

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 57  
Committee Substitute Favorable 2/15/17

Short Title: Enact Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 8, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHYSICAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT TO  
FACILITATE THE INTERSTATE PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Article 18B of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, G.S. 90-270.24 through G.S. 90-270.44, is recodified as Article 18E of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, G.S. 90-270.90 through G.S. 90-270.110.

**SECTION 2.** Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 18F.

"Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.

**"§ 90-270.120. Purpose.**

The purpose of this Compact is to facilitate the interstate practice of physical therapy with the goal of improving public access to physical therapy services. The practice of physical therapy occurs in the state where the patient/client is located at the time of the patient/client encounter. The 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:

- (1) Increase public access to physical therapy services by providing for the mutual recognition of other member state licenses.
- (2) Enhance the states' ability to protect the public's health and safety.
- (3) Encourage the cooperation of member states in regulating multistate physical therapy practice.
- (4) Support spouses of relocating military members.
- (5) Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative, and disciplinary information between member states.
- (6) Allow a remote state to hold a provider of services with a compact privilege in that state accountable to that state's practice standards.

**"§ 90-270.121. Definitions.**

As used in this Compact, and except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply:

- (1) Active duty military. – Full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211.
- (2) Adverse action. – Disciplinary action taken by a physical therapy licensing board based upon misconduct, unacceptable performance, or a combination of both.



- 1           (3)    Alternative program. – A non-disciplinary monitoring or practice remediation  
2           process approved by a physical therapy licensing board. This includes, but is  
3           not limited to, substance abuse issues.
- 4           (4)    Compact privilege. – The authorization granted by a remote state to allow a  
5           licensee from another member state to practice as a physical therapist or work  
6           as a physical therapist assistant in the remote state under its laws and rules. The  
7           practice of physical therapy occurs in the member state where the patient/client  
8           is located at the time of the patient/client encounter.
- 9           (5)    Continuing competence. – A requirement, as a condition of license renewal, to  
10          provide evidence of participation in, and/or completion of, educational and  
11          professional activities relevant to practice or area of work.
- 12          (6)    Data system. – A repository of information about licensees, including  
13          examination, licensure, investigative, compact privilege, and adverse action.
- 14          (7)    Encumbered license. – A license that a physical therapy licensing board has  
15          limited in any way.
- 16          (8)    Executive board. – A group of directors elected or appointed to act on behalf of,  
17          and within the powers granted to them by, the Commission.
- 18          (9)    Home state. – The member state that is the licensee's primary state of residence.
- 19          (10)   Investigative information. – Information, records, and documents received or  
20          generated by a physical therapy licensing board pursuant to an investigation.
- 21          (11)   Jurisprudence requirement. – The assessment of an individual's knowledge of  
22          the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy in a state.
- 23          (12)   Licensee. – An individual who currently holds an authorization from the state to  
24          practice as a physical therapist or to work as a physical therapist assistant.
- 25          (13)   Member state. – A state that has enacted the Compact.
- 26          (14)   Party state. – Any member state in which a licensee holds a current license or  
27          compact privilege or is applying for a license or compact privilege.
- 28          (15)   Physical therapist. – An individual who is licensed by a state to practice  
29          physical therapy.
- 30          (16)   Physical therapist assistant. – An individual who is licensed/certified by a state  
31          and who assists the physical therapist in selected components of physical  
32          therapy.
- 33          (17)   Physical therapy, physical therapy practice, or the practice of physical therapy.  
34          – The care and services provided by or under the direction and supervision of a  
35          licensed physical therapist.
- 36          (18)   Physical Therapy Compact Commission or Commission. – The national  
37          administrative body whose membership consists of all states that have enacted  
38          the Compact.
- 39          (19)   Physical Therapy Licensing Board or Licensing Board. – The agency that is  
40          responsible for the licensing and regulation of physical therapists and physical  
41          therapist assistants.
- 42          (20)   Remote state. – A member state other than the home state, where a licensee is  
43          exercising or seeking to exercise the compact privilege.
- 44          (21)   Rule. – A regulation, principle, or directive promulgated by the Commission  
45          that has the force of law.
- 46          (22)   State. – Any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States of  
47          America that regulates the practice of physical therapy.

48    **"§ 90-270.122. State participation in the compact.**

49          (a)    To participate in the Compact, a state must do all of the following:

- 50           (1)    Participate fully in the Commission's data system, including using the  
51           Commission's unique identifier as defined in rules.

- 1           (2)    Have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints about  
2            licensees.
- 3           (3)    Notify the Commission, in compliance with the terms of the Compact and rules,  
4            of any adverse action or the availability of investigative information regarding a  
5            licensee.
- 6           (4)    Fully implement a criminal background check requirement, within a time frame  
7            established by rule, by receiving the results of the Federal Bureau of  
8            Investigation record search on criminal background checks and use the results  
9            in making licensure decisions in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.
- 10          (5)    Comply with the rules of the Commission.
- 11          (6)    Utilize a recognized national examination as a requirement for licensure  
12          pursuant to the rules of the Commission.
- 13          (7)    Have continuing competence requirements as a condition for license renewal.
- 14          (b)    Upon adoption of this statute, the member state shall have the authority to obtain  
15          biometric-based information from each physical therapy licensure applicant and submit this  
16          information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a criminal background check in accordance  
17          with 28 U.S.C. § 534 and 42 U.S.C. § 14616.
- 18          (c)    A member state shall grant the compact privilege to a licensee holding a valid  
19          unencumbered license in another member state in accordance with the terms of the Compact and  
20          rules.
- 21          (d)    Member states may charge a fee for granting a compact privilege.
- 22          **§ 90-270.123. Compact privilege.**
- 23          (a)    In order to exercise the compact privilege under the terms and provisions of the  
24          Compact, the licensee shall meet all of the following qualifications:
- 25               (1)    Hold a license in the home state.
- 26               (2)    Have no encumbrance on any state license.
- 27               (3)    Be eligible for a compact privilege in any member state in accordance with  
28                subsections (d), (g) and (h) of this section.
- 29               (4)    Have not had any adverse action against any license or compact privilege  
30                within the previous two years.
- 31               (5)    Notify the Commission that the licensee is seeking the compact privilege within  
32                a remote state(s).
- 33               (6)    Pay any applicable fees, including any state fee, for the compact privilege.
- 34               (7)    Meet any jurisprudence requirements established by the remote state(s) in  
35                which the licensee is seeking a compact privilege.
- 36               (8)    Report to the Commission adverse action taken by any non-member state  
37                within 30 days from the date the adverse action is taken.
- 38          (b)    The compact privilege is valid until the expiration date of the home license. The  
39          licensee must comply with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section to maintain the  
40          compact privilege in the remote state.
- 41          (c)    A licensee providing physical therapy in a remote state under the compact privilege  
42          shall function within the laws and regulations of the remote state.
- 43          (d)    A licensee providing physical therapy in a remote state is subject to that state's  
44          regulatory authority. A remote state may, in accordance with due process and that state's laws,  
45          remove a licensee's compact privilege in the remote state for a specific period of time, impose  
46          finer, and/or take any other necessary actions to protect the health and safety of its citizens. The  
47          licensee is not eligible for a compact privilege in any state until the specific time for removal has  
48          passed and all fines are paid.
- 49          (e)    If a home state license is encumbered, the licensee shall lose the compact privilege in  
50          any remote state until both of the following occur:
- 51               (1)    The home state license is no longer encumbered.

1           (2) Two years have elapsed from the date of the adverse action.  
2       (f) Once an encumbered license in the home state is restored to good standing, the licensee  
3 must meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section to obtain a compact privilege in any  
4 remote state.

5       (g) If a licensee's compact privilege in any remote state is removed, the individual shall  
6 lose the compact privilege in any remote state until all of the following occur:

7           (1) The specific period of time for which the compact privilege was removed has  
8 ended.

9           (2) All fines have been paid.

10          (3) Two years have elapsed from the date of the adverse action.

11       (h) Once the requirements of subsection (g) of this section have been met, the license must  
12 meet the requirements in subsection (a) of this section to obtain a compact privilege in a remote  
13 state.

14 **"§ 90-270.124. Active duty military personnel or their spouses.**

15       A licensee who is active duty military or is the spouse of an individual who is active duty  
16 military may designate one of the following as the home state:

17           (1) Home of record.

18           (2) Permanent Change of Station (PCS).

19           (3) State of current residence if it is different than the PCS state or home of record.

20 **"§ 90-270.125. Adverse actions.**

21       (a) A home state shall have exclusive power to impose adverse action against a license  
22 issued by the home state.

23       (b) A home state may take adverse action based on the investigative information of a  
24 remote state, so long as the home state follows its own procedures for imposing adverse action.

25       (c) Nothing in this Compact shall override a member state's decision that participation in  
26 an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action and that such participation shall  
27 remain nonpublic if required by the member state's laws. Member states must require licensees  
28 who enter any alternative programs in lieu of discipline to agree not to practice in any other  
29 member state during the term of the alternative program without prior authorization from such  
30 other member state.

31       (d) Any member state may investigate actual or alleged violations of the statutes and rules  
32 authorizing the practice of physical therapy in any other member state in which a physical  
33 therapist or physical therapist assistant holds a license or compact privilege.

34       (e) A remote state shall have the authority to do all of the following:

35           (1) Take adverse actions as set forth in subsection (d) of G.S. 90-270.123 against a  
36 licensee's compact privilege in the state.

37           (2) Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance  
38 and testimony of witnesses, and the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued  
39 by a physical therapy licensing board in a party state for the attendance and  
40 testimony of witnesses, and/or the production of evidence from another party  
41 state, shall be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent jurisdiction,  
42 according to the practice and procedure of that court applicable to subpoenas  
43 issued in proceedings pending before it. The issuing authority shall pay any  
44 witness fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other fees required by the service  
45 statutes of the state where the witnesses and/or evidence are located.

46           (3) If otherwise permitted by state law, recover from the licensee the costs of  
47 investigations and disposition of cases resulting from any adverse action taken  
48 against that licensee.

49       (f) Joint Investigations. –

1           (1) In addition to the authority granted to a member state by its respective physical  
2 therapy practice act or other applicable state law, a member state may  
3 participate with other member states in joint investigations of licensees.

4           (2) Member states shall share any investigative, litigation, or compliance materials  
5 in furtherance of any joint or individual investigation initiated under the  
6 Compact.

7 **"§ 90-270.126. Establishment of the Physical Therapy Compact Commission.**

8           (a) The Compact member states hereby create and establish a joint public agency known  
9 as the Physical Therapy Compact Commission:

10           (1) The Commission is an instrumentality of the Compact states.

11           (2) Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the Commission shall be  
12 brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where the  
13 principal office of the Commission is located. The Commission may waive  
14 venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to  
15 participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

16           (3) Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign  
17 immunity.

18           (b) Membership, Voting, and Meetings. –

19           (1) Each member state shall have and be limited to one delegate selected by that  
20 member state's licensing board.

21           (2) The delegate shall be a current member of the licensing board, who is a  
22 physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, public member, or the board  
23 administrator.

24           (3) Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office as provided by the law  
25 of the state from which the delegate is appointed.

26           (4) The member state board shall fill any vacancy occurring in the Commission.

27           (5) Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote with regard to the promulgation of  
28 rules and creation of bylaws and shall otherwise have an opportunity to  
29 participate in the business and affairs of the Commission.

30           (6) A delegate shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in the  
31 bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates' participation in meetings by  
32 telephone or other means of communication.

33           (7) The Commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. Additional  
34 meetings shall be held as set forth in the bylaws.

35           (c) The Commission shall have all of the following powers and duties:

36           (1) Establish the fiscal year of the Commission.

37           (2) Establish bylaws.

38           (3) Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws.

39           (4) Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the provisions of this  
40 Compact and the bylaws.

41           (5) Promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and  
42 administration of this Compact. The rules shall have the force and effect of law  
43 and shall be binding in all member states.

44           (6) Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the  
45 Commission, provided that the standing of any state physical therapy licensing  
46 board to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected.

47           (7) Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds.

48           (8) Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including employees of a  
49 member state.

50           (9) Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant  
51 such individuals appropriate authority to (i) carry out the purposes of the

- 1 Compact and (ii) establish the Commission's personnel policies and programs  
2 relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel, and other related  
3 personnel matters.
- 4 (10) Accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money, equipment,  
5 supplies, materials and services, and to receive, utilize and dispose of the same;  
6 provided that at all times the Commission shall avoid any appearance of  
7 impropriety and/or conflict of interest.
- 8 (11) Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise to own,  
9 hold, improve or use, any property, real, personal or mixed; provided that at all  
10 times the Commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety.
- 11 (12) Sell convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose  
12 of any property real, personal, or mixed.
- 13 (13) Establish a budget and make expenditures.
- 14 (14) Borrow money.
- 15 (15) Appoint committees, including standing committees composed of members,  
16 state regulators, state legislators or their representatives, and consumer  
17 representatives, and such other interested persons as may be designated in this  
18 Compact and the bylaws.
- 19 (16) Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law enforcement  
20 agencies.
- 21 (17) Establish and elect an Executive Board.
- 22 (18) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the  
23 purposes of this Compact consistent with the state regulation of physical  
24 therapy licensure and practice.
- 25 (d) The Executive Board. –
- 26 The Executive Board shall have the power to act on behalf of the Commission according to the  
27 terms of this Compact:
- 28 (1) The Executive Board shall be composed of the following nine members:
- 29 (a) Seven voting members who are elected by the Commission from the  
30 current membership of the Commission.
- 31 (b) One ex-officio, nonvoting member from the recognized national  
32 physical therapy professional association.
- 33 (c) One ex-officio, nonvoting member from the recognized membership  
34 organization of the physical therapy licensing boards.
- 35 (2) The ex-officio members will be selected by their respective organizations.
- 36 (3) The Commission may remove any member of the Executive Board as provided  
37 in bylaws.
- 38 (4) The Executive Board shall meet at least annually.
- 39 (5) The Executive Board shall have all of the following Duties and responsibilities:
- 40 a. Recommend to the entire Commission changes to the rules or bylaws,  
41 changes to this Compact legislation, fees paid by Compact member  
42 states such as annual dues, and any commission Compact fee charged to  
43 licensees for the compact privilege.
- 44 b. Ensure Compact administration services are appropriately provided,  
45 contractual or otherwise.
- 46 c. Prepare and recommend the budget.
- 47 d. Maintain financial records on behalf of the Commission.
- 48 e. Monitor Compact compliance of member states and provide compliance  
49 reports to the Commission.
- 50 f. Establish additional committees as necessary.
- 51 g. Other duties as provided in rules or bylaws.

1       (e)    Meetings of the Commission. –

2           (1)    All meetings shall be open to the public, and public notice of meetings shall be  
3               given in the same manner as required under the rule-making provisions in  
4               G.S. 90-270.128.

5           (2)    The Commission or the Executive Board or other committees of the  
6               Commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting if the Commission or  
7               Executive Board or other committees of the Commission must discuss any of  
8               the following:

9               a.     Noncompliance of a member state with its obligations under the  
10              Compact.

11              b.     The employment, compensation, discipline or other matters, practices or  
12              procedures related to specific employees or other matters related to the  
13              Commission's internal personnel practices and procedures.

14              c.     Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation.

15              d.     Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or sale of goods,  
16              services, or real estate.

17              e.     Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person.

18              f.     Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information that  
19              is privileged or confidential.

20              g.     Disclosure of information of a personal nature where disclosure would  
21              constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

22              h.     Disclosure of investigative records compiled for law enforcement  
23              purposes.

24              i.     Disclosure of information related to any investigative reports prepared  
25              by or on behalf of or for use of the Commission or other committee  
26              charged with responsibility of investigation or determination of  
27              compliance issues pursuant to the Compact.

28              j.     Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or member  
29              state statute.

30           (3)    If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to this provision, the  
31               Commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may be  
32               closed and shall reference each relevant exempting provision.

33           (4)    The Commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters  
34               discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions  
35               taken, and the reasons therefore, including a description of the views expressed.  
36               All documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in  
37               such minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall remain  
38               under seal, subject to release by a majority vote of the Commission or order of  
39               a court of competent jurisdiction.

40       (f)    Financing of the Commission. –

41           (1)    The Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable  
42               expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.

43           (2)    The Commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue sources,  
44               donations, and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services.

45           (3)    The Commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each  
46               member state or impose fees on other parties to cover the cost of the operations  
47               and activities of the Commission and its staff, which must be in a total amount  
48               sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved each year for which revenue is  
49               not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount shall  
50               be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the Commission, which  
51               shall promulgate a rule binding upon all member states.

- 1           (4)    The Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the  
2           funds adequate to meet the same; nor shall the Commission pledge the credit of  
3           any of the member states, except by and with the authority of the member state.  
4           (5)    The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements.  
5           The receipts and disbursements of the Commission shall be subject to the audit  
6           and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts  
7           and disbursements of funds handled by the Commission shall be audited yearly  
8           by a certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the audit shall be  
9           included in and become part of the annual report of the Commission.

10       (g)    Qualified Immunity, Defense, and Indemnification. –

- 11           (1)    The members, officers, executive director, employees and representatives of the  
12           Commission shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or in  
13           their official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or  
14           personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual or  
15           alleged act, error or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom the  
16           claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of  
17           Commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that nothing in  
18           this paragraph shall be construed to protect any such person from suit and/or  
19           liability for any damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional or  
20           willful or wanton misconduct of that person.  
21           (2)    The Commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director,  
22           employee or representative of the Commission in any civil action seeking to  
23           impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that  
24           occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or  
25           responsibilities, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a  
26           reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission  
27           employment, duties, or responsibilities; provided that nothing herein shall be  
28           construed to prohibit that person from retaining his or her own counsel; and  
29           provided further, that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result  
30           from that person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.  
31           (3)    The Commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer,  
32           executive director, employee, or representative of the Commission for the  
33           amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out  
34           of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of  
35           Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that such person had a  
36           reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission  
37           employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act,  
38           error, or omission did not result from the intentional or willful or wanton  
39           misconduct of that person.

40       **§ 90-270.127. Data system.**

41           (a)    The Commission shall provide for the development, maintenance, and utilization of a  
42           coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action, and investigative  
43           information on all licensed individuals in member states.

44           (b)    Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the contrary, a member state shall  
45           submit a uniform data set to the data system on all individuals to whom this Compact is applicable  
46           as required by the rules of the Commission, including all of the following:

- 47           (1)    Identifying information.  
48           (2)    Licensure data.  
49           (3)    Adverse actions against a license or compact privilege.  
50           (4)    Non-confidential information related to alternative program participation.  
51           (5)    Any denial of application for licensure, and the reason(s) for such denial.



- 1           (6) Other information that may facilitate the administration of this Compact, as  
2           determined by the rules of the Commission.
- 3           (c) Investigative information pertaining to a licensee in any member state will only be  
4           available to other party states.
- 5           (d) The Commission shall promptly notify all member states of any adverse action taken  
6           against a licensee or an individual applying for a license. Adverse action information pertaining to  
7           a licensee in any member state will be available to any other member state.
- 8           (e) Member states contributing information to the data system may designate information  
9           that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of the contributing state.
- 10          (f) Any information submitted to the data system that is subsequently required to be  
11          expunged by the laws of the member state contributing the information shall be removed from the  
12          data system.
- 13          **§ 90-270.128. Rule Making.**
- 14          (a) The Commission shall exercise its rule-making powers pursuant to the criteria set forth  
15          in this section and the rules adopted thereunder. Rules and amendments shall become binding as  
16          of the date specified in each rule or amendment.
- 17          (b) If a majority of the legislatures of the member states rejects a rule, by enactment of a  
18          statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the Compact within four years of the date of  
19          adoption of the rule, then such rule shall have no further force and effect in any member state.
- 20          (c) Rules or amendments to the rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the  
21          Commission.
- 22          (d) Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules by the Commission, and at  
23          least 30 days in advance of the meeting at which the rule will be considered and voted upon, the  
24          Commission shall file a Notice of Proposed Rule Making on both of the following:
- 25                  (1) On the Web site of the Commission or other publicly accessible platform.  
26                  (2) On the Web site of each member state physical therapy licensing board or other  
27                  publicly accessible platform or the publication in which each state would  
28                  otherwise publish proposed rules.
- 29          (e) The Notice of Proposed Rule Making shall include all of the following:
- 30                  (1) The proposed time, date, and location of the meeting in which the rule will be  
31                  considered and voted upon.  
32                  (2) The text of the proposed rule or amendment and the reason for the proposed  
33                  rule.  
34                  (3) A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person.  
35                  (4) The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the Commission  
36                  of their intention to attend the public hearing and any written comments.
- 37          (f) Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the Commission shall allow persons to submit  
38          written data, facts, opinions, and arguments, which shall be made available to the public.
- 39          (g) The Commission shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing before it adopts a rule  
40          or amendment if a hearing is requested by any of the following:
- 41                  (1) At least 25 persons.  
42                  (2) A state or federal governmental subdivision or agency.  
43                  (3) An association having at least 25 members.
- 44          (h) If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, the Commission shall publish  
45          the place, time, and date of the scheduled public hearing. If the hearing is held via electronic  
46          means, the Commission shall publish the mechanism for access to the electronic hearing.
- 47                  (1) All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing shall notify the executive director  
48                  of the Commission or other designated member in writing of their desire to  
49                  appear and testify at the hearing not less than five business days before the  
50                  scheduled date of the hearing.

- 1           (2)   Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each person who wishes to  
2           comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in writing.
- 3           (3)   All hearings will be recorded. A copy of the recording will be made available  
4           on request.
- 5           (4)   Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a separate hearing on  
6           each rule. Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the Commission at  
7           hearings required by this section.
- 8           (i)   Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close of business on the scheduled  
9           hearing date if the hearing was not held, the Commission shall consider all written and oral  
10          comments received.
- 11          (j)   If no written notice of intent to attend the public hearing by interested parties is  
12          received, the Commission may proceed with promulgation of the proposed rule without a public  
13          hearing.
- 14          (k)   The Commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take final action on the  
15          proposed rule and shall determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the rule-making  
16          record and the full text of the rule.
- 17          (l)   Upon determination that an emergency exists, the Commission may consider and adopt  
18          an emergency rule without prior notice, opportunity for comment, or hearing, provided that the  
19          usual rule-making procedures provided in the Compact and in this section shall be retroactively  
20          applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than 90 days after the effective  
21          date of the rule. For the purposes of this provision, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted  
22          immediately in order to do any of the following:
- 23               (1)   Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare.
- 24               (2)   Prevent a loss of Commission or member state funds.
- 25               (3)   Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is  
26               established by federal law or rule.
- 27               (4)   Protect public health and safety.
- 28          (m)   The Commission or an authorized committee of the Commission may direct revisions  
29          to a previously adopted rule or amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors  
30          in format, errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be  
31          posted on the Web site of the Commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any  
32          person for a period of 30 days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that  
33          the revision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made in writing, and  
34          delivered to the chair of the Commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is  
35          made, the revision will take effect without further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision  
36          may not take effect without the approval of the Commission.
- 37          **"§ 90-270.129. Oversight, dispute resolution, and enforcement.**
- 38          (a)   Oversight. –
- 39               (1)   The executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government in each  
40               member state shall enforce this Compact and take all actions necessary and  
41               appropriate to effectuate the Compact's purposes and intent. The provisions of  
42               this Compact and the rules promulgated hereunder shall have standing as  
43               statutory law.
- 44               (2)   All courts shall take judicial notice of the Compact and the rules in any judicial  
45               or administrative proceeding in a member state pertaining to the subject matter  
46               of this Compact which may affect the powers, responsibilities or actions of the  
47               Commission.
- 48               (3)   The Commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any such  
49               proceeding, and shall have standing to intervene in such a proceeding for all  
50               purposes. Failure to provide service of process to the Commission shall render a

- 1 judgment or order void as to the Commission, this Compact, or promulgated  
2 rules.
- 3 (b) Default, Technical Assistance, and Termination. –
- 4 (1) If the Commission determines that a member state has defaulted in the  
5 performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this Compact or the  
6 promulgated rules, the Commission shall do all of the following:
- 7 a. Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other member states of  
8 the nature of the default, the proposed means of curing the default  
9 and/or any other action to be taken by the Commission.
- 10 b. Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance regarding the  
11 default.
- 12 (2) If a state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting state may be  
13 terminated from the Compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the  
14 member states, and all rights, privileges and benefits conferred by this Compact  
15 may be terminated on the effective date of termination. A cure of the default  
16 does not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during  
17 the period of default.
- 18 (3) Termination of membership in the Compact shall be imposed only after all  
19 other means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to  
20 suspend or terminate shall be given by the Commission to the governor, the  
21 majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature, and each of  
22 the member states.
- 23 (4) A state that has been terminated is responsible for all assessments, obligations,  
24 and liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination, including  
25 obligations that extend beyond the effective date of termination.
- 26 (5) The Commission shall not bear any costs related to a state that is found to be in  
27 default or that has been terminated from the Compact, unless agreed upon in  
28 writing between the Commission and the defaulting state.
- 29 (6) The defaulting state may appeal the action of the Commission by petitioning  
30 the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where  
31 the Commission has its principal offices. The prevailing member shall be  
32 awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorneys' fees.
- 33 (c) Dispute Resolution. –
- 34 (1) Upon request by a member state, the Commission shall attempt to resolve  
35 disputes related to the Compact that arise among member states and between  
36 member and non-member states.
- 37 (2) The Commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and  
38 binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.
- 39 (d) Enforcement. –
- 40 (1) The Commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the  
41 provisions and rules of this Compact.
- 42 (2) By majority vote, the Commission may initiate legal action in the United States  
43 District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the  
44 Commission has its principal offices against a member state in default to  
45 enforce compliance with the provisions of the Compact and its promulgated  
46 rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and  
47 damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing member  
48 shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorneys'  
49 fees.

1           (3)    The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the Commission.  
2                   The Commission may pursue any other remedies available under federal or  
3                   state law.

4    "**§ 90-270.130. Date of implementation of the interstate Commission for Physical Therapy**  
5           **Practice and associated rules, withdrawal and amendment.**

6           (a)    The Compact shall come into effect on the date on which the Compact statute is  
7                   enacted into law in the tenth member state. The provisions, which become effective at that time,  
8                   shall be limited to the powers granted to the Commission relating to assembly and the  
9                   promulgation of rules. Thereafter, the Commission shall meet and exercise rule-making powers  
10                  necessary to the implementation and administration of the Compact.

11          (b)    Any state that joins the Compact subsequent to the Commission's initial adoption of the  
12                  rules shall be subject to the rules as they exist on the date on which the Compact becomes law in  
13                  that state. Any rule that has been previously adopted by the Commission shall have the full force  
14                  and effect of law on the day the Compact becomes law in that state.

15          (c)    Any member state may withdraw from this Compact by enacting a statute repealing the  
16                  same.

17               (1)    A member state's withdrawal shall not take effect until six months after  
18                   enactment of the repealing statute.

19               (2)    Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing  
20                   state's physical therapy licensing board to comply with the investigative and  
21                   adverse action reporting requirements of this act prior to the effective date of  
22                   withdrawal.

23          (d)    Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any  
24                  physical therapy licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a member state  
25                  and a non-member state that does not conflict with the provisions of this Compact.

26          (e)    This Compact may be amended by the member states. No amendment to this Compact  
27                  shall become effective and binding upon any member state until it is enacted into the laws of all  
28                  member states.

29    "**§ 90-270.131. Construction and severability.**

30               This Compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The  
31               provisions of this Compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of  
32               this Compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any party state or of the United States  
33               or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
34               validity of the remainder of this Compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency,  
35               person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this Compact shall be held contrary to the  
36               constitution of any party state, the Compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the  
37               remaining party states and in full force and effect as to the party state affected as to all severable  
38               matters."

39               **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2017. The North Carolina Board  
40 of Physical Therapy Examiners shall report to the Revisor of Statutes when the Physical Therapy  
41 Licensure Compact has been enacted by the tenth member state.