

15-1911. Authority to enter compact; terms of interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this compact to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents by:

A. Facilitating the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensuring that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of education records from the previous school districts, variations in entrance or age requirements.

B. Facilitating the student placement process through which children of military families are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content or assessment.

C. Facilitating the qualification and eligibility for enrollment, educational programs and participation in extracurricular academic, athletic and social activities.

D. Facilitating the on-time graduation of children of military families.

E. Providing for the promulgation and enforcement of administrative rules implementing the provisions of this compact.

F. Providing for the uniform collection and sharing of information between and among member states, schools and military families under this compact.

G. Promoting coordination between this compact and other compacts affecting military children.

H. Promoting flexibility and cooperation between the educational system, parents and the student in order to achieve educational success for the student.

ARTICLE II

DEFINITIONS

As used in this compact, unless the context clearly requires a different construction:

A. "Active duty" means full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the national guard and reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 United States Code sections 1209 and 1211.

B. "Children of military families" means school-aged children, enrolled in kindergarten programs or grades one through twelve, in the household of an active duty member.

C. "Compact commissioner" means the voting representative of each compacting state appointed pursuant to article VIII of this compact.

D. "Deployment" means the period one month prior to the service members' departure from their home station on military orders through six months after return to their home station.

E. "Educational records" means those official records, files and data directly related to a student and maintained by the school or local education agency, including records encompassing all the material kept in the student's cumulative folder such as general identifying data, records of attendance and of academic work completed, records of achievement and results of evaluative tests, health data, disciplinary status, test protocols and individualized education programs.

F. "Extracurricular activities" means a voluntary activity sponsored by the school or local education agency or an organization sanctioned by the local education agency. Extracurricular activities include preparation for and involvement in public performances, contests, athletic competitions, demonstrations, displays and club activities.

G. "Interstate commission on educational opportunity for military children" means the commission that is created under article IX of this compact, which is generally referred to as interstate commission.

H. "Local education agency" means a public authority legally constituted by the state as an administrative agency to provide control of and direction for kindergarten programs and grades one through twelve in public educational institutions.

I. "Member state" means a state that has enacted this compact.

J. "Military installation" means a base, camp, post, station, yard, center, homeport facility for any ship or other activity under the jurisdiction of the department of defense, including any leased facility, that is located within any of the several states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin

Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas Islands and any other United States territory. Military installation does not include any facility used primarily for civil works, rivers and harbors projects, or flood control projects.

K. "Nonmember state" means a state that has not enacted this compact.

L. "Receiving state" means the state to which a child of a military family is sent, brought or caused to be sent or brought.

M. "Rule" means a written statement by the interstate commission promulgated pursuant to article XII of this compact that is of general applicability, that implements, interprets or prescribes a policy or provision of the compact, or an organizational, procedural or practice requirement of the interstate commission, and that has the force and effect of statutory law in a member state, and includes the amendment, repeal or suspension of an existing rule.

N. "Sending state" means the state from which a child of a military family is sent, brought or caused to be sent or brought.

O. "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas Islands and any other United States territory.

P. "Student" means the child of a military family for whom the local education agency receives public funding and who is formally enrolled in a kindergarten program or grades one through twelve.

Q. "Transition" means the formal and physical process of transferring from school to school or the period of time in which a student moves from one school in the sending state to another school in the receiving state.

R. "Uniformed services" means the army, navy, air force, marine corps and coast guard as well as the commissioned corps of the national oceanic and atmospheric administration, and public health services.

S. "Veteran" means a person who served in the uniformed services and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

ARTICLE III

APPLICABILITY

A. Except as otherwise provided in section B, this compact shall apply to the children of:

1. Active duty members of the uniformed services as defined in this compact, including members of the national guard and reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 United States Code sections 1209 and 1211.
2. Members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one year after medical discharge or retirement.
3. Members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one year after death.

B. The provisions of this interstate compact shall only apply to local education agencies as defined in this compact.

C. The provisions of this compact shall not apply to the children of:

1. Inactive members of the national guard and military reserves.
2. Members of the uniformed services now retired, except as provided in section A.
3. Veterans of the uniformed services, except as provided in section A.
4. Other United States department of defense personnel and other federal agency civilian and contract employees not defined as active duty members of the uniformed services.

ARTICLE IV

EDUCATIONAL RECORDS AND ENROLLMENT

A. Unofficial or hand-carried education records - In the event that official education records cannot be released to the parents for the purpose of transfer, the custodian of the records in the sending state shall prepare and furnish to the parent a complete set of unofficial educational records containing uniform information as determined by the interstate commission. On receipt of the unofficial education records by a school in the receiving state, the school shall enroll and appropriately place the student based on the information provided in the unofficial records pending validation by the official records, as quickly as possible.

B. Official education records and transcripts - Simultaneous with the enrollment and conditional placement of the student, the school in the receiving state shall request the student's official education record from the school in the sending state. On receipt of this request, the school in the sending state will process and furnish the official education records to the school in the receiving state within ten days or within such time as is reasonably determined under the rules promulgated by the interstate commission.

C. Immunizations - Compacting states shall give thirty days from the date of enrollment or such time as is reasonably determined under the rules promulgated by the interstate commission for students to obtain any immunizations required by the receiving state. For a series of immunizations, initial vaccinations must be obtained within thirty days or within such time as is reasonably determined under the rules promulgated by the interstate commission.

D. Kindergarten and first grade entrance age - Students shall be allowed to continue their enrollment at grade level in the receiving state commensurate with their grade level, including kindergarten, from a local education agency in the sending state at the time of transition, regardless of age. A student who has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in the local education agency in the sending state shall be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level in the receiving state, regardless of age. A student transferring after the start of the school year in the receiving state shall enter the school in the receiving state on the student's validated level from an accredited school in the sending state.

ARTICLE V

PLACEMENT AND ATTENDANCE

A. Course placement - When the student transfers before or during the school year, the receiving state school shall initially honor placement of the student in educational courses based on the student's enrollment in the sending state school or educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state, or both, if the courses are offered. Course placement includes honors, international baccalaureate, advanced placement, vocational, technical and career pathways courses. Continuing the student's academic program from the previous school and promoting placement in academically and career challenging courses should be paramount when considering placement. This does not preclude the school in the receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the courses.

B. Educational program placement - The receiving state school shall initially honor placement of the student in educational programs based on current educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state or participation and placement in like programs in the sending state. Such programs include gifted and talented programs and English as a second language. This does not preclude the school in the receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student.

C. Special education services - In compliance with the federal requirements of the individuals with disabilities education act (20 United States Code section 1400), the receiving state shall initially provide comparable services to a student with disabilities based on the student's current individualized education program. In compliance with the requirements of section 504 of the rehabilitation act (29 United States Code section 794) and with title II of the Americans with disabilities act (42 United States Code sections 12131 through 12165), the receiving state shall make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of incoming students with disabilities, subject to an existing 504 or title II plan, to provide the student with equal access to education. This does not preclude the school in the receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student.

D. Placement flexibility - Local education agency administrative officials shall have flexibility in waiving course or program prerequisites, or other preconditions for placement in courses or programs offered under the jurisdiction of the local education agency.

E. Absence as related to deployment activities - A student whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined by this compact, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting shall be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the local education agency superintendent to visit with the student's parent or legal guardian relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or guardian.

ARTICLE VI

ELIGIBILITY

A. Eligibility for enrollment.

1. Special power of attorney, relative to the guardianship of a child of a military family and executed under applicable law, shall be sufficient for the purposes of enrollment and all other actions requiring parental participation and consent.

2. A local education agency shall be prohibited from charging local tuition to a transitioning military child placed in the care of a noncustodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent.

3. A transitioning military child, placed in the care of a noncustodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent, may continue to attend the school in which the child was enrolled while residing with the custodial parent.

B. Eligibility for extracurricular participation - State and local education agencies shall facilitate the opportunity for transitioning military children's inclusion in extracurricular activities, regardless of application deadlines, to the extent they are otherwise qualified.

ARTICLE VII

GRADUATION

In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families states and local education agencies shall incorporate the following procedures:

A. Waiver requirements - Local education agency administrative officials shall waive specific courses required for graduation if similar coursework has been satisfactorily completed in another local education agency or shall provide reasonable justification for denial. If a waiver is not granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the local education agency shall provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework so that graduation may occur on time.

B. Exit exams - States shall accept exit or end-of-course exams required for graduation from the sending state, national norm referenced achievement tests or alternative testing, in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state. If these alternatives cannot be accommodated by the receiving state for a student transferring in the student's senior year, then the provisions of article VII, section C shall apply.

C. Transfers during senior year - If a military student transferring at the beginning or during the student's senior year is ineligible to graduate from the receiving local education agency after all alternatives have been considered, the sending and receiving local education agencies shall ensure the receipt of a diploma from the sending local education agency, if the student meets the graduation requirements of the sending local education agency. If one of the states in question is not a member of

this compact, the member state shall use best efforts to facilitate the on-time graduation of the student in accordance with sections A and B.

ARTICLE VIII

STATE COORDINATION

A. Each member state, through the creation of a state council or use of an existing body or board, shall provide for the coordination among its agencies of government, local education agencies and military installations concerning the state's participation in, and compliance with, this compact and interstate commission activities. While each member state may determine the membership of its own state council, its membership must include at least the state superintendent of education, a superintendent of a school district with a high concentration of military children, a representative from a military installation, one representative each from the legislative and executive branches of government and other offices and stakeholder groups the state council deems appropriate. A member state that does not have a school district deemed to contain a high concentration of military children may appoint a superintendent from another school district to represent local education agencies on the state council.

B. The state council of each member state shall appoint or designate a military family education liaison to assist military families and the state in facilitating the implementation of this compact.

C. The compact commissioner responsible for the administration and management of the state's participation in the compact shall be appointed by the governor or as otherwise determined by each member state.

D. The compact commissioner and the military family education liaison designated herein shall be ex-officio members of the state council, unless either is already a full voting member of the state council.

ARTICLE IX

INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL

OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

The member states hereby create the interstate commission on educational opportunity for military children. The activities of the interstate commission are the formation of public policy and are a discretionary state function. The interstate commission shall:

A. Be a body corporate and joint agency of the member states and shall have all the responsibilities, powers and duties set forth herein, and such additional powers as may be conferred on it by a subsequent concurrent action of the respective legislatures of the member states in accordance with the terms of this compact.

B. Consist of one interstate commission voting representative from each member state who shall be that state's compact commissioner.

1. Each member state represented at a meeting of the interstate commission is entitled to one vote.

2. A majority of the total member states shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, unless a larger quorum is required by the bylaws of the interstate commission.

3. A representative shall not delegate a vote to another member state. If the compact commissioner is unable to attend a meeting of the interstate commission, the governor or state council may delegate voting authority to another person from that state for a specified meeting.

4. The bylaws may provide for meetings of the interstate commission to be conducted by telecommunication or electronic communication.

C. Consist of ex-officio, nonvoting representatives who are members of interested organizations. Such ex-officio members, as defined in the bylaws, may include members of the representative organizations of military family advocates, local education agency officials, parent and teacher groups, the United States department of defense, the education commission of the states, the interstate agreement on the qualification of educational personnel and other interstate compacts affecting the education of children of military members.

D. Meet at least once each calendar year. The chairperson may call additional meetings and, on the request of a simple majority of the member states, shall call additional meetings.

E. Establish an executive committee, whose members shall include the officers of the interstate commission and such other members of the interstate commission as determined by the bylaws. Members of the executive committee shall serve a one year term. Members of the executive committee shall be entitled to one vote each. The executive committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the interstate commission, with the exception of rule making, during periods when the interstate commission is not in session. The executive committee shall oversee the day-to-day

activities of the administration of this compact, including enforcement and compliance with the provisions of this compact, its bylaws and rules, and other such duties as deemed necessary. The United States department of defense shall serve as an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the executive committee.

F. Establish bylaws and rules that provide for conditions and procedures under which the interstate commission shall make its information and official records available to the public for inspection or copying. The interstate commission may exempt from disclosure information or official records to the extent they would adversely affect personal privacy rights or proprietary interests.

G. Public notice shall be given by the interstate commission of all meetings and all meetings shall be open to the public, except as set forth in the rules or as otherwise provided in this compact. The interstate commission and its committees may close a meeting, or portion thereof, if it determines by a two-thirds vote that an open meeting would be likely to either:

1. Relate solely to the interstate commission's internal personnel practices and procedures.
2. Disclose matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal and state statute.
3. Disclose trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential.
4. Involve accusing a person of a crime, or formally censuring a person.
5. Disclose information of a personal nature if disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.
6. Disclose investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes.
7. Specifically relate to the interstate commission's participation in a civil action or other legal proceeding.

H. For a meeting, or portion of a meeting, closed pursuant to this provision, the interstate commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and shall reference each relevant exemptible provision. The interstate commission shall keep minutes which shall fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the reasons therefore, including a description of the views expressed and the record of a roll call vote. All documents considered in connection with an action shall

be identified in such minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release by a majority vote of the interstate commission.

I. The interstate commission shall collect standardized data concerning the educational transition of the children of military families under this compact as directed through its rules, which shall specify the data to be collected, the means of collection and data exchange and reporting requirements. Such methods of data collection, exchange and reporting, insofar as is reasonably possible, shall conform to current technology and coordinate its information functions with the appropriate custodian of records as identified in the bylaws and rules.

J. The interstate commission shall create a process that permits military officials, education officials and parents to inform the interstate commission if and when there are alleged violations of the compact or its rules or when issues subject to the jurisdiction of the compact or its rules are not addressed by the state or local education agency. This section shall not be construed to create a private right of action against the interstate commission or any member state.

ARTICLE X

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION

The interstate commission shall have the following powers:

- A. To provide for dispute resolution among member states.
- B. To promulgate rules and take all necessary actions to effect the goals, purposes and obligations as enumerated in this compact. The rules shall have the force and effect of statutory law and shall be binding in the compact states to the extent and in the manner provided in this compact.
- C. To issue, on request of a member state, advisory opinions concerning the meaning or interpretation of the interstate compact, its bylaws, rules and actions.
- D. To enforce compliance with the compact provisions, the rules promulgated by the interstate commission and the bylaws, using all necessary and proper means, including the use of judicial process.
- E. To establish and maintain offices which shall be located within one or more of the member states.
- F. To purchase and maintain insurance and bonds.

- G. To borrow, accept, hire or contract for services of personnel.
- H. To establish and appoint committees including an executive committee as required by article IX, section E, which shall have the power to act on behalf of the interstate commission in carrying out its powers and duties hereunder.
- I. To elect or appoint such officers, attorneys, employees, agents or consultants, and to fix their compensation, define their duties and determine their qualifications, and to establish the interstate commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, rates of compensation and qualifications of personnel.
- J. To accept any and all donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services, and to receive, utilize and dispose of them.
- K. To lease, purchase, accept contributions or donations of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve or use any property, real, personal or mixed.
- L. To sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon or otherwise dispose of any property, real, personal or mixed.
- M. To establish a budget and make expenditures.
- N. To adopt a seal and bylaws governing the management and operation of the interstate commission.
- O. To report annually to the legislatures, governors, judiciary and state councils of the member states concerning the activities of the interstate commission during the preceding year. Such reports shall also include any recommendations that may have been adopted by the interstate commission.
- P. To coordinate education, training and public awareness regarding the compact and its implementation and operation for officials and parents involved in such activity.
- Q. To establish uniform standards for the reporting, collecting and exchanging of data.
- R. To maintain corporate books and records in accordance with the bylaws.
- S. To perform such functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this compact.
- T. To provide for the uniform collection and sharing of information between and among member states, schools and military families under this compact.

ARTICLE XI

ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION

A. The interstate commission, by a majority of the members present and voting, within twelve months after the first interstate commission meeting, shall adopt bylaws to govern its conduct as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the compact, including:

1. Establishing the fiscal year of the interstate commission.
2. Establishing an executive committee, and such other committees as may be necessary.
3. Providing for the establishment of committees and for governing any general or specific delegation of authority or function of the interstate commission.
4. Providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting meetings of the interstate commission, and ensuring reasonable notice of each such meeting.
5. Establishing the titles and responsibilities of the officers and staff of the interstate commission.
6. Providing a mechanism for concluding the operations of the interstate commission and the return of surplus monies that may exist on the termination of the compact after the payment and reserving of all of its debts and obligations.
7. Providing start up rules for initial administration of the compact.

B. The interstate commission, by a majority of the members, shall elect annually from among its members a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and a treasurer, each of whom shall have such authority and duties as may be specified in the bylaws. The chairperson or, in the chairperson's absence or disability, the vice-chairperson, shall preside at all meetings of the interstate commission. The officers so elected shall serve without compensation or remuneration from the interstate commission, provided that, subject to the availability of budgeted funds, the officers shall be reimbursed for ordinary and necessary costs and expenses incurred by them in the performance of their responsibilities as officers of the interstate commission.

C. Executive committee, officers and personnel.

1. The executive committee shall have such authority and duties as may be set forth in the bylaws, including but not limited to:

(a) Managing the affairs of the interstate commission in a manner consistent with the bylaws and purposes of the interstate commission.

(b) Overseeing an organizational structure within, and appropriate procedures for the interstate commission to provide for the creation of rules, operating procedures and administrative and technical support functions.

(c) Planning, implementing and coordinating communications and activities with other state, federal and local government organizations in order to advance the goals of the interstate commission.

2. The executive committee, subject to the approval of the interstate commission, may appoint or retain an executive director for such period, on such terms and conditions and for such compensation as the interstate commission may deem appropriate. The executive director shall serve as secretary to the interstate commission, but shall not be a member of the interstate commission. The executive director shall hire and supervise such other persons as may be authorized by the interstate commission.

D. The interstate commission's executive director and employees shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for a claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused or arising out of or relating to an actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred, or that such person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred, within the scope of interstate commission employment, duties or responsibilities, provided, that such person shall not be protected from suit or liability for damage, loss, injury or liability caused by the intentional or wilful and wanton misconduct of such person.

1. The liability of the interstate commission's executive director and employees or interstate commission representatives, acting within the scope of their employment or duties for acts, errors or omissions occurring within their state may not exceed the limits of liability set forth under the constitution and laws of that state for state officials, employees and agents. The interstate commission is considered to be an instrumentality of the states for the purposes of any such action. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to protect such person from suit or liability for damage, loss, injury or liability caused by the intentional or wilful and wanton misconduct of such person.

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

of the member state represented by an interstate commission representative, shall defend such interstate commission representative in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of an actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of interstate commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that the defendant had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of interstate commission employment, duties or responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from intentional or wilful and wanton misconduct on the part of such person.

3. To the extent not covered by the state involved, the member state or the interstate commission, and the representatives or employees of the interstate commission shall be held harmless in the amount of a settlement or judgment, including attorney fees and costs, obtained against such persons arising out of an actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of interstate commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that such persons had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of interstate commission employment, duties or responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from intentional or wilful and wanton misconduct on the part of such persons.

ARTICLE XII

RULE MAKING FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION

A. Rule making authority - The interstate commission shall promulgate reasonable rules in order to effectively and efficiently achieve the purposes of this compact. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the interstate commission exercises its rule making authority in a manner that is beyond the scope of the purposes of this act, or the powers granted hereunder, such an action by the interstate commission shall be invalid and have no force or effect.

B. Rule making procedure - Rules shall be made pursuant to a rule making process that substantially conforms to the model state administrative procedure act of 1981, uniform laws annotated, vol. 15, p.1 (2000), as amended, as may be appropriate to the operations of the interstate commission.

C. Not later than thirty days after a rule is promulgated, any person may file a petition for judicial review of the rule, provided that the filing of such a petition shall not stay or otherwise prevent the rule from becoming effective unless the court finds that the petitioner has a substantial likelihood of success. The court shall give deference to the actions of the interstate commission consistent with applicable law and shall not find the rule to be unlawful if the rule represents a reasonable exercise of the interstate commission's authority.

D. If a majority of the legislatures of the compacting states reject a rule by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the compact, such rule shall have no further force and effect in any compacting state.

ARTICLE XIII

OVERSIGHT, ENFORCEMENT AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

A. Oversight.

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

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

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

B. Default, technical assistance, suspension and termination - If the interstate commission determines that a member state has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this compact, or the bylaws or promulgated rules, the interstate commission shall:

1. Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other member states of the nature of the default, the means of curing the default and any action taken by the interstate commission. The interstate commission shall specify the conditions by which the defaulting state must cure its default.

2. Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance regarding the default.

3. If the defaulting state fails to cure the default, the defaulting state shall be terminated from the compact on an affirmative vote of a majority of the member states and all rights, privileges and benefits conferred by this compact shall be terminated

from the effective date of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of the default.

4. Suspension or termination of membership in the compact shall be imposed only after all other means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be given by the interstate commission to the governor, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature and each of the member states.

5. The state that has been suspended or terminated is responsible for all assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective date of suspension or termination, including obligations, the performance of which extends beyond the effective date of suspension or termination.

6. The interstate commission shall not bear any costs relating to any state that has been found to be in default or that has been suspended or terminated from the compact, unless otherwise mutually agreed on in writing between the interstate commission and the defaulting state.

7. The defaulting state may appeal the action of the interstate commission by petitioning the United States district court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the interstate commission has its principal offices. The prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney fees.

C. Dispute resolution.

1. The interstate commission, on the request of a member state, shall attempt to resolve disputes that are subject to the compact and that may arise among member states and between member and nonmember states.

2. The interstate commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.

D. Enforcement.

1. The interstate commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the provisions and rules of this compact.

2. The interstate commission, by majority vote of the members, may initiate legal action in the United States district court for the District of Columbia or, at the discretion of the interstate commission, in the federal district where the interstate commission has its principal offices, to enforce compliance with the provisions of this

compact and its promulgated rules and bylaws against a member state in default. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. If judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation including reasonable attorney's fees.

3. The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the interstate commission. The interstate commission may avail itself of any other remedies available under state law or the regulation of a profession.

ARTICLE XIV

FINANCING OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION

A. The interstate commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization and ongoing activities.

B. The interstate commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each member state to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the interstate commission and its staff, which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover the interstate commission's annual budget as approved each year. The aggregate annual assessment amount shall be allocated based on a formula to be determined by the interstate commission, which shall promulgate a rule binding on all member states.

C. The interstate commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same, nor shall the interstate commission pledge the credit of any of the member states, except by and with the authority of the member state.

D. The interstate commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the interstate commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the interstate commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the interstate commission.

ARTICLE XV

MEMBER STATES, EFFECTIVE DATE AND AMENDMENT

A. Any state is eligible to become a member state.

B. This compact shall become effective and binding on legislative enactment of the compact into law by at least ten of the states. The effective date shall be no earlier than December 1, 2007. Thereafter it shall become effective and binding as to any other member state on enactment of the compact into law by that state. The governors of nonmember states or their designees shall be invited to participate in the activities of the interstate commission on a nonvoting basis prior to adoption of the compact by all states.

C. The interstate commission may propose amendments to the compact for enactment by the member states. No amendment shall become effective and binding on the interstate commission and the member states unless and until it is enacted into law by unanimous consent of the member states.

ARTICLE XVI

WITHDRAWAL AND DISSOLUTION

A. Withdrawal.

1. Once effective, the compact shall continue in force and remain binding on each and every member state, provided that a member state may withdraw from the compact specifically repealing the statute that enacted the compact into law.

2. Withdrawal from this compact shall be by the enactment of a statute repealing the same, but shall not take effect until one year after the effective date of such statute and until written notice of the withdrawal has been given by the withdrawing state to the governor of each other member jurisdiction.

3. The withdrawing state shall immediately notify the chairperson of the interstate commission in writing on the introduction of legislation repealing this compact in the withdrawing state. The interstate commission shall notify the other member states of the withdrawing state's intent to withdraw within sixty days of its receipt thereof.

4. The withdrawing state is responsible for all assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective date of withdrawal, including obligations, the performance of which extend beyond the effective date of withdrawal.

5. Reinstatement following withdrawal of a member state shall occur on the withdrawing state reenacting the compact or on such later date as determined by the interstate commission.

B. Dissolution of compact.

1. This compact shall dissolve effective on the date of the withdrawal or default of the member state which reduces the membership in the compact to one member state.
2. On the dissolution of this compact, the compact becomes null and void and shall be of no further force or effect, and the business and affairs of the interstate commission shall be concluded and surplus funds shall be distributed in accordance with the bylaws.

ARTICLE XVII

SEVERABILITY AND CONSTRUCTION

- A. The provisions of this compact shall be severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision is deemed unenforceable, the remaining provisions of the compact shall be enforceable.
- B. The provisions of this compact shall be liberally construed to effectuate its purposes.
- C. Nothing in this compact shall be construed to prohibit the applicability of other interstate compacts to which the states are members.

ARTICLE XVIII

BINDING EFFECT OF COMPACT AND OTHER LAWS

- A. Other laws.
 1. Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other law of a member state that is not inconsistent with this compact.
 2. All member states' laws conflicting with this compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.
- B. Binding effect of the compact.
 1. All lawful actions of the interstate commission, including all rules and bylaws promulgated by the interstate commission, are binding upon the member states.
 2. All agreements between the interstate commission and the member states are binding in accordance with their terms.

3. If any provision of this compact exceeds the constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of any member state, such provision shall be ineffective to the extent of the conflict with the constitutional provision in question in that member state.