

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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SENATE BILL 879

Short Title: PA Licensure Interstate Compact. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Hise (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

May 6, 2024

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PA LICENSURE COMPACT FOR THE LICENSURE OF  
3 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article  
6 to read:

7 "Article 18J.

8 "PA Licensure Compact.

9 **"§ 90-270.200. Purpose.**

10 In order to strengthen access to Medical Services, and in recognition of the advances in the  
11 delivery of Medical Services, the Participating States of the PA Licensure Compact have allied  
12 in common purpose to develop a comprehensive process that complements the existing authority  
13 of State Licensing Boards to license and discipline PAs and seeks to enhance the portability of  
14 License to practice as a PA while safeguarding the safety of patients. This Compact allows  
15 Medical Services to be provided by PAs, via the mutual recognition of the Licensee's Qualifying  
16 License by other Compact Participating States. This Compact also adopts the prevailing standard  
17 for PA licensure and affirms that the practice and delivery of Medical Services by the PA occurs  
18 where the patient is located at the time of the patient encounter, and therefore requires the PA to  
19 be under the jurisdiction of the State Licensing Board where the patient is located. State Licensing  
20 Boards that participate in this Compact retain the jurisdiction to impose Adverse Action against  
21 a Compact Privilege in that State issued to a PA through the procedures of this Compact. The PA  
22 Licensure Compact will alleviate burdens for military families by allowing active duty military  
23 personnel and their spouses to obtain a Compact Privilege based on having an unrestricted  
24 License in good standing from a Participating State.

25 **"§ 90-270.201. Definitions.**

26 The following definitions apply in this Compact:

- 27 (1) Adverse Action. – Any administrative, civil, equitable, or criminal action  
28 permitted by a State's laws which is imposed by a Licensing Board or other  
29 authority against a PA License or License application or Compact Privilege  
30 such as License denial, censure, revocation, suspension, probation,  
31 monitoring of the Licensee, or restriction on the Licensee's practice.  
32 (2) Compact Privilege. – The authorization granted by a Remote State to allow a  
33 Licensee from another Participating State to practice as a PA to provide  
34 Medical Services and other licensed activity to a patient located in the Remote  
35 State under the Remote State's laws and regulations.  
36 (3) Conviction. – A finding by a court that an individual is guilty of a felony or



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- 1 misdemeanor offense through adjudication or entry of a plea of guilt or no  
2 contest to the charge by the offender
- 3 (4) Criminal Background Check. – The submission of fingerprints or other  
4 biometric-based information for a License applicant for the purpose of  
5 obtaining that applicant's criminal history record information, as defined in 28  
6 C.F.R. § 20.3(d), from the State's criminal history record repository, as  
7 defined in 28 C.F.R. § 20.3(f).
- 8 (5) Data System. – The repository of information about Licensees, including but  
9 not limited to License status and Adverse Actions, which is created and  
10 administered under the terms of this Compact.
- 11 (6) Executive Committee. – A group of directors and ex-officio individuals  
12 elected or appointed pursuant to G.S. 90-270.206(f)(2).
- 13 (7) Impaired Practitioner. – A PA whose practice is adversely affected by  
14 health-related condition(s) that impact their ability to practice.
- 15 (8) Investigative Information. – Information, records, or documents received or  
16 generated by a Licensing Board pursuant to an investigation.
- 17 (9) Jurisprudence Requirement. – The assessment of an individual's knowledge  
18 of the laws and Rules governing the practice of a PA in a State.
- 19 (10) License. – Current authorization by a State, other than authorization pursuant  
20 to a Compact Privilege, for a PA to provide Medical Services, which would  
21 be unlawful without current authorization.
- 22 (11) Licensee. – An individual who holds a License from a State to provide  
23 Medical Services as a PA.
- 24 (12) Licensing Board. – Any State entity authorized to license and otherwise  
25 regulate PAs.
- 26 (13) Medical Services. – Health care services provided for the diagnosis,  
27 prevention, treatment, cure, or relief of a health condition, injury, or disease,  
28 as defined by a State's laws and regulations.
- 29 (14) Model Compact. – The model for the PA Licensure Compact on file with The  
30 Council of State Governments or other entity as designated by the  
31 Commission.
- 32 (15) Participating State. – A State that has enacted this Compact.
- 33 (16) PA. – An individual who is licensed as a physician assistant in a State. For  
34 purposes of this Compact, any other title or status adopted by a State to replace  
35 the term "physician assistant" shall be deemed synonymous with "physician  
36 assistant" and shall confer the same rights and responsibilities to the Licensee  
37 under the provisions of this Compact at the time of its enactment.
- 38 (17) PA Licensure Compact Commission, Compact Commission, or Commission.  
39 – The national administrative body created pursuant to G.S. 90-270.206(f)(2)  
40 of this Compact.
- 41 (18) Qualifying License. – An unrestricted License issued by a Participating State  
42 to provide Medical Services as a PA.
- 43 (19) Remote State. – A Participating State where a Licensee who is not licensed as  
44 a PA is exercising or seeking to exercise the Compact Privilege.
- 45 (20) Rule. – A regulation promulgated by an entity that has the force and effect of  
46 law.
- 47 (21) Significant Investigative Information. – Investigative Information that a  
48 Licensing Board, after an inquiry or investigation that includes notification  
49 and an opportunity for the PA to respond if required by State law, has reason  
50 to believe is not groundless and, if proven true, would indicate more than a  
51 minor infraction.

1           (22) State. – Any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States.

2 **"§ 90-270.202. State Participation in this Compact.**

3       (a) To participate in this Compact, a Participating State shall:

4           (1) License PAs.

5           (2) Participate in the Compact Commission's Data System.

6           (3) Have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints against  
7 Licensees and License applicants.

8           (4) Notify the Commission, in compliance with the terms of this Compact and  
9 Commission Rules, of any Adverse Action against a Licensee or License  
10 applicant and the existence of Significant Investigative Information regarding  
11 a Licensee or License applicant.

12           (5) Fully implement a Criminal Background Check requirement, within a time  
13 frame established by Commission Rule, by its Licensing Board receiving the  
14 results of a Criminal Background Check and reporting to the Commission  
15 whether the License applicant has been granted a License.

16           (6) Comply with the Rules of the Compact Commission.

17           (7) Utilize passage of a recognized national exam such as the NCCPA PANCE as  
18 a requirement for PA licensure.

19           (8) Grant the Compact Privilege to a holder of a Qualifying License in a  
20 Participating State.

21       (b) Nothing in this Compact prohibits a Participating State from charging a fee for  
22 granting the Compact Privilege.

23 **"§ 90-270.203. Compact Privilege.**

24       (a) To exercise the Compact Privilege, a Licensee must:

25           (1) Have graduated from a PA program accredited by the Accreditation Review  
26 Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. or other programs  
27 authorized by Commission Rule.

28           (2) Hold current NCCPA certification.

29           (3) Have no felony or misdemeanor Conviction.

30           (4) Have never had a controlled substance license, permit, or registration  
31 suspended or revoked by a State or by the United States Drug Enforcement  
32 Administration.

33           (5) Have a unique identifier as determined by Commission Rule.

34           (6) Hold a Qualifying License.

35           (7) Have had no revocation of a License or limitation or restriction on any License  
36 currently held due to an adverse action.

37           (8) If a Licensee has had a limitation or restriction on a License or Compact  
38 Privilege due to an Adverse Action, two years must have elapsed from the  
39 date on which the License or Compact Privilege is no longer limited or  
40 restricted due to the Adverse Action.

41           (9) If a Compact Privilege has been revoked or is limited or restricted in a  
42 Participating State for conduct that would not be a basis for disciplinary action  
43 in a Participating State in which the Licensee is practicing or applying to  
44 practice under a Compact Privilege, that Participating State shall have the  
45 discretion not to consider such action as an Adverse Action requiring the  
46 denial or removal of a Compact Privilege in that State.

47           (10) Notify the Compact Commission that the Licensee is seeking the Compact  
48 Privilege in a Remote State.

49           (11) Meet any Jurisprudence Requirement of a Remote State in which the Licensee  
50 is seeking to practice under the Compact Privilege and pay any fees applicable  
51 to satisfying the Jurisprudence Requirement.

1           (12) Report to the Commission any Adverse Action taken by a non-participating  
2           State within thirty (30) days after the action is taken.

3           (b) The Compact Privilege is valid until the expiration or revocation of the Qualifying  
4 License unless terminated pursuant to an Adverse Action. The Licensee must also comply with  
5 all of the requirements of Subsection A above to maintain the Compact Privilege in a Remote  
6 State. If the Participating State takes Adverse Action against a Qualifying License, the Licensee  
7 shall lose the Compact Privilege in any Remote State in which the Licensee has a Compact  
8 Privilege until all of the following occur:

9           (1) The License is no longer limited or restricted; and

10          (2) Two (2) years have elapsed from the date on which the License is no longer  
11 limited or restricted due to the Adverse Action.

12          (c) Once a restricted or limited License satisfies the requirements of subdivisions (b)(1)  
13 and (2) of this section, the Licensee must meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section  
14 to obtain a Compact Privilege in any Remote State.

15          (d) For each Remote State in which a PA seeks authority to prescribe controlled  
16 substances, the PA shall satisfy all requirements imposed by such State in granting or renewing  
17 such authority.

18 **"§ 90-270.204. Designation of the State from Which Licensee is Applying for a Compact**  
19 **Privilege.**

20          (a) Upon a Licensee's application for a Compact Privilege, the Licensee shall identify to  
21 the Commission the Participating State from which the Licensee is applying, in accordance with  
22 applicable Rules adopted by the Commission, and subject to the following requirements:

23          (1) When applying for a Compact Privilege, the Licensee shall provide the  
24 Commission with the address of the Licensee's primary residence and  
25 thereafter shall immediately report to the Commission any change in the  
26 address of the Licensee's primary residence.

27          (2) When applying for a Compact Privilege, the Licensee is required to consent  
28 to accept service of process by mail at the Licensee's primary residence on file  
29 with the Commission with respect to any action brought against the Licensee  
30 by the Commission or a Participating State, including a subpoena, with respect  
31 to any action brought or investigation conducted by the Commission or a  
32 Participating State.

33 **"§ 90-270.205. Adverse Actions.**

34          (a) A Participating State in which a Licensee is licensed shall have exclusive power to  
35 impose Adverse Action against the Qualifying License issued by that Participating State.

36          (b) In addition to the other powers conferred by State law, a Remote State shall have the  
37 authority, in accordance with existing State due process law, to do all of the following:

38          (1) Take Adverse Action against a PA's Compact Privilege within that State to  
39 remove a Licensee's Compact Privilege or take other action necessary under  
40 applicable law to protect the health and safety of its citizens.

41          (2) Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the  
42 attendance and testimony of witnesses as well as the production of evidence.  
43 Subpoenas issued by a Licensing Board in a Participating State for the  
44 attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of evidence from  
45 another Participating State shall be enforced in the latter State by any court of  
46 competent jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure of that court  
47 applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before it. The issuing  
48 authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage and other fees  
49 required by the service statutes of the State in which the witnesses or evidence  
50 are located.

1           (3) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection, subpoenas may not be  
2 issued by a Participating State to gather evidence of conduct in another State  
3 that is lawful in that other State for the purpose of taking Adverse Action  
4 against a Licensee's Compact Privilege or application for a Compact Privilege  
5 in that Participating State.

6           (4) Nothing in this Compact authorizes a Participating State to impose discipline  
7 against a PA's Compact Privilege or to deny an application for a Compact  
8 Privilege in that Participating State for the individual's otherwise lawful  
9 practice in another State.

10       (c) For purposes of taking Adverse Action, the Participating State which issued the  
11 Qualifying License shall give the same priority and effect to reported conduct received from any  
12 other Participating State as it would if the conduct had occurred within the Participating State  
13 which issued the Qualifying License. In so doing, that Participating State shall apply its own  
14 State laws to determine appropriate action.

15       (d) A Participating State, if otherwise permitted by State law, may recover from the  
16 affected PA the costs of investigations and disposition of cases resulting from any Adverse  
17 Action taken against that PA.

18       (e) A Participating State may take Adverse Action based on the factual findings of a  
19 Remote State, provided that the Participating State follows its own procedures for taking the  
20 Adverse Action.

21       (f) Joint Investigations. –

22           (1) In addition to the authority granted to a Participating State by its respective  
23 State PA laws and regulations or other applicable State law, any Participating  
24 State may participate with other Participating States in joint investigations of  
25 Licensees.

26           (2) Participating States shall share any investigative, litigation, or compliance  
27 materials in furtherance of any joint or individual investigation initiated under  
28 this Compact.

29       (g) If an Adverse Action is taken against a PA's Qualifying License, the PA's Compact  
30 Privilege in all Remote States shall be deactivated until two (2) years have elapsed after all  
31 restrictions have been removed from the State License. All disciplinary orders by the  
32 Participating State which issued the Qualifying License that impose Adverse Action against a  
33 PA's License shall include a Statement that the PA's Compact Privilege is deactivated in all  
34 Participating States during the pendency of the order.

35       (h) If any Participating State takes Adverse Action, it promptly shall notify the  
36 administrator of the Data System.

37 **"§ 90-270.206. Establishment of the PA Licensure Compact Commission.**

38       (a) The Participating States hereby create and establish a joint government agency and  
39 national administrative body known as the PA Licensure Compact Commission. The  
40 Commission is an instrumentality of the Compact States acting jointly and not an instrumentality  
41 of any one State. The Commission shall come into existence on or after the effective date of the  
42 Compact as set forth in G.S. 90-270-210(a).

43       (b) Membership, Voting, and Meetings:

44           (1) Each Participating State shall have and be limited to one (1) delegate selected  
45 by that Participating State's Licensing Board or, if the State has more than one  
46 Licensing Board, selected collectively by the Participating State's Licensing  
47 Boards.

48           (2) The delegate shall be either:

49           a. A current PA, physician or public member of a Licensing Board or PA  
50 Council/Committee; or

51           b. An administrator of a Licensing Board.

- 1           (3)    Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office as provided by the  
2           laws of the State from which the delegate is appointed.
- 3           (4)    The Participating State Licensing Board shall fill any vacancy occurring in the  
4           Commission within sixty (60) days.
- 5           (5)    Each delegate shall be entitled to one (1) vote on all matters voted on by the  
6           Commission and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the  
7           business and affairs of the Commission. A delegate shall vote in person or by  
8           such other means as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for  
9           delegates' participation in meetings by telecommunications, video conference,  
10          or other means of communication.
- 11          (6)    The Commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year.  
12          Additional meetings shall be held as set forth in this Compact and the bylaws.
- 13          (7)    The Commission shall establish by Rule a term of office for delegates.
- 14    (c)    The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:
- 15          (1)    Establish a code of ethics for the Commission;
- 16          (2)    Establish the fiscal year of the Commission;
- 17          (3)    Establish fees;
- 18          (4)    Establish bylaws;
- 19          (5)    Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws;
- 20          (6)    Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the provisions of this  
21          Compact and the bylaws;
- 22          (7)    Promulgate Rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and  
23          administration of this Compact. The Rules shall have the force and effect of  
24          law and shall be binding in all Participating States;
- 25          (8)    Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the  
26          Commission, provided that the standing of any State Licensing Board to sue  
27          or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected;
- 28          (9)    Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;
- 29          (10)   Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including, but not  
30          limited to, employees of a Participating State;
- 31          (11)   Hire employees and engage contractors, elect or appoint officers, fix  
32          compensation, define duties, grant such individuals appropriate authority to  
33          carry out the purposes of this Compact, and establish the Commission's  
34          personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications  
35          of personnel, and other related personnel matters;
- 36          (12)   Accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money, equipment,  
37          supplies, materials and services, and receive, utilize and dispose of the same;  
38          provided that at all times the Commission shall avoid any appearance of  
39          impropriety or conflict of interest;
- 40          (13)   Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise own,  
41          hold, improve or use, any property, real, personal or mixed; provided that at  
42          all times the Commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety;
- 43          (14)   Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise  
44          dispose of any property real, personal, or mixed;
- 45          (15)   Establish a budget and make expenditures;
- 46          (16)   Borrow money;
- 47          (17)   Appoint committees, including standing committees composed of members,  
48          State regulators, State legislators or their representatives, and consumer  
49          representatives, and such other interested persons as may be designated in this  
50          Compact and the bylaws;

- 1           (18) Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law enforcement  
2           agencies;
- 3           (19) Elect a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and such other officers of  
4           the Commission as provided in the Commission's bylaws.
- 5           (20) Reserve for itself, in addition to those reserved exclusively to the Commission  
6           under the Compact, powers that the Executive Committee may not exercise;
- 7           (21) Approve or disapprove a State's participation in the Compact based upon its  
8           determination as to whether the State's Compact legislation departs in a  
9           material manner from the Model Compact language;
- 10          (22) Prepare and provide to the Participating States an annual report; and
- 11          (23) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve  
12          the purposes of this Compact consistent with the State regulation of PA  
13          licensure and practice.
- 14          (d) Meetings of the Commission:
- 15           (1) All meetings of the Commission that are not closed pursuant to this subsection  
16           shall be open to the public. Notice of public meetings shall be posted on the  
17           Commission's website at least thirty (30) days prior to the public meeting.
- 18           (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Commission may  
19           convene a public meeting by providing at least twenty-four (24) hours prior  
20           notice on the Commission's website, and any other means as provided in the  
21           Commission's Rules, for any of the reasons it may dispense with notice of  
22           proposed rulemaking under G.S. 90-270.208(I).
- 23           (3) The Commission may convene in a closed, non-public meeting or non-  
24           public part of a public meeting to receive legal advice or to discuss:
- 25           a. Non-compliance of a Participating State with its obligations under this  
26           Compact;
- 27           b. The employment, compensation, discipline or other matters, practices  
28           or procedures related to specific employees or other matters related  
29           to the Commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;
- 30           c. Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation;
- 31           d. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or sale of goods,  
32           services, or real estate;
- 33           e. Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;
- 34           f. Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information that  
35           is privileged or confidential;
- 36           g. Disclosure of information of a personal nature where disclosure would  
37           constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- 38           h. Disclosure of investigative records compiled for law enforcement  
39           purposes;
- 40           i. Disclosure of information related to any investigative reports prepared  
41           by or on behalf of or for use of the Commission or other committee  
42           charged with responsibility of investigation or determination of  
43           compliance issues pursuant to this Compact;
- 44           j. Legal advice; or
- 45           k. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or  
46           Participating States' statutes.
- 47           (4) If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to this provision, the  
48           chair of the meeting or the chair's designee shall certify that the meeting or  
49           portion of the meeting may be closed and shall reference each relevant  
50           exempting provision.

- 1           (5)    The Commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters  
2           discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of  
3           actions taken, including a description of the views expressed. All documents  
4           considered in connection with an action shall be identified in such minutes.  
5           All minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal,  
6           subject to release by a majority vote of the Commission or order of a court of  
7           competent jurisdiction.
- 8       (e)    Financing of the Commission:
- 9           (1)    The Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable  
10          expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.
- 11          (2)    The Commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue sources,  
12          donations, and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services.
- 13          (3)    The Commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each  
14          Participating State and may impose Compact Privilege fees on Licensees of  
15          Participating States to whom a Compact Privilege is granted to cover the cost  
16          of the operations and activities of the Commission and its staff, which must  
17          be in a total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved by the  
18          Commission each year for which revenue is not provided by other sources.  
19          The aggregate annual assessment amount levied on Participating States shall  
20          be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by Commission Rule.
- 21           a.     A Compact Privilege expires when the Licensee's Qualifying License  
22           in the Participating State from which the Licensee applied for the  
23           Compact Privilege expires.
- 24           b.     If the Licensee terminates the Qualifying License through which the  
25           Licensee applied for the Compact Privilege before its scheduled  
26           expiration, and the Licensee has a Qualifying License in another  
27           Participating State, the Licensee shall inform the Commission that it  
28           is changing to that Participating State the Participating State through  
29           which it applies for a Compact Privilege and pay to the Commission  
30           any Compact Privilege fee required by Commission Rule.
- 31          (4)    The Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the  
32          funds adequate to meet the same; nor shall the Commission pledge the credit  
33          of any of the Participating States, except by and with the authority of the  
34          Participating State.
- 35          (5)    The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and  
36          disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the Commission shall be  
37          subject to the financial review and accounting procedures established under  
38          its bylaws. All receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the  
39          Commission shall be subject to an annual financial review by a certified or  
40          licensed public accountant, and the report of the financial review shall be  
41          included in and become part of the annual report of the Commission.
- 42       (f)    The Executive Committee:
- 43           (1)    The Executive Committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the  
44           Commission according to the terms of this Compact and Commission Rules.
- 45           (2)    The Executive Committee shall be composed of nine (9) members:
- 46           a.     Seven voting members who are elected by the Commission from the  
47           current membership of the Commission;
- 48           b.     One ex-officio, nonvoting member from a recognized national PA  
49           professional association; and
- 50           c.     One ex-officio, nonvoting member from a recognized national PA  
51           certification organization.



- 1           (3)    The ex-officio members will be selected by their respective organizations.  
2           (4)    The Commission may remove any member of the Executive Committee as  
3           provided in its bylaws.  
4           (5)    The Executive Committee shall meet at least annually.  
5           (6)    The Executive Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:  
6           a.     Recommend to the Commission changes to the Commission's Rules  
7           or bylaws, changes to this Compact legislation, fees to be paid by  
8           Compact Participating States such as annual dues, and any  
9           Commission Compact fee charged to Licensees for the Compact  
10           Privilege;  
11           b.     Ensure Compact administration services are appropriately provided,  
12           contractual or otherwise;  
13           c.     Prepare and recommend the budget;  
14           d.     Maintain financial records on behalf of the Commission;  
15           e.     Monitor Compact compliance of Participating States and provide  
16           compliance reports to the Commission;  
17           f.     Establish additional committees as necessary;  
18           g.     Exercise the powers and duties of the Commission during the interim  
19           between Commission meetings, except for issuing proposed  
20           rulemaking or adopting Commission Rules or bylaws, or exercising  
21           any other powers and duties exclusively reserved to the Commission  
22           by the Commission's Rules; and  
23           h.     Perform other duties as provided in the Commission's Rules or bylaws.  
24           (7)    All meeting of the Executive Committee at which it votes or plans to vote on  
25           matters in exercising the powers and duties of the Commission shall be open  
26           to the public and public notice of such meetings shall be given as public  
27           meetings of the Commission are given.  
28           (8)    The Executive Committee may convene in a closed, non-public meeting for  
29           the same reasons that the Commission may convene in a non-public meeting  
30           as set forth in G.S. 90-270.206(d)(3) and shall announce the closed meeting  
31           as the Commission is required to under G.S. 90-270.206(d)(3) and keep  
32           minutes of the closed meeting as the Commission is required to under  
33           G.S. 90-270.206(d)(3).  
34           (g)    Qualified Immunity, Defense, and Indemnification:  
35           (1)    The members, officers, executive director, employees and representatives of  
36           the Commission shall be immune from suit and liability, both personally and  
37           in their official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or  
38           personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual or  
39           alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom  
40           the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the  
41           scope of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that  
42           nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to protect any such person from  
43           suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the  
44           intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person. The procurement  
45           of insurance of any type by the Commission shall not in any way compromise  
46           or limit the immunity granted hereunder.  
47           (2)    The Commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director,  
48           employee, and representative of the Commission in any civil action seeking  
49           to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission  
50           that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or  
51           responsibilities, or as determined by the commission that the person against

1 whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within  
2 the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities; provided  
3 that nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit that person from retaining  
4 their own counsel at their own expense; and provided further, that the actual  
5 or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from that person's intentional  
6 or willful or wanton misconduct.

7 (3) The Commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer,  
8 executive director, employee, and representative of the Commission for the  
9 amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out  
10 of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope  
11 of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that such person  
12 had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission  
13 employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act,  
14 error, or omission did not result from the intentional or willful or wanton  
15 misconduct of that person.

16 (4) Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the Commission shall  
17 be brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where  
18 the principal office of the Commission is located. The Commission may waive  
19 venue and jurisdictional defenses in any proceedings as authorized by  
20 Commission Rules.

21 (5) Nothing herein shall be construed as a limitation on the liability of any  
22 Licensee for professional malpractice or misconduct, which shall be governed  
23 solely by any other applicable State laws.

24 (6) Nothing herein shall be construed to designate the venue or jurisdiction to  
25 bring actions for alleged acts of malpractice, professional misconduct,  
26 negligence, or other such civil action pertaining to the practice of a PA. All  
27 such matters shall be determined exclusively by State law other than this  
28 Compact.

29 (7) Nothing in this Compact shall be interpreted to waive or otherwise abrogate a  
30 Participating State's state action immunity or state action affirmative defense  
31 with respect to antitrust claims under the Sherman Act, Clayton Act, or any  
32 other State or federal antitrust or anticompetitive law or regulation.

33 (8) Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign  
34 immunity by the Participating States or by the Commission.

35 **"§ 90-270.207. Data System.**

36 (a) The Commission shall provide for the development, maintenance, operation, and  
37 utilization of a coordinated data and reporting system containing licensure, Adverse Action, and  
38 the reporting of the existence of Significant Investigative Information on all licensed PAs and  
39 applicants denied a License in Participating States.

40 (b) Notwithstanding any other State law to the contrary, a Participating State shall submit  
41 a uniform data set to the Data System on all PAs to whom this Compact is applicable (utilizing  
42 a unique identifier) as required by the Rules of the Commission, including:

43 (1) Identifying information;

44 (2) Licensure data;

45 (3) Adverse Actions against a License or Compact Privilege;

46 (4) Any denial of application for licensure, and the reason(s) for such denial  
47 (excluding the reporting of any criminal history record information where  
48 prohibited by law);

49 (5) The existence of Significant Investigative Information; and

50 (6) Other information that may facilitate the administration of this Compact, as  
51 determined by the Rules of the Commission.

1       (c) Significant Investigative Information pertaining to a Licensee in any Participating  
2 State shall only be available to other Participating States.

3       (d) The Commission shall promptly notify all Participating States of any Adverse Action  
4 taken against a Licensee or an individual applying for a License that has been reported to it. This  
5 Adverse Action information shall be available to any other Participating State.

6       (e) Participating States contributing information to the Data System may, in accordance  
7 with State or federal law, designate information that may not be shared with the public without  
8 the express permission of the contributing State. Notwithstanding any such designation, such  
9 information shall be reported to the Commission through the Data System.

10       (f) Any information submitted to the Data System that is subsequently expunged  
11 pursuant to federal law or the laws of the Participating State contributing the information shall  
12 be removed from the Data System upon reporting of such by the Participating State to the  
13 Commission.

14       (g) The records and information provided to a Participating State pursuant to this  
15 Compact or through the Data System, when certified by the Commission or an agent thereof,  
16 shall constitute the authenticated business records of the Commission, and shall be entitled to  
17 any associated hearsay exception in any relevant judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative  
18 proceedings in a Participating State.

19 **"§ 90-270.208. Rulemaking.**

20       (a) The Commission shall exercise its Rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set  
21 forth in this Section and the Rules adopted thereunder. Commission Rules shall become binding  
22 as of the date specified by the Commission for each Rule.

23       (b) The Commission shall promulgate reasonable Rules in order to effectively and  
24 efficiently implement and administer this Compact and achieve its purposes. A Commission Rule  
25 shall be invalid and have not force or effect only if a court of competent jurisdiction holds that  
26 the Rule is invalid because the Commission exercised its rulemaking authority in a manner that  
27 is beyond the scope of the purposes of this Compact, or the powers granted hereunder, or based  
28 upon another applicable standard of review.

29       (c) The Rules of the Commission shall have the force of law in each Participating State,  
30 provided however that where the Rules of the Commission conflict with the laws of the  
31 Participating State that establish the medical services a PA may perform in the Participating State,  
32 as held by a court of competent jurisdiction, the Rules of the Commission shall be ineffective in  
33 that State to the extent of the conflict.

34       (d) If a majority of the legislatures of the Participating States rejects a Commission Rule,  
35 by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt this Compact within  
36 four (4) years of the date of adoption of the Rule, then such Rule shall have no further force and  
37 effect in any Participating State or to any State applying to participate in the Compact.

38       (e) Commission Rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the  
39 Commission.

40       (f) Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final Rule or Rules by the Commission, and  
41 at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting at which the Rule will be considered and voted  
42 upon, the Commission shall file a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:

- 43           (1) On the website of the Commission or other publicly accessible platform; and  
44           (2) To persons who have requested notice of the Commission's notices of  
45               proposed rulemaking, and  
46           (3) In such other way(s) as the Commission may by Rule specify.

47       (g) The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking shall include:

- 48           (1) The time, date, and location of the public hearing on the proposed Rule and  
49               the proposed time, date and location of the meeting in which the proposed  
50               Rule will be considered and voted upon;  
51           (2) The text of the proposed Rule and the reason for the proposed Rule;

- 1           (3)    A request for comments on the proposed Rule from any interested person and  
2           the date by which written comments must be received; and
- 3           (4)    The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the Commission  
4           of their intention to attend the public hearing or provide any written  
5           comments.
- 6           (h)    Prior to adoption of a proposed Rule, the Commission shall allow persons to submit  
7           written data, facts, opinions, and arguments, which shall be made available to the public.
- 8           (i)    If the hearing is to be held via electronic means, the Commission shall publish the  
9           mechanism for access to the electronic hearing.
- 10          (1)    All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing shall as directed in the Notice  
11          of Proposed Rulemaking, not less than five (5) business days before the  
12          scheduled date of the hearing, notify the Commission of their desire to appear  
13          and testify at the hearing.
- 14          (2)    Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each person who wishes  
15          to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in writing.
- 16          (3)    All hearings shall be recorded. A copy of the recording and the written  
17          comments, data, facts, opinions, and arguments received in response to the  
18          proposed rulemaking shall be made available to a person upon request.
- 19          (4)    Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a separate hearing on  
20          each proposed Rule. Proposed Rules may be grouped for the convenience of  
21          the Commission at hearings required by this section.
- 22          (j)    Following the public hearing the Commission shall consider all written and oral  
23          comments timely received.
- 24          (k)    The Commission shall, by majority vote of all delegates, take final action on the  
25          proposed Rule and shall determine the effective date of the Rule, if adopted, based on the  
26          Rulemaking record and the full text of the Rule.
- 27          (1)    If adopted, the Rule shall be posted on the Commission's website.
- 28          (2)    The Commission may adopt changes to the proposed Rule provided the  
29          changes do not enlarge the original purpose of the proposed Rule.
- 30          (3)    The Commission shall provide on its website an explanation of the reasons for  
31          substantive changes made to the proposed Rule as well as reasons for  
32          substantive changes not made that were recommended by commenters.
- 33          (4)    The Commission shall determine a reasonable effective date for the Rule.  
34          Except for an emergency as provided in subsection (l) of this section, the  
35          effective date of the Rule shall be no sooner than thirty (30) days after the  
36          Commission issued the notice that it adopted the Rule.
- 37          (l)    Upon determination that an emergency exists, the Commission may consider and  
38          adopt an emergency Rule with twenty-four (24) hours prior notice, without the opportunity for  
39          comment, or hearing, provided that the usual rulemaking procedures provided in this Compact  
40          and in this section shall be retroactively applied to the Rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no  
41          event later than ninety (90) days after the effective date of the Rule. For the purposes of this  
42          provision, an emergency Rule is one that must be adopted immediately by the Commission in  
43          order to:
- 44                  (1)    Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;
- 45                  (2)    Prevent a loss of Commission or Participating State funds;
- 46                  (3)    Meet a deadline for the promulgation of a Commission Rule that is established  
47                  by federal law or Rule; or
- 48                  (4)    Protect public health and safety.
- 49          (m)    The Commission or an authorized committee of the Commission may direct revisions  
50          to a previously adopted Commission Rule for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors  
51          in format, errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be

1 posted on the website of the Commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any  
2 person for a period of thirty (30) days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on  
3 grounds that the revision results in a material change to a Rule. A challenge shall be made as set  
4 forth in the notice of revisions and delivered to the Commission prior to the end of the notice  
5 period. If no challenge is made, the revision will take effect without further action. If the revision  
6 is challenged, the revision may not take effect without the approval of the Commission.

7 (n) No Participating State's rulemaking requirements shall apply under this Compact.

8 **"§ 90-270.209. Oversight, Dispute Resolution, and Enforcement.**

9 (a) Oversight:

10 (1) The executive and judicial branches of State government in each Participating  
11 State shall enforce this Compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate  
12 to implement the Compact.

13 (2) Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the Commission shall  
14 be brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where  
15 the principal office of the Commission is located. The Commission may waive  
16 venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to  
17 participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings. Nothing herein shall  
18 affect or limit the selection or propriety of venue in any action against a  
19 licensee for professional malpractice, misconduct or any such similar matter.

20 (3) The Commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any  
21 proceeding regarding the enforcement or interpretation of the Compact or the  
22 Commission's Rules and shall have standing to intervene in such a proceeding  
23 for all purposes. Failure to provide the Commission with service of process  
24 shall render a judgment or order in such proceeding void as to the  
25 Commission, this Compact, or Commission Rules.

26 (b) Default, Technical Assistance, and Termination:

27 (1) If the Commission determines that a Participating State has defaulted in the  
28 performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this Compact or the  
29 Commission Rules, the Commission shall provide written notice to the  
30 defaulting State and other Participating States. The notice shall describe the  
31 default, the proposed means of curing the default and any other action that the  
32 Commission may take and shall offer remedial training and specific technical  
33 assistance regarding the default.

34 (2) If a State in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting State may be  
35 terminated from this Compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the  
36 delegates of the Participating States, and all rights, privileges and benefits  
37 conferred by this Compact upon such State may be terminated on the effective  
38 date of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the offending State  
39 of obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of default.

40 (3) Termination of participation in this Compact shall be imposed only after all  
41 other means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to  
42 suspend or terminate shall be given by the Commission to the governor, the  
43 majority and minority leaders of the defaulting State's legislature, and to the  
44 Licensing Board(s) of each of the Participating States.

45 (4) A State that has been terminated is responsible for all assessments,  
46 obligations, and liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination,  
47 including obligations that extend beyond the effective date of termination.

48 (5) The Commission shall not bear any costs related to a State that is found to be  
49 in default or that has been terminated from this Compact, unless agreed upon  
50 in writing between the Commission and the defaulting State.

- 1           (6)    The defaulting State may appeal its termination from the Compact by the  
2           Commission by petitioning the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia  
3           or the federal district where the Commission has its principal offices. The  
4           prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including  
5           reasonable attorney's fees.
- 6           (7)    Upon the termination of a State's participation in the Compact, the State shall  
7           immediately provide notice to all Licensees within that State of such  
8           termination:
- 9           a.     Licensees who have been granted a Compact Privilege in that State  
10          shall retain the Compact Privilege for one hundred eighty (180) days  
11          following the effective date of such termination.
- 12          b.     Licensees who are licensed in that State who have been granted a  
13          Compact Privilege in a Participating State shall retain the Compact  
14          Privilege for one hundred eighty (180) days unless the Licensee also  
15          has a Qualifying License in a Participating State or obtains a  
16          Qualifying License in a Participating State before the one hundred  
17          eighty (180)-day period ends, in which case the Compact Privilege  
18          shall continue.
- 19       (c)    Dispute Resolution:
- 20          (1)    Upon request by a Participating State, the Commission shall attempt to resolve  
21          disputes related to this Compact that arise among Participating States and  
22          between participating and non-Participating States.
- 23          (2)    The Commission shall promulgate a Rule providing for both mediation and  
24          binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.
- 25       (d)    Enforcement:
- 26          (1)    The Commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the  
27          provisions of this Compact and Rules of the Commission.
- 28          (2)    If compliance is not secured after all means to secure compliance have been  
29          exhausted, by majority vote, the Commission may initiate legal action in the  
30          United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district  
31          where the Commission has its principal offices, against a Participating State  
32          in default to enforce compliance with the provisions of this Compact and the  
33          Commission's promulgated Rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include  
34          both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is  
35          necessary, the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation,  
36          including reasonable attorney's fees.
- 37          (3)    The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the Commission.  
38          The Commission may pursue any other remedies available under federal or  
39          State law.
- 40       (e)    Legal Action Against the Commission:
- 41          (1)    A Participating State may initiate legal action against the Commission in the  
42          U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where  
43          the Commission has its principal offices to enforce compliance with the  
44          provisions of the Compact and its Rules. The relief sought may include both  
45          injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary,  
46          the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including  
47          reasonable attorney's fees.
- 48          (2)    No person other than a Participating State shall enforce this Compact against  
49          the Commission.

50    "§ 90-270.210. Date of Implementation of the PA Licensure Compact Commission.

- 1        (a) This Compact shall come into effect on the date on which this Compact statute is  
2 enacted into law in the seventh Participating State.
- 3        (1) On or after the effective date of the Compact, the Commission shall convene  
4 and review the enactment of each of the States that enacted the Compact prior  
5 to the Commission convening ("Charter Participating States") to determine if  
6 the statute enacted by each such Charter Participating State is materially  
7 different than the Model Compact.
- 8        a. A Charter Participating State whose enactment is found to be  
9 materially different from the Model Compact shall be entitled to the  
10 default process set forth in G.S. 90-270.209(b).
- 11        b. If any Participating State later withdraws from the Compact or its  
12 participation is terminated, the Commission shall remain in existence  
13 and the Compact shall remain in effect even if the number of  
14 Participating States should be less than seven. Participating States  
15 enacting the Compact subsequent to the Commission convening shall  
16 be subject to the process set forth in G.S. 90-270.206(c)(21) to  
17 determine if their enactments are materially different from the Model  
18 Compact and whether they qualify for participation in the Compact.
- 19        (2) Participating States enacting the Compact subsequent to the seven initial  
20 Charter Participating States shall be subject to the process set forth in  
21 G.S. 90-270.206(c)(21) to determine if their enactments are materially  
22 different from the Model Compact and whether they qualify for participation  
23 in the Compact.
- 24        (3) All actions taken for the benefit of the Commission or in furtherance of the  
25 purposes of the administration of the Compact prior to the effective date of  
26 the Compact or the Commission coming into existence shall be considered to  
27 be actions of the Commission unless specifically repudiated by the  
28 Commission.
- 29        (b) Any State that joins this Compact shall be subject to the Commission's Rules and  
30 bylaws as they exist on the date on which this Compact becomes law in that State. Any Rule that  
31 has been previously adopted by the Commission shall have the full force and effect of law on the  
32 day this Compact becomes law in that State.
- 33        (c) Any Participating State may withdraw from this Compact by enacting a statute  
34 repealing the same.
- 35        (1) A Participating State's withdrawal shall not take effect until one hundred  
36 eighty (180) days after enactment of the repealing statute. During this one  
37 hundred eighty (180) day-period, all Compact Privileges that were in effect in  
38 the withdrawing State and were granted to Licensees licensed in the  
39 withdrawing State shall remain in effect. If any Licensee licensed in the  
40 withdrawing State is also licensed in another Participating State or obtains a  
41 license in another Participating State within the one hundred eighty (180)  
42 days, the Licensee's Compact Privileges in other Participating States shall not  
43 be affected by the passage of the one hundred eighty (180) days.
- 44        (2) Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the State Licensing  
45 Board(s) of the withdrawing State to comply with the investigative, and  
46 Adverse Action reporting requirements of this Compact prior to the effective  
47 date of withdrawal.
- 48        (3) Upon the enactment of a statute withdrawing a State from this Compact, the  
49 State shall immediately provide notice of such withdrawal to all Licensees  
50 within that State. Such withdrawing State shall continue to recognize all

1 licenses granted pursuant to this Compact for a minimum of one hundred  
2 eighty (180) days after the date of such notice of withdrawal.

3 (d) Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any PA  
4 licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between Participating States and between  
5 a Participating State and non-Participating State that does not conflict with the provisions of this  
6 Compact.

7 (e) This Compact may be amended by the Participating States. No amendment to this  
8 Compact shall become effective and binding upon any Participating State until it is enacted  
9 materially in the same manner into the laws of all Participating States as determined by the  
10 Commission.

11 **"§ 90-270.211. Construction and Severability.**

12 (a) This Compact and the Commission's rulemaking authority shall be liberally construed  
13 so as to effectuate the purposes, and the implementation and administration of the Compact.  
14 Provisions of the Compact expressly authorizing or requiring the promulgation of Rules shall not  
15 be construed to limit the Commission's rulemaking authority solely for those purposes.

16 (b) The provisions of this Compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence  
17 or provision of this Compact is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to the  
18 constitution of any Participating State, a State seeking participation in the Compact, or of the  
19 United States, or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is  
20 held to be unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of  
21 this Compact and the applicability thereof to any other government, agency, person or  
22 circumstance shall not be affected thereby.

23 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, the Commission may deny a State's  
24 participation in the Compact or, in accordance with the requirements of G.S. 90-270.209(b),  
25 terminate a Participating State's participation in the Compact, if it determines that a constitutional  
26 requirement of a Participating State is, or would be with respect to a State seeking to participate  
27 in the Compact, a material departure from the Compact. Otherwise, if this Compact shall be held  
28 to be contrary to the constitution of any Participating State, the Compact shall remain in full force  
29 and effect as to the remaining Participating States and in full force and effect as to the  
30 Participating State affected as to all severable matters.

31 **"§ 90-270.212. Binding Effect of Compact.**

32 (a) Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other law of a Participating State that  
33 is not inconsistent with this Compact.

34 (b) Any laws in a Participating State in conflict with this Compact are superseded to the  
35 extent of the conflict.

36 (c) All agreements between the Commission and the Participating States are binding in  
37 accordance with their terms."

38 **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 90-9.3 reads as rewritten:

39 **"§ 90-9.3. Requirements for licensure as a physician assistant.**

40 (a) To be eligible for licensure as a physician assistant, an applicant shall submit proof  
41 satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has met all of the following:

42 (1) The applicant has successfully completed an educational program for  
43 physician assistants or surgeon assistants accredited by the Accreditation  
44 Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant or its  
45 predecessor or successor entities.

46 (2) The applicant has a current or previous certification issued by the National  
47 Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or its successor.

48 (3) The applicant is of good moral character.

49 (a1) A physician assistant applying for licensure under Article 18J of this Chapter shall be  
50 in compliance with that Article.



1 (b) Before initiating practice of medical acts, tasks, or functions as a physician assistant,  
2 the physician assistant shall provide the Board the name, address, and telephone number of the  
3 physician who will supervise the physician assistant in the relevant medical setting.

4 (c) The Board may, by rule, require an applicant to comply with other requirements or  
5 submit additional information the Board deems appropriate."

6 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2024.