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SENATE BILL NO. 22

Senate Amendments in [] - February 2, 2024

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 27 of Title 54.1 an article numbered 5, consisting of a section numbered 54.1-2729.02, relating to the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Senator Locke

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 27 of Title 54.1 an article numbered 5, consisting of a section numbered 54.1-2729.02, as follows:

Article 5.

Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.

§ 54.1-2729.02. Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.

The General Assembly hereby enacts, and the Commonwealth of Virginia hereby enters into, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact with any and all states legally joining therein according to its terms, in the form substantially as follows:

DENTIST AND DENTAL HYGIENIST COMPACT.

Article 1.

Title; Purpose.

This article shall be known and cited as the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. The purposes of this Compact are to facilitate the interstate practice of dentistry and dental hygiene and improve public access to dentistry and dental hygiene services by providing dentists and dental hygienists licensed in a participating state the ability to practice in participating states in which they are not licensed. The Compact does this by establishing a pathway for dentists and dental hygienists licensed in a participating state to obtain a compact privilege that authorizes them to practice in another participating state in which they are not licensed. The Compact enables participating states to protect the public health and safety with respect to the practice of such dentists and dental hygienists, through the state's authority to regulate the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene in the state. The Compact:

- 1. Enables dentists and dental hygienists who qualify for a compact privilege to practice in other participating states without satisfying burdensome and duplicative requirements associated with securing a license to practice in those states;
- 2. Promotes mobility and addresses workforce shortages through each participating state's acceptance of a compact privilege to practice in that state;
- 3. Increases public access to qualified licensed dentists and dental hygienists by creating a responsible, streamlined pathway for licensees to practice in participating states;
- 4. Enhances the ability of participating states to protect the public's health and safety;
- 5. Does not interfere with licensure requirements established by a participating state;
- 6. Facilitates the sharing of licensure and disciplinary information among participating states;
- 7. Requires dentists and dental hygienists who practice in a participating state pursuant to a compact privilege to practice within the scope of practice authorized in that state;
- 8. Extends the authority of a participating state to regulate the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene within its borders to dentists and dental hygienists who practice in the state through a compact privilege;
- 9. Promotes the cooperation of participating states in regulating the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene within those states; and
- 10. Facilitates the relocation of military members and their spouses who are licensed to practice dentistry or dental hygiene.

Article 2.

Definitions.

As used in this Compact, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions shall apply:

"Active military member" means any person with full-time duty status in the Armed Forces of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve.

"Adverse action" means disciplinary action or encumbrance imposed on a license or compact privilege by a state licensing authority.

"Alternative program" means a nondisciplinary monitoring or practice remediation process applicable to a dentist or dental hygienist approved by a state licensing authority of a participating

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59 *state in which the dentist or dental hygienist is licensed. This includes, but is not limited to, programs to*
60 *which licensees with substance abuse or addiction issues are referred in lieu of adverse action.*

61 *"Clinical assessment" means an examination or process required for licensure as a dentist or dental*
62 *hygienist, as applicable, that provides evidence of clinical competence in dentistry or dental hygiene.*

63 *"Commissioner" means the individual appointed by a participating state to serve as the member of*
64 *the Commission for that participating state.*

65 *"Compact" means this Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.*

66 *"Compact privilege" means the authorization granted by a remote state to allow a licensee from a*
67 *participating state to practice as a dentist or dental hygienist in a remote state.*

68 *"Continuing professional development" means a requirement, as a condition of license renewal to*
69 *provide evidence of successful participation in educational or professional activities relevant to practice*
70 *or area of work.*

71 *"Criminal background check" means the submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based*
72 *information for a license applicant for the purpose of obtaining that applicant's criminal history record*
73 *information as defined in 28 C.F.R. § 20.3(d) from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the state's*
74 *criminal history record repository as defined in 28 C.F.R. § 20.3(f).*

75 *"Data system" means the Commission's repository of information about licensees, including but not*
76 *limited to examination, licensure, investigative, compact privilege, adverse action, and alternative*
77 *program information.*

78 *"Dental hygienist" means an individual who is licensed by a state licensing authority to practice*
79 *dental hygiene.*

80 *"Dentist" means an individual who is licensed by a state licensing authority to practice dentistry.*

81 *"Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact Commission" or "Commission" means a joint government*
82 *agency established by this Compact comprised of each state that has enacted the Compact and a*
83 *national administrative body comprised of a commissioner from each state that has enacted this*
84 *Compact.*

85 *"Encumbered license" means a license that a state licensing authority has limited in any way other*
86 *than through an alternative program.*

87 *"Executive board" means the chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer and any other commissioners*
88 *as may be determined by commission rule or bylaw.*

89 *"Jurisprudence requirement" means the assessment of an individual's knowledge of the laws and*
90 *rules governing the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene, as applicable, in a state.*

91 *"License" means current authorization by a state, other than authorization pursuant to a compact*
92 *privilege, or other privilege, for an individual to practice as a dentist or dental hygienist in that state.*

93 *"Licensee" means an individual who holds an unrestricted license from a participating state to*
94 *practice as a dentist or dental hygienist in that state.*

95 *"Model compact" means the model for the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact on file with the*
96 *Council of State Governments or other entity as designated by the Commission.*

97 *"Participating state" means a state that has enacted this Compact and been admitted to the*
98 *Commission in accordance with the provisions herein and commission rules.*

99 *"Qualifying license" means a license that is not an encumbered license issued by a participating*
100 *state to practice dentistry or dental hygiene.*

101 *"Remote state" means a participating state where a licensee who is not licensed as a dentist or*
102 *dental hygienist is exercising or seeking to exercise the compact privilege.*

103 *"Rule" means a regulation promulgated by an entity that has the force of law.*

104 *"Scope of practice" means the procedures, actions, and processes a dentist or dental hygienist*
105 *licensed in a state is permitted to undertake in that state and the circumstances under which the licensee*
106 *is permitted to undertake those procedures, actions, and processes. Such procedures, actions, and*
107 *processes and the circumstances under which they may be undertaken may be established through*
108 *means, including, but not limited to, statute, regulations, case law, and other processes, available to the*
109 *state licensing authority or other government agency.*

110 *"Significant investigative information" means information, records, and documents received or*
111 *generated by a state licensing authority pursuant to an investigation for which a determination has been*
112 *made that there is probable cause to believe that the licensee has violated a statute or regulation that is*
113 *considered more than a minor infraction for which the state licensing authority could pursue adverse*
114 *action against the licensee.*

115 *"State" means any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States that regulates the*
116 *practices of dentistry and dental hygiene.*

117 *"State licensing authority" means an agency or other entity of a state that is responsible for the*
118 *licensing and regulation of dentists or dental hygienists.*

119 *Article 3.*

120 *State Participation in the Compact.*

- 121 A. In order to join this Compact and thereafter continue as a participating state, a state must:
- 122 1. Enact a compact that is not materially different from the model compact as determined in
- 123 accordance with Commission rules;
- 124 2. Participate fully in the Commission's data system;
- 125 3. Have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints about its licensees and
- 126 license applicants;
- 127 4. Notify the Commission, in compliance with the terms of this Compact and Commission rules, of
- 128 any adverse action or the availability of significant investigative information regarding a licensee and
- 129 license applicant;
- 130 5. Fully implement a criminal background check requirement, within a time frame established by
- 131 Commission rule, by receiving the results of a qualifying criminal background check;
- 132 6. Comply with the Commission rules applicable to a participating state;
- 133 7. Accept the National Board Examinations of the Joint Commission on National Dental
- 134 Examinations or another examination accepted by Commission rule as a licensure examination;
- 135 8. Accept for licensure such applicants for a dentist license who graduate from a predoctoral dental
- 136 education program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, or another accrediting
- 137 agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for the accreditation of dentistry and dental
- 138 hygiene education programs, [~~leading to~~ resulting in] the Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) or Doctor
- 139 of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) degree;
- 140 9. Accept for licensure such applicants for a dental hygienist license who graduate from a dental
- 141 hygiene education program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation or another
- 142 accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for the accreditation of dentistry
- 143 and dental hygiene education programs;
- 144 10. Require for licensure that applicants successfully complete a clinical assessment;
- 145 11. Have continuing professional development requirements as a condition for license renewal; and
- 146 12. Pay a participation fee to the Commission as established by Commission rule.
- 147 B. Providing alternative pathways for an individual to obtain an unrestricted license does not
- 148 disqualify a state from participating in this Compact.
- 149 C. When conducting a criminal background check, the state licensing authority shall:
- 150 1. Consider such information in making a licensure decision;
- 151 2. Maintain documentation of completion of the criminal background check and background check
- 152 information to the extent allowed by state and federal law; and
- 153 3. Report to the Commission whether it has completed the criminal background check and whether
- 154 the individual was granted or denied a license.
- 155 D. A licensee of a participating state who has a qualifying license in that state and does not hold an
- 156 encumbered license in any other participating state shall be issued a compact privilege in a remote state
- 157 in accordance with the terms of this Compact and Commission rules. If a remote state has a
- 158 jurisprudence requirement, a compact privilege will not be issued to the licensee unless the licensee has
- 159 satisfied the jurisprudence requirement.

Article 4.
Compact Privilege.

- 162 A. To obtain and exercise the compact privilege under the terms and provisions of this Compact, the
- 163 licensee shall:
- 164 1. Have a qualifying license as a dentist or dental hygienist in a participating state;
- 165 2. Be eligible for a compact privilege in any remote state in accordance with subsections D, G, and
- 166 H of this section;
- 167 3. Submit to an application process whenever the licensee is seeking a compact privilege;
- 168 4. Pay any applicable Commission and remote state fees for a compact privilege in the remote state;
- 169 5. Meet any jurisprudence requirement established by a remote state in which the licensee is seeking
- 170 a compact privilege;
- 171 6. Have passed a National Board Examination of the Joint Commission on National Dental
- 172 Examinations or another examination accepted by Commission rule;
- 173 7. For a dentist, have graduated from a predoctoral dental education program accredited by the
- 174 Commission on Dental Accreditation, or another accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department
- 175 of Education for the accreditation of dentistry and dental hygiene education programs, [~~leading to~~
- 176 resulting in] the Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) degree;
- 177 8. For a dental hygienist, have graduated from a dental hygiene education program accredited by
- 178 the Commission on Dental Accreditation or another accrediting agency recognized by the U.S.
- 179 Department of Education for the accreditation of dentistry and dental hygiene education programs;
- 180 9. Have successfully completed a clinical assessment for licensure;
- 181 10. Report to the Commission adverse action taken by any nonparticipating state when applying for

182 a compact privilege and, otherwise, within 30 days from the date the adverse action is taken;

183 11. Report to the Commission when applying for a compact privilege the address of the licensee's
184 primary residence and thereafter immediately report to the Commission any change in the address of the
185 licensee's primary residence; and

186 12. Consent to accept service of process by mail at the licensee's primary residence on record with
187 the Commission with respect to any action brought against the licensee by the Commission or a
188 participating state, and consent to accept service of a subpoena by mail at the licensee's primary
189 residence on record with the Commission with respect to any action brought or investigation conducted
190 by the Commission or a participating state.

191 B. The licensee must comply with the requirements of subsection A of this section to maintain the
192 compact privilege in the remote state. If those requirements are met, the compact privilege will continue
193 as long as the licensee maintains a qualifying license in the state through which the licensee applied for
194 the compact privilege and pays any applicable compact privilege renewal fees.

195 C. A licensee providing dentistry or dental hygiene in a remote state under the compact privilege
196 shall function within the scope of practice authorized by the remote state for a dentist or dental
197 hygienist licensed in that state.

198 D. A licensee providing dentistry or dental hygiene pursuant to a compact privilege in a remote state
199 is subject to that state's regulatory authority. A remote state may, in accordance with due process and
200 that state's laws, by adverse action revoke or remove a licensee's compact privilege in the remote state
201 for a specific period of time and impose fines or take any other necessary actions to protect the health
202 and safety of its citizens. If a remote state imposes an adverse action against a compact privilege that
203 limits the compact privilege, that adverse action applies to all compact privileges in all remote states. A
204 licensee whose compact privilege in a remote state is removed for a specified period of time is not
205 eligible for a compact privilege in any other remote state until the specific time for removal of the
206 compact privilege has passed and all encumbrance requirements are satisfied.

207 E. If a license in a participating state is an encumbered license, the licensee shall lose the compact
208 privilege in a remote state and shall not be eligible for a compact privilege in any remote state until the
209 license is no longer encumbered.

210 F. Once an encumbered license in a participating state is restored to good standing, the licensee
211 must meet the requirements of subsection A of this section to obtain a compact privilege in a remote
212 state.

213 G. If a licensee's compact privilege in a remote state is removed by the remote state, the individual
214 shall lose or be ineligible for the compact privilege in any remote state until the following occur:

215 1. The specific period of time for which the compact privilege was removed has ended; and

216 2. All conditions for removal of the compact privilege have been satisfied.

217 H. Once the requirements of subsection G of this section have been met, the licensee must meet the
218 requirements in subsection A of this section to obtain a compact privilege in a remote state.

219 Article 5.

220 Active Military Members or Their Spouses.

221 Active military members and their spouses shall not be required to pay to the Commission the fee
222 otherwise charged by the Commission for a compact privilege. If a remote state chooses to charge a fee
223 for a compact privilege, it may choose to charge a reduced fee or no fee to active military members and
224 their spouses for a compact privilege.

225 Article 6.

226 Adverse Actions.

227 A. A participating state in which a licensee is licensed shall have exclusive authority to impose
228 adverse action against the qualifying license issued by that participating state.

229 B. A participating state may take adverse action based on the significant investigative information of
230 a remote state, so long as the participating state follows its own procedures for imposing adverse
231 action.

232 C. Nothing in this Compact shall override a participating state's decision that participation in an
233 alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action and that such participation shall remain
234 nonpublic if required by the participating state's laws. Participating states must require licensees who
235 enter any alternative program in lieu of discipline to agree not to practice pursuant to a compact
236 privilege in any other participating state during the term of the alternative program without prior
237 authorization from such other participating state.

238 D. Any participating state in which a licensee is applying to practice or is practicing pursuant to a
239 compact privilege may investigate actual or alleged violations of the statutes and regulations authorizing
240 the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene in any other participating state in which the dentist or dental
241 hygienist holds a license or compact privilege.

242 E. A remote state shall have the authority to:

243 1. Take adverse actions as set forth in subsection D of Article 4 against a licensee's compact

244 privilege in the state;

245 2. In furtherance of its rights and responsibilities under this Compact and the Commission's rules
246 issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and testimony of
247 witnesses and the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a state licensing authority in a
248 participating state for the attendance and testimony of witnesses, or the production of evidence from
249 another participating state, shall be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent jurisdiction,
250 according to the practice and procedure of that court applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings
251 pending before it. The issuing authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other
252 fees required by the service statutes of the state where the witnesses or evidence are located; and

253 3. If otherwise permitted by state law, recover from the licensee the costs of investigations and
254 disposition of cases resulting from any adverse action taken against that licensee.

255 F. Joint investigations.

256 1. In addition to the authority granted to a participating state by its dentist or dental hygienist
257 licensure act or other applicable state law, a participating state may jointly investigate licensees with
258 other participating states.

259 2. Participating states shall share any significant investigative information, litigation, or compliance
260 materials in furtherance of any joint or individual investigation initiated under this Compact.

261 G. Authority to continue investigation.

262 1. After a licensee's compact privilege in a remote state is terminated, the remote state may continue
263 an investigation of the licensee that began when the licensee had a compact privilege in that remote
264 state.

265 2. If the investigation yields what would be significant investigative information had the licensee
266 continued to have a compact privilege in that remote state, the remote state shall report the presence of
267 such information to the data system as required by subdivision B 6 of Article 8 as if it was significant
268 investigative information.

269 Article 7.

270 Establishment and Operation of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact Commission.

271 A. The Compact participating states hereby create and establish a joint government agency whose
272 membership consists of all participating states that have enacted the Compact. The Dentist and Dental
273 Hygienist Compact Commission is an instrumentality of the participating states acting jointly and not an
274 instrumentality of any one state. The Commission shall come into existence on or after the effective date
275 of the Compact as set forth in subsection A of Article 11.

276 B. Participation, voting, and meetings.

277 1. Each participating state shall have and be limited to one commissioner selected by that
278 participating state's state licensing authority or, if the state has more than one state licensing authority,
279 selected collectively by the state licensing authorities.

280 2. The commissioner shall be a member or designee of such authority or authorities.

281 3. The Commission may by rule or bylaw establish a term of office for commissioners and may by
282 rule or bylaw establish term limits.

283 4. The Commission may recommend to a state licensing authority or authorities, as applicable,
284 removal or suspension of an individual as the state's commissioner.

285 5. A participating state's state licensing authority, or authorities, as applicable, shall fill any vacancy
286 of its commissioner on the Commission within 60 days of the vacancy.

287 6. Each commissioner shall be entitled to one vote on all matters that are voted upon by the
288 Commission.

289 7. The Commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. Additional meetings may be
290 held as set forth in the bylaws. The Commission may meet by telecommunication, video conference, or
291 other similar electronic means.

292 C. The Commission shall have the following powers:

293 1. Establish the fiscal year of the Commission;

294 2. Establish a code of conduct and conflict of interest policies;

295 3. Adopt rules and bylaws;

296 4. Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws;

297 5. Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the provisions of this Compact, the
298 Commission's rules, and the bylaws;

299 6. Initiate and conclude legal proceedings or actions in the name of the Commission, provided that
300 the standing of any state licensing authority to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be
301 affected;

302 7. Maintain and certify records and information provided to a participating state as the
303 authenticated business records of the Commission and designate a person to do so on the Commission's
304 behalf;

- 305 8. Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;
- 306 9. Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a
- 307 participating state;
- 308 10. Conduct an annual financial review;
- 309 11. Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant such individuals
- 310 appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of this Compact, and establish the Commission's
- 311 personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel, and other
- 312 related personnel matters;
- 313 12. As set forth in the Commission rules, charge a fee to a licensee for the grant of a compact
- 314 privilege in a remote state and thereafter, as may be established by Commission rule, charge the
- 315 licensee a compact privilege renewal fee for each renewal period in which that licensee exercises or
- 316 intends to exercise the compact privilege in that remote state. Nothing herein shall be construed to
- 317 prevent a remote state from charging a licensee a fee for a compact privilege or renewals of a compact
- 318 privilege, or a fee for the jurisprudence requirement if the remote state imposes such a requirement for
- 319 the grant of a compact privilege;
- 320 13. Accept any and all appropriate gifts, donations, grants of money, other sources of revenue,
- 321 equipment, supplies, materials, and services, and receive, utilize, and dispose of the same, provided that
- 322 at all times the Commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety and/or conflict of interest;
- 323 14. Lease, purchase, retain, own, hold, improve, or use any property, real, personal, or mixed, or
- 324 any undivided interest therein;
- 325 15. Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property,
- 326 real, personal, or mixed;
- 327 16. Establish a budget and make expenditures;
- 328 17. Borrow money;
- 329 18. Appoint committees, including standing committees, which may be composed of members, state
- 330 regulators, state legislators or their representatives, and consumer representatives, and such other
- 331 interested persons as may be designated in this Compact and the bylaws;
- 332 19. Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law-enforcement agencies;
- 333 20. Elect a chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer and such other officers of the Commission as
- 334 provided in the Commission's bylaws;
- 335 21. Establish and elect an executive board;
- 336 22. Adopt and provide to the participating states an annual report;
- 337 23. Determine whether a state's enacted compact is materially different from the model compact
- 338 language such that the state would not qualify for participation in this Compact; and
- 339 24. Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this
- 340 Compact.
- 341 D. Meetings of the Commission.
- 342 1. All meetings of the Commission that are not closed pursuant to this subsection shall be open to
- 343 the public. Notice of public meetings shall be posted on the Commission's website at least 30 days prior
- 344 to the public meeting.
- 345 2. Notwithstanding subdivision 1 of this subsection, the Commission may convene an emergency
- 346 public meeting by providing at least 24 hours prior notice on the Commission's website, and any other
- 347 means as provided in the Commission's rules, for any of the reasons it may dispense with notice of
- 348 proposed rulemaking under subsection L of Article 9. The Commission's legal counsel shall certify that
- 349 one of the reasons justifying an emergency public meeting has been met.
- 350 3. Notice of all Commission meetings shall provide the time, date, and location of the meeting, and if
- 351 the meeting is to be held or accessible via telecommunication, video conference, or other electronic
- 352 means, the notice shall include the mechanism for access to the meeting through such means.
- 353 4. The Commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting for the Commission to receive legal
- 354 advice or to discuss:
- 355 a. Noncompliance of a participating state with its obligations under this Compact;
- 356 b. The employment, compensation, discipline, or other matters, practices, or procedures related to
- 357 specific employees or other matters related to the Commission's internal personnel practices and
- 358 procedures;
- 359 c. Current or threatened discipline of a licensee or compact privilege holder by the Commission or
- 360 by a participating state's licensing authority;
- 361 d. Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation;
- 362 e. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or sale of goods, services, or real estate;
- 363 f. Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;
- 364 g. Trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential;
- 365 h. Information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted
- 366 invasion of personal privacy;

- 367 *i. Investigative records compiled for law-enforcement purposes;*
 368 *j. Information related to any investigative reports prepared by or on behalf of or for use of the*
 369 *Commission or other committee charged with responsibility of investigation or determination of*
 370 *compliance issues pursuant to this Compact;*
 371 *k. Legal advice;*
 372 *l. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure to the public by federal or participating state law;*
 373 *and*
 374 *m. Other matters as promulgated by the Commission by rule.*
 375 *5. If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed, the presiding officer shall state that the meeting*
 376 *will be closed and reference each relevant exempting provision, and such reference shall be recorded in*
 377 *the minutes.*
 378 *6. The Commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a*
 379 *meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the reasons therefor,*
 380 *including a description of the views expressed. All documents considered in connection with an action*
 381 *shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under*
 382 *seal, subject to release only by a majority vote of the Commission or order of a court of competent*
 383 *jurisdiction.*
 384 *E. Financing of the Commission.*
 385 *1. The Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable expenses of its*
 386 *establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.*
 387 *2. The Commission may accept any and all appropriate sources of revenue, donations, and grants of*
 388 *money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services.*
 389 *3. The Commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each participating state and*
 390 *impose fees on licensees of participating states when a compact privilege is granted, to cover the cost of*
 391 *the operations and activities of the Commission and its staff, which must be in a total amount sufficient*
 392 *to cover its annual budget as approved each fiscal year for which sufficient revenue is not provided by*
 393 *other sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount for participating states shall be allocated based*
 394 *upon a formula that the Commission shall promulgate by rule.*
 395 *4. The Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to*
 396 *meet the same, nor shall the Commission pledge the credit of any participating state, except by and with*
 397 *the authority of the participating state.*
 398 *5. The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and*
 399 *disbursements of the Commission shall be subject to the financial review and accounting procedures*
 400 *established under its bylaws. All receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the Commission shall*
 401 *be subject to an annual financial review by a certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of*
 402 *the financial review shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the Commission.*
 403 *F. The executive board.*
 404 *1. The executive board shall have the power to act on behalf of the Commission according to the*
 405 *terms of this Compact. The powers, duties, and responsibilities of the executive board shall include:*
 406 *a. Overseeing the day-to-day activities of the administration of this Compact, including compliance*
 407 *with the provisions of the Compact and the Commission's rules and bylaws;*
 408 *b. Recommending to the Commission changes to the rules or bylaws, changes to this Compact*
 409 *legislation, fees charged to Compact participating states, fees charged to licensees, and other fees;*
 410 *c. Ensuring compact administration services are appropriately provided, including by contract;*
 411 *d. Preparing and recommending the budget;*
 412 *e. Maintaining financial records on behalf of the Commission;*
 413 *f. Monitoring Compact compliance of participating states and providing compliance reports to the*
 414 *Commission;*
 415 *g. Establishing additional committees as necessary;*
 416 *h. Exercising the powers and duties of the Commission during the interim between Commission*
 417 *meetings, except for adopting or amending rules, adopting or amending bylaws, and exercising any*
 418 *other powers and duties expressly reserved to the Commission by rule or bylaw; and*
 419 *i. Other duties as provided in the rules or bylaws of the Commission.*
 420 *2. The executive board shall be composed of up to seven members:*
 421 *a. The chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer of the Commission and any other members of the*
 422 *Commission who serve on the executive board shall be voting members of the executive board; and*
 423 *b. Other than the chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer, the Commission may elect up to three*
 424 *voting members from the current membership of the Commission.*
 425 *3. The Commission may remove any member of the executive board as provided in the Commission's*
 426 *bylaws.*
 427 *4. The executive board shall meet at least annually.*

428 a. An executive board meeting at which it takes or intends to take formal action on a matter shall be
 429 open to the public, except that the executive board may meet in a closed, nonpublic session of a public
 430 meeting when dealing with any of the matters covered under subdivision D 4 of this section.

431 b. The executive board shall give five business days' notice of its public meetings, posted on its
 432 website and as it may otherwise determine to provide notice to persons with an interest in the public
 433 matters the executive board intends to address at those meetings.

434 5. The executive board may hold an emergency meeting when acting for the Commission to:

435 a. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;

436 b. Prevent a loss of Commission or participating state funds; or

437 c. Protect public health and safety.

438 G. Qualified immunity, defense, and indemnification.

439 1. The members, officers, executive director, employees, and representatives of the Commission shall
 440 be immune from suit and liability, both personally and in their official capacity, for any claim for
 441 damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any
 442 actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is
 443 made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties,
 444 or responsibilities, provided that nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to protect any such
 445 person from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional or willful
 446 or wanton misconduct of that person. The procurement of insurance of any type by the Commission
 447 shall not in any way compromise or limit the immunity granted hereunder.

448 2. The Commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director, employee, and
 449 representative of the Commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual
 450 or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or
 451 responsibilities, or as determined by the Commission that the person against whom the claim is made
 452 had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or
 453 responsibilities, provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit that person from retaining
 454 his own counsel at his own expense, and provided further, that the actual or alleged act, error, or
 455 omission did not result from that person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.

456 3. Notwithstanding subdivision 1 of this subsection, should any member, officer, executive director,
 457 employee, or representative of the Commission be held liable for the amount of any settlement or
 458 judgment arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of
 459 that individual's employment, duties, or responsibilities for the Commission, or that the person to whom
 460 that individual is liable had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of the
 461 individual's employment, duties, or responsibilities for the Commission, the Commission shall indemnify
 462 and hold harmless such individual, provided that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not
 463 result from the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of the individual.

464 4. Nothing herein shall be construed as a limitation on the liability of any licensee for professional
 465 malpractice or misconduct, which shall be governed solely by any other applicable state laws.

466 5. Nothing in this Compact shall be interpreted to waive or otherwise abrogate a participating state's
 467 state action immunity or state action affirmative defense with respect to antitrust claims under the
 468 Sherman Act, Clayton Act, or any other state or federal antitrust or anticompetitive law or regulation.

469 6. Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity by the
 470 participating states or by the Commission.

471 Article 8.

472 Data System.

473 A. The Commission shall provide for the development, maintenance, operation, and utilization of a
 474 coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action, and the presence of
 475 significant investigative information on all licensees and applicants for a license in participating states.

476 B. Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the contrary, a participating state shall submit
 477 a uniform data set to the data system on all individuals to whom this Compact is applicable as required
 478 by the rules of the Commission, including:

479 1. Identifying information;

480 2. Licensure data;

481 3. Adverse actions against a licensee, license applicant, or compact privilege and information related
 482 thereto;

483 4. Nonconfidential information related to alternative program participation, the beginning and ending
 484 dates of such participation, and other information related to such participation;

485 5. Any denial of an application for licensure, and the reason(s) for such denial, (excluding the
 486 reporting of any criminal history record information where prohibited by law);

487 6. The presence of significant investigative information; and

488 7. Other information that may facilitate the administration of this Compact or the protection of the
 489 public, as determined by the rules of the Commission.

490 C. The records and information provided to a participating state pursuant to this Compact or
491 through the data system, when certified by the Commission or an agent thereof, shall constitute the
492 authenticated business records of the Commission and shall be entitled to any associated hearsay
493 exception in any relevant judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative proceedings in a participating state.

494 D. Significant investigative information pertaining to a licensee in any participating state will only be
495 available to other participating states.

496 E. It is the responsibility of the participating states to monitor the database to determine whether
497 adverse action has been taken against a licensee or license applicant. Adverse action information
498 pertaining to a licensee or license applicant in any participating state will be available to any other
499 participating state.

500 F. Participating states contributing information to the data system may designate information that
501 may not be shared with the public without the express permission of the contributing state.

502 G. Any information submitted to the data system that is subsequently expunged pursuant to federal
503 law or the laws of the participating state contributing the information shall be removed from the data
504 system.

505 Article 9.
506 Rulemaking.

507 A. The Commission shall promulgate reasonable rules in order to effectively and efficiently
508 implement and administer the purposes and provisions of this Compact. A Commission rule shall be
509 invalid and have no force or effect only if a court of competent jurisdiction holds that the rule is invalid
510 because the Commission exercised its rulemaking authority in a manner that is beyond the scope and
511 purposes of this Compact, or the powers granted hereunder, or based upon another applicable standard
512 of review.

513 B. The rules of the Commission shall have the force of law in each participating state, provided,
514 however, that where the rules of the Commission conflict with the laws of the participating state that
515 establish the participating state's scope of practice as held by a court of competent jurisdiction, the
516 rules of the Commission shall be ineffective in that state to the extent of the conflict.

517 C. The Commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this
518 section and the rules adopted thereunder. Rules shall become binding as of the date specified by the
519 Commission for each rule.

520 D. If a majority of the legislatures of the participating states rejects a Commission rule or portion of
521 a Commission rule, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt this
522 Compact within four years of the date of adoption of the rule, then such rule shall have no further force
523 and effect in any participating state or to any state applying to participate in this Compact.

524 E. Rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the Commission.

525 F. Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the Commission shall hold a public hearing and allow
526 persons to provide oral and written comments, data, facts, opinions, and arguments.

527 G. Prior to adoption of a proposed rule by the Commission, and at least 30 days in advance of the
528 meeting at which the Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed rule, the Commission shall
529 provide a notice of proposed rulemaking:

- 530 1. On the website of the Commission or other publicly accessible platform;
- 531 2. To persons who have requested notice of the Commission's notices of proposed rulemaking; and
- 532 3. In such other way(s) as the Commission may by rule specify.

533 H. The notice of proposed rulemaking shall include:

534 1. The time, date, and location of the public hearing at which the Commission will hear public
535 comments on the proposed rule and, if different, the time, date, and location of the meeting where the
536 Commission will consider and vote on the proposed rule;

537 2. If the hearing is held via telecommunication, video conference, or other electronic means, the
538 Commission shall include the mechanism for access to the hearing in the notice of proposed rulemaking;

539 3. The text of the proposed rule and the reason therefor;

540 4. A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person; and

541 5. The manner in which interested persons may submit written comments.

542 I. All hearings will be recorded. A copy of the recording and all written comments and documents
543 received by the Commission in response to the proposed rule shall be available to the public.

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

546 K. The Commission shall, by majority vote of all commissioners, take final action on the proposed
547 rule based on the rulemaking record.

548 1. The Commission may adopt changes to the proposed rule provided the changes do not enlarge the
549 original purpose of the proposed rule.

550 2. The Commission shall provide an explanation of the reasons for substantive changes made to the

551 proposed rule as well as reasons for substantive changes not made that were recommended by
552 commenters.

553 3. The Commission shall determine a reasonable effective date for the rule. Except for an emergency
554 as provided in subsection L of this section, the effective date of the rule shall be no sooner than 30 days
555 after the Commission issuing the notice that it adopted or amended the rule.

556 L. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the Commission may consider and adopt an
557 emergency rule with 24 hours' notice, with opportunity to comment, provided that the usual rulemaking
558 procedures provided in this Compact and in this section shall be retroactively applied to the rule as
559 soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than 90 days after the effective date of the rule. For the
560 purposes of this provision, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted immediately in order to:

- 561 1. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;
- 562 2. Prevent a loss of Commission or participating state funds;
- 563 3. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of a rule that is established by federal law or rule; or
- 564 4. Protect public health and safety.

565 M. The Commission or an authorized committee of the Commission may direct revisions to a
566 previously adopted rule for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format, errors in
567 consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be posted on the website of the
568 Commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any person for a period of 30 days after
569 posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the revision results in a material change
570 to a rule. A challenge shall be made in writing and delivered to the Commission prior to the end of the
571 notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision will take effect without further action. If the revision
572 is challenged, the revision may not take effect without the approval of the Commission.

573 N. No participating state's rulemaking requirements shall apply under this Compact.

574 Article 10.

575 Oversight, Dispute Resolution, and Enforcement.

576 A. Oversight.

577 1. The executive and judicial branches of state government in each participating state shall enforce
578 this Compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to implement the Compact.

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

585 3. The Commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any proceeding regarding the
586 enforcement or interpretation of this Compact or a Commission rule and shall have standing to
587 intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide the Commission service of process
588 shall render a judgment or order void as to the Commission, this Compact, or promulgated rules.

589 B. Default, technical assistance, and termination.

590 1. If the Commission determines that a participating state has defaulted in the performance of its
591 obligations or responsibilities under this Compact or the promulgated rules, the Commission shall
592 provide written notice to the defaulting state. The notice of default shall describe the default, the
593 proposed means of curing the default, and any other action that the Commission may take and shall
594 offer training and specific technical assistance regarding the default.

595 2. The Commission shall provide a copy of the notice of default to the other participating states.

596 C. If a state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting state may be terminated from this
597 Compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the commissioners, and all rights, privileges, and
598 benefits conferred on that state by this Compact may be terminated on the effective date of termination.
599 A cure of the default does not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during the
600 period of default.

601 D. Termination of participation in this Compact shall be imposed only after all other means of
602 securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be given by the
603 Commission to the governor, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature, the
604 defaulting state's state licensing authority or authorities, as applicable, and each of the participating
605 states' state licensing authority or authorities, as applicable.

606 E. A state that has been terminated is responsible for all assessments, obligations, and liabilities
607 incurred through the effective date of termination, including obligations that extend beyond the effective
608 date of termination.

609 F. Upon the termination of a state's participation in this Compact, that state shall immediately
610 provide notice to all licensees of the state, including licensees of other participating states issued a
611 compact privilege to practice within that state, of such termination. The terminated state shall continue
612 to recognize all compact privileges then in effect in that state for a minimum of 180 days after the date

613 of said notice of termination.

614 G. The Commission shall not bear any costs related to a state that is found to be in default or that
615 has been terminated from this Compact, unless agreed upon in writing between the Commission and the
616 defaulting state.

617 H. The defaulting state may appeal the action of the Commission by petitioning the U.S. District
618 Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has its principal offices.
619 The prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney fees.

620 I. Dispute resolution.

621 1. Upon request by a participating state, the Commission shall attempt to resolve disputes related to
622 this Compact that arise among participating states and between participating states and
623 nonparticipating states.

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

626 J. Enforcement.

627 1. The Commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the provisions of this
628 Compact and the Commission's rules.

629 2. By majority vote, the Commission may initiate legal action against a participating state in default
630 in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the
631 Commission has its principal offices to enforce compliance with the provisions of this Compact and its
632 promulgated rules. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event
633 judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation,
634 including reasonable attorney fees. The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the
635 Commission. The Commission may pursue any other remedies available under federal or the defaulting
636 participating state's law.

637 3. A participating state may initiate legal action against the Commission in the U.S. District Court
638 for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has its principal offices to
639 enforce compliance with the provisions of this Compact and its promulgated rules. The relief sought
640 may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the
641 prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney fees.

642 4. No individual or entity other than a participating state may enforce this Compact against the
643 Commission.

644 Article 11.

645 Effective Date, Withdrawal, and Amendment.

646 A. This Compact shall come into effect on the date on which the compact statute is enacted into law
647 in the seventh participating state.

648 1. On or after the effective date of this Compact, the Commission shall convene and review the
649 enactment of each of the states that enacted the Compact prior to the Commission convening (charter
650 participating states) to determine if the statute enacted by each such charter participating state is
651 materially different than the model compact.

652 a. A charter participating state whose enactment is found to be materially different from the model
653 compact shall be entitled to the default process set forth in Article 10.

654 b. If any participating state is later found to be in default, or is terminated or withdraws from the
655 Compact, the Commission shall remain in existence and the Compact shall remain in effect even if the
656 number of participating states should be less than seven.

657 2. Participating states enacting the Compact subsequent to the charter participating states shall be
658 subject to the process set forth in subdivision C 23 of Article 7 to determine if their enactments are
659 materially different from the model compact and whether they qualify for participation in the Compact.

660 3. All actions taken for the benefit of the Commission or in furtherance of the purposes of the
661 administration of the Compact prior to the effective date of the Compact or the Commission coming into
662 existence shall be considered to be actions of the Commission unless specifically repudiated by the
663 Commission.

664 4. Any state that joins the Compact subsequent to the Commission's initial adoption of the rules and
665 bylaws shall be subject to the Commission's rules and bylaws as they exist on the date on which the
666 Compact becomes law in that state. Any rule that has been previously adopted by the Commission shall
667 have the full force and effect of law on the day the Compact becomes law in that state.

668 B. Any participating state may withdraw from this Compact by enacting a statute repealing that
669 state's enactment of the Compact.

670 1. A participating state's withdrawal shall not take effect until 180 days after enactment of the
671 repealing statute.

672 2. Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing state's licensing
673 authority or authorities to comply with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of

674 *this Compact prior to the effective date of withdrawal.*

675 3. *Upon the enactment of a statute withdrawing from this Compact, the state shall immediately*
676 *provide notice of such withdrawal to all licensees within that state. Notwithstanding any subsequent*
677 *statutory enactment to the contrary, such withdrawing state shall continue to recognize all compact*
678 *privileges to practice within that state granted pursuant to this Compact for a minimum of 180 days*
679 *after the date of such notice of withdrawal.*

680 C. *Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any licensure*
681 *agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a participating state and a nonparticipating state*
682 *that does not conflict with the provisions of this Compact.*

683 D. *This Compact may be amended by the participating states. No amendment to this Compact shall*
684 *become effective and binding upon any participating state until it is enacted into the laws of all*
685 *participating states.*

686 Article 12.

687 Construction and Severability.

688 A. *This Compact and the Commission's rulemaking authority shall be liberally construed so as to*
689 *effectuate the purposes and the implementation and administration of the Compact. Provisions of the*
690 *Compact expressly authorizing or requiring the promulgation of rules shall not be construed to limit the*
691 *Commission's rulemaking authority solely for those purposes.*

692 B. *The provisions of this Compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or*
693 *provision of this Compact is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to the constitution*
694 *of any participating state, a state seeking participation in the Compact, or of the United States, or the*
695 *applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional*
696 *by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of this Compact and the applicability*
697 *thereof to any other government, agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.*

698 C. *Notwithstanding subsection B of this section, the Commission may deny a state's participation in*
699 *this Compact or, in accordance with the requirements of subsection B of Article 10, terminate a*
700 *participating state's participation in the Compact, if it determines that a constitutional requirement of a*
701 *participating state is a material departure from the Compact. Otherwise, if this Compact shall be held*
702 *to be contrary to the constitution of any participating state, the Compact shall remain in full force and*
703 *effect as to the remaining participating states and in full force and effect as to the participating state*
704 *affected as to all severable matters.*

705 Article 13.

706 Consistent Effect and Conflict with Other State Laws.

707 A. *Nothing herein shall prevent or inhibit the enforcement of any other law of a participating state*
708 *that is not inconsistent with this Compact.*

709 B. *Any laws, statutes, regulations, or other legal requirements in a participating state in conflict with*
710 *this Compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.*

711 C. *All permissible agreements between the Commission and the participating states are binding in*
712 *accordance with their terms.*

713 **2. Pursuant to Article 11 of § 54.1-2729.02 of the Code [of] Virginia, as created by this act, the**
714 **Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact (the Compact) will become effective on the date the**
715 **Compact is enacted by a seventh participating state or upon the effective date of this act,**
716 **whichever is later.**