Requested by Representative DIEHL

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 2202

COUNSELING COMPACT

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

The purpose of this Compact is to facilitate the interstate practice of licensed professional counselors with the goal of improving public access to professional counseling services. The practice of professional counseling occurs in the state where the client is located at the time of the counseling services. This Compact preserves the regulatory authority of states to protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure.

- This Compact is designed to achieve the following objectives:
- A. Increase public access to professional counseling services by providing for the mutual recognition of other member state licenses;
- B. Enhance the states' ability to protect the public's health and safety;

- C. Encourage the cooperation of member states in regulating multistate practice for licensed professional counselors;
- 3 D. Support spouses of relocating active duty military personnel;
- E. Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative and disciplinary information among member states;
- F. Allow for the use of telehealth technology to facilitate increased access to professional counseling services;
- G. Support the uniformity of professional counseling licensure requirements throughout the states to promote public safety and public health benefits;
 - H. Invest all member states with the authority to hold a licensed professional counselor accountable for meeting all state practice laws in the state in which the client is located at the time care is rendered through the mutual recognition of member state licenses;
 - I. Eliminate the necessity for licenses in multiple states; and
 - J. Provide opportunities for interstate practice by licensed professional counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

- As used in this Compact, and except as otherwise provided, the following definitions shall apply:
- A. "Active duty military" means full-time duty status in the active uniformed services of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. chapters 1209 and 1211.
- B. "Adverse action" means any administrative, civil, equitable or criminal action permitted by a state's laws which is imposed by a licensing board or another authority against a licensed professional counselor, including actions against an individual's license or privilege to practice such as revocation, suspension, probation or monitoring of the licensee, limitation on the licensee's practice or any other

- encumbrance on licensure affecting a licensed professional counselor's authorization to practice, including issuance of a cease and desist action.
- C. "Alternative program" means a nondisciplinary monitoring or practice remediation process approved by a professional counseling licensing board to address impaired practitioners.
- D. "Continuing competence/education" means a requirement, as a condition of license renewal, to provide evidence of participation in, or completion of, educational and professional activities relevant to a practice or an area of work.
 - E. "Counseling Compact Commission" or "Commission" means the national administrative body whose membership consists of all states that have enacted this Compact.
 - F. "Current significant investigative information" means:
 - 1. Investigative information that a licensing board, after a preliminary inquiry that includes notification and an opportunity for the licensed professional counselor to respond if required by state law, has reason to believe is not groundless and, if proved true, would indicate more than a minor infraction; or
 - 2. Investigative information that indicates that the licensed professional counselor represents an immediate threat to public health and safety regardless of whether the licensed professional counselor has been notified and had an opportunity to respond.
 - G. "Data system" means a repository of information about licensees, including but not limited to, continuing education, examination, licensure, investigative, privilege-to-practice and adverse action information.
- H. "Encumbered license" means a license in which an adverse action restricts the practice of licensed professional counseling by the licensee and said adverse action has been reported to the National

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

1 Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

- I. "Encumbrance" means a revocation or suspension of, or any limitation on, the full and unrestricted practice of licensed professional counseling by a licensing board.
- J. "Executive committee" means a group of directors elected or appointed to act on behalf of, and within the powers granted to them by, the Commission.
- 8 K. "Home state" means the member state that is the licensee's primary state of residence.
 - L. "Impaired practitioner" means an individual who has a condition that may impair their ability to practice as a licensed professional counselor without some type of intervention, including, but not limited to, alcohol and drug dependence, mental health impairment and neurological or physical impairments.
 - M. "Investigative information" means information, records and documents received or generated by a professional counseling licensing board pursuant to an investigation.
 - N. "Jurisprudence requirement," if required by a member state, means the assessment of an individual's knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of professional counseling in a state.
 - O. "Licensed professional counselor" means a counselor licensed by a member state, regardless of the title used by that state, to independently assess, diagnose and treat behavioral health conditions.
 - P. "Licensee" means an individual who currently holds an authorization from a state to practice as a licensed professional counselor.
- Q. "Licensing board" means the agency of a state, or equivalent, that is responsible for the licensing and regulation of licensed professional counselors.
- 29 R. "Member state" means a state that has enacted this Compact.
- S. "Privilege to practice" means a legal authorization, which is

- equivalent to a license, permitting the practice of professional counseling in a remote state.
- T. "Professional counseling" means the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of behavioral health conditions by a licensed professional counselor.
- U. "Remote state" means a member state other than the home state where a licensee is exercising or seeking to exercise the privilege to practice.
- 9 V. "Rule" means a regulation promulgated by the Commission that 10 has the force of law.
- W. "Single-state license" means a licensed professional counselor license issued by a member state that authorizes practice only within the issuing state and does not include a privilege to practice in any other member state.
- X. "State" means any state, commonwealth, district or territory of the United States that regulates the practice of professional counseling.
- Y. "Telehealth" means the application of telecommunication technology to deliver professional counseling services remotely to assess, diagnose and treat behavioral health conditions.
- Z. "Unencumbered license" means a license that authorizes a licensed professional counselor to engage in the full and unrestricted practice of professional counseling.
 - SECTION 3. STATE PARTICIPATION IN THIS COMPACT
- A. To participate in this Compact, a state must currently:
- 26 1. License and regulate licensed professional counselors;
- 27 2. Require licensees to pass a nationally recognized exam approved by the Commission;
- 3. Require licensees to have a 60 semester-hour, or 90 quarter-hour, master's degree in counseling or 60 semester-hours, or 90 quarter-

- 1 hours, of graduate course work including the following topic areas:
- a. Professional counseling orientation and ethical practice;
- **b. Social and cultural diversity;**
- 4 c. Human growth and development;
- 5 d. Career development;
- e. Counseling and helping relationships;
- 7 f. Group counseling and group work;
- 8 g. Diagnosis and treatment, assessment and testing;
- 9 h. Research and program evaluation; and
- i. Other areas as determined by the Commission;
- 4. Require licensees to complete a supervised post-graduate professional experience as defined by the Commission and approved by the board; and
- 5. Have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints about licensees.
 - B. A member state shall:

20

21

- 1. Participate fully in the Commission's data system, including using the Commission's unique identifier as defined in the rules of the Commission;
 - 2. Notify the Commission, in compliance with the terms of this Compact and rules, of any adverse action or the availability of investigative information regarding a licensee;
- 3. Implement or utilize procedures for considering the criminal 23 history records of applicants for an initial privilege to practice. These 24 procedures shall include the submission of fingerprints or other 25biometric-based information by applicants for the purpose of obtaining 26 an applicant's criminal history record information from the Federal 27 Bureau of Investigation and the agency responsible for retaining that 28 state's criminal records. A criminal records check requested by the 29 board and performed in accordance with ORS 181A.195 meets the re-30

1 quirements of this paragraph;

13

14

15

16

17

18

23

24

25

26

27

- a. A member state must fully implement a criminal background check requirement, within a time frame established by rule, by receiving the results of the Federal Bureau of Investigation record search and shall use the results in making licensure decisions;
- b. Communication between a member state and the Commission and among member states regarding the verification of eligibility for licensure through this Compact may not include any information received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation relating to a federal criminal records check performed by a member state under Public Law 92-544 or ORS 181A.195;
- 4. Comply with the rules of the Commission;
 - 5. Require an applicant to obtain or retain a license in the home state and meet the home state's qualifications for licensure or renewal of licensure, as well as all other applicable state laws;
 - 6. Grant the privilege to practice to a licensee holding a valid unencumbered license in another member state in accordance with the terms of this Compact and rules; and
- 7. Provide for the attendance of the state's commissioner to the Counseling Compact Commission meetings.
- C. Member states may charge a fee for granting the privilege to practice.
 - D. Individuals not residing in a member state shall continue to be able to apply for a member state's single-state license as provided under the laws of each member state. However, the single-state license granted to these individuals shall not be recognized as granting a privilege to practice professional counseling in any other member state.
- E. Nothing in this Compact shall affect the requirements established by a member state for the issuance of a single-state license.

- F. A license issued to a licensed professional counselor by a home
- 2 state to a resident of that state shall be recognized by each member
- 3 state as authorizing a licensed professional counselor to practice pro-
- 4 fessional counseling, under a privilege to practice, in each member
- 5 state.

22

23

SECTION 4. PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE

- A. To exercise the privilege to practice under the terms and provisions of this Compact, the licensee shall:
- 9 1. Hold a license in the home state;
- 2. Have a valid United States Social Security number or National Practitioner Identifier number;
- 3. Be eligible for a privilege to practice in any member state in accordance with Section 4 (D), (G) and (H) of this Compact;
- 4. Have not had any encumbrance or restriction against any license or privilege to practice within the previous two years;
- 5. Notify the Commission that the licensee is seeking the privilege to practice within a remote state;
- 6. Pay any applicable fees, including any state fee, for the privilege to practice;
- 7. Meet any continuing competence/education requirements established by the home state;
 - 8. Meet any jurisprudence requirements established by the remote state in which the licensee is seeking a privilege to practice; and
- 9. Report to the Commission any adverse action or other encumbrance or restriction on a license taken by any nonmember state within 30 days from the date the action is taken.
- B. The privilege to practice is valid until the expiration date of the home state license. The licensee must comply with the requirements of Section 4 (A) of this Compact to maintain the privilege to practice in the remote state.

- C. A licensee providing professional counseling in a remote state under the privilege to practice shall adhere to the laws and regulations of the remote state.
- D. A licensee providing professional counseling services in a remote 4 state is subject to that state's regulatory authority. A remote state 5 may, in accordance with due process and that state's laws, remove a 6 licensee's privilege to practice in the remote state for a specific period 7 of time, impose fines and take any other necessary actions to protect 8 the health and safety of its citizens. The licensee may be ineligible for 9 a privilege to practice in any member state until the specific time for 10 removal has passed and all fines are paid. 11
- E. If a home state license is encumbered, the licensee shall lose the privilege to practice in any remote state until the following occur:
 - 1. The home state license is no longer encumbered; and
- 2. The licensee has not had any encumbrance or restriction against any license or privilege to practice within the previous two years.
 - F. Once an encumbered license in the home state is restored to good standing, the licensee must meet the requirements of Section 4 (A) of this Compact to obtain a privilege to practice in any remote state.
- G. If a licensee's privilege to practice in any remote state is removed, the individual may lose the privilege to practice in all other remote states until the following occur:
- 1. The specific period of time for which the privilege to practice was removed has ended;
 - 2. All fines have been paid; and
- 3. The licensee has not had any encumbrance or restriction against any license or privilege to practice within the previous two years.
- 29 H. Once the requirements of Section 4 (G) of this Compact have 30 been met, the licensee must meet the requirements in Section 4 (A)

17

18

19

20

- of this Compact to obtain a privilege to practice in a remote state.
- 2 SECTION 5. OBTAINING A NEW HOME STATE LICENSE BASED

3 ON A PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

- A. A licensed professional counselor may hold a home state license which allows for a privilege to practice in other member states in only one member state at a time.
- B. If a licensed professional counselor changes their primary state of residence by moving between two member states:
 - 1. The licensed professional counselor shall file an application for obtaining a new home state license based on a privilege to practice, pay all applicable fees and notify the current and new home state in accordance with applicable rules adopted by the Commission.
 - 2. Upon receipt of an application for obtaining a new home state license by virtue of a privilege to practice, the new home state shall verify that the licensed professional counselor meets the pertinent criteria outlined in Section 4 of this Compact via the data system, without need for primary source verification except for:
 - a. A Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint-based criminal background check if not previously performed or updated pursuant to applicable rules adopted by the Commission in accordance with Public Law 92-544 or ORS 181A.195;
- b. Other criminal background checks as required by the new home state; and
- c. Completion of any requisite jurisprudence requirements of the new home state.
- 3. The former home state shall convert the former home state license into a privilege to practice once the new home state has activated the new home state license in accordance with applicable rules adopted by the Commission.
 - 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Compact, if the li-

- censed professional counselor cannot meet the criteria in Section 4 of this Compact, the new home state may apply its requirements for issuing a new single-state license.
- 5. The licensed professional counselor shall pay all applicable fees to the new home state in order to be issued a new home state license.
- C. If a licensed professional counselor changes their primary state of residence by moving from a member state to a nonmember state, or from a nonmember state to a member state, the state criteria shall apply for issuance of a single-state license in the new state.
 - D. Nothing in this Compact shall interfere with a licensee's ability to hold a single-state license in multiple states. However, for the purposes of this Compact, a licensee shall have only one home state license.
 - E. Nothing in this Compact shall affect the requirements established by a member state for the issuance of a single-state license.
 - SECTION 6. ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL OR THEIR SPOUSE

An active duty military personnel, or their spouse, shall designate a home state where the individual has a current license in good standing. The individual may retain the home state designation during the period the service member is on active duty. Subsequent to designating a home state, the individual shall only change their home state through application for licensure in a new state, or through the process outlined in Section 5 of this Compact.

SECTION 7. COMPACT PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE TELEHEALTH

A. Member states shall recognize the right of a licensed professional counselor, licensed by a home state in accordance with Section 3 of this Compact and under rules of the Commission, to practice professional counseling in any member state via telehealth under a privilege to practice as provided in this Compact and rules of the Commission.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

B. A licensee providing professional counseling services in a remote state under the privilege to practice shall adhere to the laws and regulations of the remote state.

SECTION 8. ADVERSE ACTIONS

1

2

3

4

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

- A. In addition to the other powers conferred by state law, a remote state shall have the authority, in accordance with existing state due process law, to:
 - 1. Take adverse action against a licensed professional counselor's privilege to practice within that member state; and
 - 2. Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and testimony of witnesses as well as the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a licensing board in a member state for the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of evidence from another member state shall be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent jurisdiction according to the practice and procedure of that court applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before it. The issuing authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage and other fees required by the service statutes of the state in which the witnesses or evidence are located.
 - 3. Only the home state shall have the power to take adverse action against a licensed professional counselor's license issued by the home state.
 - B. For purposes of taking adverse action, the home state shall give the same priority and effect to reported conduct received from a member state as it would if the conduct had occurred within the home state. In so doing, the home state shall apply its own state laws to determine appropriate action.
 - C. The home state shall complete any pending investigations of a licensed professional counselor who changes their primary state of residence during the course of the investigations. The home state shall

- also have the authority to take appropriate action and shall promptly report the conclusions of the investigations to the administrator of the data system. The administrator of the data system shall promptly notify the new home state of any adverse actions.
- D. A member state, if otherwise permitted by state law, may recover from the affected licensed professional counselor the costs of investigations and dispositions of cases resulting from any adverse action taken against that licensed professional counselor.
- E. A member state may take adverse action based on the factual findings of the remote state, provided that the member state follows its own procedures for taking the adverse action.
 - F. Joint Investigations

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

- 1. In addition to the authority granted to a member state by its respective professional counseling practice act or other applicable state law, any member state may participate with other member states in joint investigations of licensees.
- 2. Member states shall share any investigative, litigation or compliance materials in furtherance of any joint or individual investigation initiated under this Compact.
- G. If adverse action is taken by the home state against the license of a licensed professional counselor, the licensed professional counselor's privilege to practice in all other member states shall be deactivated until all encumbrances have been removed from the home state license. All home state disciplinary orders that impose adverse action against the license of a licensed professional counselor shall include a statement that the licensed professional counselor's privilege to practice is deactivated in all member states during the pendency of the order.
- 29 H. If a member state takes adverse action, it shall promptly notify 30 the administrator of the data system. The administrator of the data

- 1 system shall promptly notify the home state of any adverse actions
- 2 by remote states.
- 3 I. Nothing in this Compact shall override a member state's decision
- 4 that participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of
- 5 adverse action.
- 6 SECTION 9. ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNSELING COMPACT

7 COMMISSION

- 8 A. The Compact member states hereby create and establish a joint
- 9 public agency known as the Counseling Compact Commission:
- 1. The Commission is an instrumentality of the Compact member states.
- 2. Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the Com-
- 13 mission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent
- 14 jurisdiction where the principal offices of the Commission are located.
- 15 The Commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses to the
- 16 extent it adopts or consents to participate in alternative dispute re-
- 17 solution proceedings.
- 3. Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to be a waiver of
- 19 sovereign immunity.
- 20 B. Membership, Voting and Meetings
- 1. Each member state shall have and be limited to one delegate se-
- 22 lected by that member state's licensing board.
- 23 **2.** The delegate shall be either:
- 24 a. A current member of the licensing board at the time of appoint-
- 25 ment, who is a licensed professional counselor or public member; or
- b. An administrator of the licensing board.
- 3. Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office as pro-
- vided by the law of the state from which the delegate is appointed.
- 29 4. The member state licensing board shall fill any vacancy occur-
- 30 ring on the Commission within 60 days.

- 5. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote with regard to the promulgation of rules and creation of bylaws and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the business and affairs of the Commission.
- 6. A delegate shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates' participation in meetings by telephone or other means of communication.
- 7. The Commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. Additional meetings shall be held as set forth in the bylaws.
- 8. The Commission shall by rule establish a term of office for delegates and may by rule establish term limits.
 - C. The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:
 - 1. Establish the fiscal year of the Commission;
- 2. Establish bylaws;

13

15

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

- 3. Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws;
- 4. Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the provisions of this Compact and the bylaws;
 - 5. Promulgate rules which shall be binding to the extent and in the manner provided for in this Compact;
 - 6. Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the Commission, provided that the standing of any state licensing board to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected;
 - 7. Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds:
 - 8. Borrow, accept or contract for services of personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a member state;
- 9. Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant to employees and officers appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of this Compact and establish the Commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel and other related personnel matters;

- 1 10. Accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money,
 2 equipment, supplies, materials and services, and to receive, utilize and
 3 dispose of the same, provided that at all times the Commission shall
- 4 avoid any appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest;
- 11. Lease, purchase or accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise own, hold, improve or use any property, real, personal or mixed, provided that at all times the Commission shall avoid any ap-
- 8 pearance of impropriety;
- 12. Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon or otherwise dispose of any property, real, personal or mixed;
 - 13. Establish a budget and make expenditures;
- 12 **14. Borrow money**;

- 15. Appoint committees, including standing committees composed of members, state regulators, state legislators or their representatives and consumer representatives and such other interested persons as may be designated in this Compact and the bylaws;
- 16. Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law enforcement agencies;
- 17. Establish and elect an executive committee; and
- 18. Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this Compact consistent with the state regulation of professional counseling licensure and practice.
 - D. The Executive Committee
- 1. The executive committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the Commission according to the terms of this Compact.
- 26 2. The executive committee shall be composed of up to 11 members:
- 27 a. Seven voting members who are elected by the Commission from 28 the current membership of the Commission; and
- b. Up to four ex officio, nonvoting members from four recognized national professional counselor organizations.

- c. The ex officio members will be selected by their respective organizations.
- 3. The Commission may remove any member of the executive committee as provided in the bylaws.
 - 4. The executive committee shall meet at least annually.
- 5. The executive committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
- a. Recommend to the entire Commission changes to the rules or bylaws, changes to this Compact legislation, fees paid by Compact member states such as annual dues and any Compact Commission fee charged to licensees for the privilege to practice;
- b. Ensure Compact administration services are appropriately provided, contractual or otherwise;
- c. Prepare and recommend the budget;
 - d. Maintain financial records on behalf of the Commission;
- e. Monitor Compact compliance of member states and provide compliance reports to the Commission;
 - f. Establish additional committees as necessary; and
 - g. Other duties as provided in rules or bylaws.
- 20 E. Meetings of the Commission

15

18

- 1. All meetings shall be open to the public and public notice of meetings shall be given in the same manner as required under the rulemaking provisions in Section 11 of this Compact.
- 24 2. The Commission or the executive committee or other committees 25 of the Commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting if the 26 Commission or executive committee or other committees of the Com-27 mission must discuss:
- 28 a. Noncompliance of a member state with its obligations under this 29 Compact;
- 30 b. The employment, compensation, discipline or other matters,

- practices or procedures related to specific employees or other matters related to the Commission's internal personnel practices and proce-
- 3 dures;

13

14

15

16

17

18

21

22

23

- c. Current, threatened or reasonably anticipated litigation;
- d. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease or sale of goods, services or real estate;
- e. Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;
- 9 f. Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial informa-10 tion that is privileged or confidential;
- g. Disclosure of information of a personal nature when disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
 - h. Disclosure of investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes;
 - i. Disclosure of information related to any investigative reports prepared by or on behalf of or for the use of the Commission or another committee charged with responsibility of investigation or determination of compliance issues pursuant to this Compact; or
- j. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or member state statute.
 - 3. If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to this provision, the Commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and shall reference each relevant exempting provision.
- 4. The Commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the reasons therefor, including a description of the views expressed. All documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal,

- subject to release by a majority vote of the Commission or an order of a court of competent jurisdiction.
 - F. Financing of the Commission

- 1. The Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization and ongoing activities.
- 2. The Commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue sources, donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services.
 - 3.a. The Commission may levy and collect an annual assessment from each member state or impose fees on other parties to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the Commission and its staff, which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved each year for which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the Commission, which shall promulgate a rule binding upon all member states.
 - b. An assessment levied, or any other financial obligation imposed, under this Compact is effective against the State of Oregon only to the extent that moneys necessary to pay the assessment or meet the financial obligation have been deposited in the Counseling Compact Account established under section 5 of this 2025 Act.
 - 4. The Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same, nor shall the Commission pledge the credit of any of the member states, except by and with the authority of the member state.
 - 5. The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the Commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds

- handled by the Commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or 1 licensed public accountant, and the report of the audit shall be in-2 cluded in and become part of the annual report of the Commission. 3
 - G. Qualified Immunity, Defense and Indemnification

6

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

- 1. The members, officers, executive director, employees and repre-5 sentatives of the Commission shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for any claim for damage 7 to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused 8 by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that 9 occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred, within the scope of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities, provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to protect any such person from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury or liability caused by the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person.
 - 2. The Commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director, employee or representative of the Commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities, provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit that person from retaining their own counsel, and provided further that the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from that person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.
 - 3. The Commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer, executive director, employee or representative of the Commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission

- 1 that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties or
- 2 responsibilities, or that such person had a reasonable basis for believ-
- 3 ing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties or
- 4 responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act, error or
- 5 omission did not result from the intentional or willful or wanton
- 6 misconduct of that person.

7 SECTION 10. DATA SYSTEM

- 8 A. The Commission shall provide for the development, mainte-
- 9 nance, operation and utilization of a coordinated database and re-
- 10 porting system containing licensure, adverse action and investigative
- information on all licensees in member states.
- 12 B. Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the con-
- 13 trary, a member state shall submit a uniform data set to the data
- 14 system on all individuals to whom this Compact is applicable as re-
- 15 quired by the rules of the Commission, including:
 - 1. Identifying information;
 - 2. Licensure data;
- 3. Adverse actions against a license or privilege to practice;
- 4. Nonconfidential information related to alternative program par-
- 20 ticipation;
- 5. Any denial of application for licensure and the reason for such
- 22 denial;

16

- 23 6. Current significant investigative information; and
- 7. Other information that may facilitate the administration of this
- 25 Compact, as determined by the rules of the Commission.
- 26 C. Investigative information pertaining to a licensee in any member
- 27 state will only be available to other member states.
- 28 D. The Commission shall promptly notify all member states of any
- 29 adverse action taken against a licensee or an individual applying for
- a license. Adverse action information pertaining to a licensee in any

- member state will be available to any other member state.
- E. Member states contributing information to the data system may designate information that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of the contributing state.
- F. Any information submitted to the data system that is subsequently required to be expunged by the laws of the member state contributing the information shall be removed from the data system.

SECTION 11. RULEMAKING

8

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

- A. The Commission shall promulgate reasonable rules in order to effectively and efficiently achieve the purpose of this Compact. Not-withstanding the foregoing, in the event the Commission exercises its rulemaking authority in a manner that is beyond the scope of the purposes of this Compact, or the powers granted hereunder, then such an action by the Commission shall be invalid and have no force or effect.
 - B. The Commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this Section and the rules adopted thereunder. Rules and amendments shall become binding as of the date specified in each proposed rule or amendment.
 - C. If a majority of the legislatures of the member states rejects a rule by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt this Compact within four years of the date of adoption of the rule, then such rule shall have no further force and effect in any member state.
- D. Proposed rules or amendments to the rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the Commission.
- E. Prior to promulgation and adoption of a proposed final rule or rules by the Commission, and at least 30 days in advance of the meeting at which the proposed rule will be considered and voted upon, the Commission shall file a notice of proposed rulemaking:

- 1. On the website of the Commission or another publicly accessible platform; and
- 2. On the website of each member state professional counseling licensing board or another publicly accessible platform or the publication in which each state would otherwise publish proposed rules.
- 6 F. The notice of proposed rulemaking shall include:
- 1. The proposed time, date and location of the meeting in which the proposed rule will be considered and voted upon;
- 2. The text of the proposed rule or amendment and the reason for the proposed rule;
- 3. A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person; and
 - 4. The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the Commission of their intention to attend the public hearing and any written comments.
- G. Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the Commission shall allow persons to submit written data, facts, opinions and arguments, which shall be made available to the public.
- H. The Commission shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing before it adopts a proposed rule or amendment if a hearing is requested by:
- 22 1. At least 25 persons;

14

- 23 2. A state or federal governmental subdivision or agency; or
- 3. An association having at least 25 members.
- I. If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, the Commission shall publish the place, time and date of the scheduled public hearing. If the hearing is held via electronic means, the Commission shall publish the mechanism for access to the electronic hearing.
- 1. All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing shall notify the

- executive director of the Commission or another designated member in writing of their desire to appear and testify at the hearing not less than five business days before the scheduled date of the hearing.
- 2. Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each person who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in writing.
- 3. All hearings will be recorded. A copy of the recording will be made available on request.
 - 4. Nothing in this Section shall be construed as requiring a separate hearing on each proposed rule. Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the Commission at hearings required by this Section.
 - J. Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close of business on the scheduled hearing date if the hearing was not held, the Commission shall consider all written and oral comments received.
 - K. If no written notice of intent to attend the public hearing by interested parties is received, the Commission may proceed with promulgation of the proposed rule without a public hearing.
 - L. The Commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take final action on the proposed rule and shall determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the rulemaking record and the full text of the rule.
 - M. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the Commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule without prior notice, opportunity for comment or hearing, provided that the usual rulemaking procedures provided in this Compact and in this Section shall be retroactively applied to the emergency rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than 90 days after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this provision, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted immediately in order to:
 - 1. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety or welfare;

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

- 2. Prevent a loss of Commission or member state funds;
- 3. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is established by federal law or rule; or
 - 4. Protect public health and safety.

N. The Commission or an authorized committee of the Commission 5 may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule or amendment for 6 purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format, errors 7 in consistency or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions 8 shall be posted on the website of the Commission. The revision shall 9 be subject to challenge by any person for a period of 30 days after 10 posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the re-11 vision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made 12 in writing and delivered to the chair of the Commission prior to the 13 end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision will take 14 effect without further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision 15 may not take effect without the approval of the Commission. 16

17 SECTION 12. OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND 18 ENFORCEMENT

A. Oversight

1

4

19

20

21

22

23

- 1. The executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government in each member state shall enforce this Compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate this Compact's purposes and intent. The provisions of this Compact and the rules promulgated hereunder, shall have standing as statutory law.
- 2. All courts shall take judicial notice of this Compact and the rules in any judicial or administrative proceeding in a member state pertaining to the subject matter of this Compact which may affect the powers, responsibilities or actions of the Commission.
- 3. The Commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any such proceeding and shall have standing to intervene in such a

- 1 proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide service of process to the
- 2 Commission shall render a judgment or order void as to the Commis-
- 3 sion, this Compact or the rules.
- 4 B. Default, Technical Assistance and Termination
- 1. If the Commission determines that a member state has defaulted
- 6 in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this
- 7 Compact or the rules, the Commission shall:
- a. Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other member
- 9 states of the nature of the default, the proposed means of curing the
- default and any other action to be taken by the Commission; and
 - b. Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance re-
- 12 garding the default.

- 13 C. If a state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting state
- 14 may be terminated from this Compact upon an affirmative vote of a
- 15 majority of the member states, and all rights, privileges and benefits
- 16 conferred by this Compact may be terminated on the effective date of
- 17 termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the offending state
- of obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of default, ex-
- 19 cept that the State of Oregon's obligations or liabilities may not ex-
- 20 ceed the maximum amount allowed by the Oregon Constitution.
- D. Termination of membership in this Compact shall be imposed
- 22 only after all other means of securing compliance have been ex-
- hausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be given by the
- 24 Commission to the governor of the defaulting state, the majority and
- 25 minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature and each of the
- 26 member states.
- 27 E. A state that has been terminated is responsible for all assess-
- 28 ments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective date
- of termination, including obligations that extend beyond the effective
- 30 date of termination, except that the State of Oregon's assessment,

- obligations and liabilities may not exceed the maximum amount allowed by the Oregon Constitution.
- F. The Commission shall not bear any costs related to a state that is found to be in default or that has been terminated from this Compact, unless agreed upon in writing between the Commission and the defaulting state.
- G. The defaulting state may appeal the action of the Commission by petitioning the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has its principal offices. The prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney fees, except that the costs incurred by the State of Oregon may not exceed the maximum amount allowed by the Oregon Constitution.

H. Dispute Resolution

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

- 1. Upon request by a member state, the Commission shall attempt to resolve disputes related to this Compact that arise among member states and between member and nonmember states.
- 2. The Commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.

I. Enforcement

- 1. The Commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the provisions and rules of this Compact.
- 2. By majority vote, the Commission may initiate legal action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has its principal offices against a member state in default to enforce compliance with the provisions of this Compact and its rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney fees, except that the State of

- Oregon's costs under this paragraph may not exceed the maximum allowed by the Oregon Constitution.
- 3. The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the
 4 Commission. The Commission may pursue any other remedies avail5 able under federal or state law.
- 6 SECTION 13. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COUNSELING
 7 COMPACT COMMISSION AND ASSOCIATED RULES, WITHDRAWAL
 8 AND AMENDMENT
- A. This Compact shall come into effect on the date on which the
 Compact statute is enacted into law in the 10th member state. The
 provisions, which become effective at that time, shall be limited to the
 powers granted to the Commission relating to assembly and the
 promulgation of rules. Thereafter, the Commission shall meet and
 exercise rulemaking powers necessary to the implementation and administration of this Compact.
 - B. Any state that joins this Compact subsequent to the Commission's initial adoption of the rules shall be subject to the rules as they exist on the date on which this Compact becomes law in that state. Any rule that has been previously adopted by the Commission shall have the full force and effect of law on the day this Compact becomes law in that state.
 - C. Any member state may withdraw from this Compact by enacting a statute repealing the same.
 - 1. A member state's withdrawal shall not take effect until six months after enactment of the repealing statute.
 - 2. Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing state's professional counseling licensing board to comply with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of this Compact prior to the effective date of withdrawal.
 - D. Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to invali-

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

- date or prevent any professional counseling licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a member state and a nonmember state that does not conflict with the provisions of this Compact.
- E. This Compact may be amended by the member states. No amendment to this Compact shall become effective and binding upon any member state until it is enacted into the laws of all member states.

SECTION 14. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

This Compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the 10 purposes thereof. The provisions of this Compact shall be severable 11 and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this Compact is 12 declared to be contrary to the constitution of any member state or of 13 the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, 14 agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the re-15 mainder of this Compact and the applicability thereof to any govern-16 ment, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. 17 If this Compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any 18 member state, this Compact shall remain in full force and effect as to 19 the remaining member states and in full force and effect as to the 20 member state affected as to all severable matters. 21

SECTION 15. BINDING EFFECT OF COMPACT AND OTHER LAWS

- A. A licensee providing professional counseling services in a remote state under the privilege to practice shall adhere to the laws and regulations, including scope of practice, of the remote state.
- B. Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other law of a member state that is not inconsistent with this Compact.
- C. Except as provided in this Compact, any laws in a member state in conflict with this Compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.

9

22

23

24

25

26

- D. Any lawful actions of the Commission, including all rules and bylaws properly promulgated by the Commission, are binding upon the member states.
- E. All permissible agreements between the Commission and the member states are binding in accordance with their terms.
 - F. In the event any provision of this Compact exceeds the constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of any member state, the provision shall be ineffective to the extent of the conflict with the constitutional provision in question in that member state.

10 " _____

"SECTION 2. The Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon hereby ratifies the Counseling Compact set forth in section 1 of this 2025 Act.

"SECTION 3. (1) When the Counseling Compact Commission described in section 1 of this 2025 Act adopts a rule pursuant to the Counseling Compact described in section 1 of this 2025 Act, the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists shall, within 90 days after the date on which the rule is adopted by the commission, adopt the rule of the commission as a rule of the board.

- "(2) Failure of the board to adopt the rule of the commission as a rule of the board within the time described in this section shall constitute default under the Counseling Compact described in section 1 of this 2025 Act.
- "SECTION 4. Section 5 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 675.715 to 675.835.
- "SECTION 5. (1) There is established, within the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists Account, the Counseling Compact Account. All moneys received by the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists under the Counseling Compact set forth in section 1 of this 2025 Act shall be paid into the

- 1 General Fund in the State Treasury and deposited in the Counseling
- 2 Compact Account. Subject to subsection (2) of this section, the moneys
- 3 in the account are continuously appropriated to the board for the
- 4 purpose of meeting financial obligations imposed on the State of
- 5 Oregon as a result of this state's participation in the compact.
- 6 "(2) At no time may the Counseling Compact Account contain more
- 7 than \$50,000. Any moneys in excess of \$50,000 shall be transferred to
- 8 the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists
- 9 Account established under ORS 675.805.
- "SECTION 6. ORS 675.805 is amended to read:
- 11 "675.805. **Subject to section 5 of this 2025 Act,** all moneys received by
- 12 the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists under
- ORS 675.715 to 675.835 shall be paid into the General Fund in the State
- 14 Treasury and placed to the credit of the Oregon Board of Licensed Profes-
- sional Counselors and Therapists Account, which is hereby established. Such
- moneys are appropriated continuously to the board and shall be used only
- for the administration and enforcement of ORS 675.172, 675.715 to 675.835,
- 18 676.850 and 676.866.

- **"SECTION 7.** ORS 675.825 is amended to read:
- 20 "675.825. (1) A person may not:
- 21 "(a) Attempt to obtain or obtain a license or license renewal by bribery
- 22 or fraudulent representation.
- "(b) Engage in or purport to the public to be engaged in the practice of
- 24 professional counseling under the title 'licensed professional counselor' un-
- 25 less the person is a licensee.
- 26 "(c) Engage in or purport to the public to be engaged in the practice of
- 27 marriage and family therapy under the title of 'licensed marriage and family
- 28 therapist' unless the person is a licensee.
- 29 "(d) Engage in the practice of professional counseling or marriage and
- 30 family therapy unless:

- "(A) The person is a licensee, registered associate or graduate student pursuing a graduate degree in counseling or marriage and family therapy; or
- 4 "(B) The person is exempted from the licensing requirements of ORS 675.715 to 675.835 by subsection (3) of this section.
- "(e) Provide counseling or therapy services of a psychotherapeutic nature if the person's license to practice as a professional counselor or as a marriage and family therapist has been revoked by the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists because the person engaged in sexual activity with a client.
- "(2) A licensed psychologist whose license, or a regulated social worker whose authorization to practice regulated social work, was issued prior to October 1, 1991, may use the title 'marriage and family therapist.'
- 14 "(3) The licensing requirements of ORS 675.715 to 675.835 do not apply to a person who is:
- "(a) Licensed, certified, registered or similarly regulated under the laws
 of this state and who is performing duties within the authorized scope of
 practice of the license, certification, registration or regulation.
- 19 "(b) A recognized member of the clergy, provided that the person is acting 20 in the person's ministerial capacity.
- "(c) Employed by a local, state or federal agency, a public university listed in ORS 352.002 or any agency licensed or certified by the state to provide mental health or health services, if the person's activities constituting professional counseling or marriage and family therapy are performed within the scope of the person's employment.
- "(d) Authorized to provide addiction treatment services under rules of the Department of Human Services.
- 28 "(e) Authorized to practice pursuant to privilege to practice as de-29 fined in section 1 of this 2025 Act.
 - "(4) Nothing in ORS 675.715 to 675.835 limits or prevents the practice of

- a person's profession or restricts a person from providing counseling services
- 2 or services related to marriage and family if the person:
- "(a) Does not meet the requirements of ORS 675.715 (1)(b); or
- 4 "(b) Does not practice:

11

12

13

14

15

16

- 5 "(A) Marriage and family therapy as defined in ORS 675.705 (7)(a); or
- 6 "(B) Professional counseling as defined in ORS 675.705 (8)(a).
- 7 "(5) Each violation of this section is a separate violation.
- 8 "(6) The board may levy a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,500 for each 9 separate violation of this section.

"SECTION 8. ORS 676.177 is amended to read:

- "676.177. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of ORS 676.165 to 676.180 and except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, a health professional regulatory board, upon a determination by the board that it possesses otherwise confidential information that reasonably relates to the regulatory or enforcement function of another public entity, may disclose that information to the other public entity.
- "(2) Any public entity that receives information pursuant to subsection
 (1) of this section shall agree to take all reasonable steps to maintain the
 confidentiality of the information, except that the public entity may use or
 disclose the information to the extent necessary to carry out the regulatory
 or enforcement functions of the public entity.
- "(3) For purposes of this section, 'public entity' means:
- "(a) A board or agency of this state, or a board or agency of another state with regulatory or enforcement functions similar to the functions of a health professional regulatory board of this state;
- 26 "(b) A district attorney;
- "(c) The Department of Justice;
- 28 "(d) A state or local public body of this state that licenses, franchises or 29 provides emergency medical services; or
- "(e) A law enforcement agency of this state, another state or the federal

government. 1

5

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

22

23

24

25

26

27

- "(4) Notwithstanding subsections (1) to (3) of this section[,]: 2
- "(a) The Oregon Board of Physical Therapy may disclose information 3 described in subsection (1) of this section to the Physical Therapy Compact 4 Commission [established] described in ORS 688.240.
- "(b) The Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and 6 Therapists may disclose information described in subsection (1) of this 7 section to the Counseling Compact Commission described in section 1 8 of this 2025 Act.
 - "(5) A health professional regulatory board may not disclose the information described in subsection (1) of this section to another public entity if the information relates to the provision of or referral for reproductive or gender-affirming health care services.
 - "SECTION 9. The Oregon Health Authority shall study redundancies in the provisions of ORS chapters 414 and 430. The authority shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192,245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health no later than September 15, 2026.
- "SECTION 10. Section 9 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 20 2027. 21
 - "SECTION 11. (1) The amendments to ORS 675.805 by section 6 of this 2025 Act apply to moneys received by the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists on or after the operative date specified in section 12 of this 2025 Act.
 - "(2) The amendments to ORS 675.825 by section 7 of this 2025 Act apply to individuals authorized to practice by privilege to practice on or after the operative date specified in section 12 of this 2025 Act.
- "(3) The amendments to ORS 676.177 by section 8 of this 2025 Act 29 apply to information disclosed on or after the operative date specified 30

in section 12 of this 2025 Act.

"SECTION 12. (1) Sections 1 to 3 and 5 of this 2025 Act and the amendments to ORS 675.805, 675.825 and 676.177 by sections 6 to 8 of this 2025 Act become operative on January 1, 2028.

"(2) The Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists may take any action before the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary to enable the board to exercise, on or after the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section, all of the duties, functions and powers conferred on the board by sections 1 to 3 and 5 of this 2025 Act and the amendments to ORS 675.805, 675.825 and 676.177 by sections 6 to 8 of this 2025 Act.

"SECTION 13. This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2025 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.".