to the commission relating to assembly and the promulgation of
4 rules. Thereafter, the commission shall meet and exercise rulemaking powers necessary to the
5 implementation and administration of the compact.

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

10 (c) Any member state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the
11 same. Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing state's EMS
12 authority to comply with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of this act
13 prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

14 (d) Nothing contained in this compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any EMS
15 personnel licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a member state and

16 a nonmember state that does not conflict with the provisions of this compact.

17 (e) This compact may be amended by the member states. No amendment to this compact
18 may become effective and binding upon any member state until it is enacted into the laws of all
19 member states.

§16-59-15. Construction and severability.

1 (a) This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. If
2 this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any member state thereto, the compact
3 shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining member states. Nothing in this compact
4 supersedes state law or rules related to licensure of EMS agencies.

5 (b) The Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council shall review decisions of the
6 Interstate Commission for Emergency Medical Services Personnel Practice established pursuant
7 to this compact and, upon approval by the Interstate Commission for Emergency Medical Services
8 Personnel Practice of any action that will have the result of increasing the cost to the state of
9 membership in the compact, may recommend to the Legislature that the state withdraw from the
10 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.

This bill was recommended by the Joint Committee on Volunteer Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services for introduction and passage during the 2020 regular session of the Legislature.

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