

HB 2596 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/14, 5/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure enacts the School Psychologist Licensure Interstate Compact, which allows school psychologists with a valid license to move from one member state to another member state.

Detailed Summary

School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

Section 1

Defines the purpose of the compact as facilitating the interstate practice of school psychology in educational settings, improving the availability of school psychological services to the public.

Section 2

Defines key terms.

Section 3

Establishes eligibility for a state to enter and maintain eligibility as a member state. Requires member states to enact the compact, participate in information sharing, identify and maintain a list of equivalent licenses, have a mechanism for receiving and investigating complaints, notify the commission of adverse actions taken against a licensee, require applicants to take and pass a national exam and complete 1200 hours of supervised internship, and comply with the terms of the compact. Allows member states to set and collect fees for granting equivalent licenses.

Section 4

Requires licensees to hold an active home state license, satisfy any additional state requirements, complete application requirements, undergo a criminal background check, and complete any requirements for renewal in the licensee's home state.

Section 5

Defines home state licensure for active military members or their spouses.

Section 6

Allows member states to retain the authority to investigate or impose disciplinary measures on licensees. Authorizes member states to receive and provide information regarding investigations and disciplines of licensees in other member states.

Section 7

Establishes the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact Commission. Establishes the membership, duties, financing, and rulemaking authority of the Commission and its executive committee.

Section 8

Requires the Commission to facilitate the exchange of information among member states. Requires member states to provide information regarding licensees, including identifying information, information regarding investigations and discipline of a licensee, information related to alternative program participation, license denials, and other information to facilitate the administration of the compact.

Section 9

Establishes the Commission's rulemaking and amendment processes and allows a majority of member state legislature to reject a rule within four years of adoption.

Section 10

Establishes oversight, dispute resolution, and enforcement responsibilities of state governments in member states.

Section 11

Provides that the compact takes effect when enacted into law by the seventh state. Provides terms for withdrawing from and amending the compact.

Section 12-13

Provides terms for interpreting the compact and conflicts it may have with other state laws.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Shortage of school psychologists.
- Ability for the State to conduct background checks under the compact.
- Licensing process for school psychologists under the compact.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Interstate compacts are legally binding agreements among states. Occupational licensure compacts ensure that states honor the licenses granted in other compact-member states. The Council of State Governments (CSG) partnered with the United States Department of Defense (DoD) and the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) to create the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists (ICSP).

According to CSG, interstate occupational licensure compacts already exist for medical licensure, nurse licensure, emergency medical service officials, physical therapists, psychologists, audiologists and speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, teachers, and counselors.