

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1044**

Introduced by

Human Services Committee

(At the request of the State Board of Nursing)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 43-12.5-01 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to the advanced practice registered nurse licensure compact.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-12.5-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **43-12.5-01. ~~Advance~~Advanced practice registered nurse licensure ~~company~~compact.**

7 **ARTICLE I - FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE**

8 1. The party states find that:

- 9 a. The health and safety of the public are affected by the degree of compliance with  
10 advanced practice registered nurse licensure requirements and the effectiveness  
11 of enforcement activities related to state advanced practice registered nurse  
12 licensure laws;
- 13 b. Violations of advanced practice registered nurse licensure and other laws  
14 regulating the practice of nursing may result in injury or harm to the public;
- 15 c. The expanded mobility of advanced practice registered nurses and the use of  
16 advanced communication and intervention technologies as part of our nation's  
17 health care delivery system require greater coordination and cooperation among  
18 states in the areas of advanced practice registered nurse licensure and  
19 regulation;
- 20 d. New practice modalities and technology make compliance with individual state  
21 advanced practice registered nurse licensure laws difficult and complex;
- 22 e. The current system of duplicative advanced practice registered nurse licensure  
23 for advanced practice registered nurses practicing in multiple states is  
24 cumbersome and redundant for ~~both~~ health care delivery systems, payors, state

- 1            licensing boards, regulators, and advanced practice registered nurses ~~and states~~;
- 2            and
- 3            f. Uniformity of advanced practice registered nurse licensure requirements
- 4            throughout the states promotes public safety and public health benefits as well as
- 5            providing a mechanism to increase access to care.
- 6            2. The general purposes of this compact are to:
- 7            a. Facilitate the states' responsibility to protect the public's health and safety;
- 8            b. Ensure and encourage the cooperation of party states in the areas of advanced
- 9            practice registered nurse licensure and regulation, including promotion of uniform
- 10            licensure requirements;
- 11            c. Facilitate the exchange of information between party states in the areas of
- 12            advanced practice registered nurse regulation, investigation, and adverse
- 13            actions;
- 14            d. Promote compliance with the laws governing advanced practice registered nurse
- 15            practice in each jurisdiction;
- 16            e. Invest all party states with the authority to hold an advanced practice registered
- 17            nurse accountable for meeting all state practice laws in the state in which the
- 18            patient is located at the time care is rendered through the mutual recognition of
- 19            party state licenses privileges to practice;
- 20            f. Decrease redundancies in the consideration and issuance of advanced practice
- 21            registered nurse licenses; and
- 22            g. Provide opportunities for interstate practice by advanced practice registered
- 23            nurses who meet uniform licensure requirements.

## 24            **ARTICLE II - DEFINITIONS**

25            As used in this compact:

- 26            1. "Advanced practice registered nurse" means a registered nurse who has gained
- 27            additional specialized knowledge, skills, and experience through a program of study
- 28            recognized or defined by the Interstate Commission of Advanced Practice Registered
- 29            Nurse Compact Administrators ("commission"), and who is licensed to perform
- 30            advanced nursing practice. An advanced practice registered nurse is licensed in an

- 1 advanced practice registered nurse role that is congruent with an advanced practice  
2 registered nurse educational program, certification, and commission rules.
- 3 2. "Advanced practice registered nurse licensure" means the regulatory mechanism used  
4 by a party state to grant legal authority to practice as an advanced practice registered  
5 nurse.
- 6 3. "Advanced practice registered nurse uniform licensure requirements" means the  
7 minimum uniform licensure, education, and examination requirements as adopted by  
8 the commission set forth in subsection 2 of article III.
- 9 4. "Adverse action" means any administrative, civil, equitable, or criminal action  
10 permitted by a state's laws which is imposed by a licensing board or other authority  
11 against an advanced practice registered nurse, including actions against an  
12 individual's license or multistate licensure privilege such as revocation, suspension,  
13 probation, monitoring of the licensee, limitation on the licensee's practice, or any other  
14 encumbrance on licensure affecting an advanced practice registered nurse's  
15 authorization to practice, including the issuance of a cease and desist action.
- 16 5. "Alternative program" means a non-disciplinary monitoring program approved by a  
17 licensing board.
- 18 6. "Coordinated licensure information system" means an integrated process for  
19 collecting, storing, and sharing information on advanced practice registered nurse  
20 licensure and enforcement activities related to advanced practice registered nurse  
21 licensure laws which is administered by a nonprofit organization composed of and  
22 controlled by licensing boards.
- 23 7. "Current significant investigatory information" means:  
24 a. Investigative information that a licensing board, after a preliminary inquiry that  
25 includes notification and an opportunity for the advanced practice registered  
26 nurse to respond, if required by state law, has reason to believe is not groundless  
27 and, if proved true, would indicate more than a minor infraction; or  
28 b. Investigative information that indicates that the advanced practice registered  
29 nurse represents an immediate threat to public health and safety regardless of  
30 whether the advanced practice registered nurse has been notified and had an  
31 opportunity to respond.

- 1           8. "Encumbrance" means a revocation or suspension of, or any limitation on, the full and  
2           unrestricted practice of nursing imposed by a licensing board in connection with a  
3           disciplinary proceeding.
- 4           9. "Home state" means the party state that is the advanced practice registered nurse's  
5           primary state of residence.
- 6           10. "Licensing board" means a party state's regulatory body responsible for regulating the  
7           practice of advanced practice registered nursing.
- 8           11. "Multistate license" means an advanced practice registered nurse license to practice  
9           as an advanced practice registered nurse issued by a home state licensing board  
10          which authorizes the advanced practice registered nurse to practice as an advanced  
11          practice registered nurse in all party states under a multistate licensure privilege, in the  
12          same role and population focus as the advanced practice registered nurse is licensed  
13          in the home state.
- 14          12. "Multistate licensure privilege" means a legal authorization associated with an  
15          advanced practice registered nurse multistate license which permits an advanced  
16          practice registered nurse to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in a  
17          remote state, in the same role and population focus as the advanced practice  
18          registered nurse is licensed in the home state.
- 19          13. "Noncontrolled prescription drug" means a device or drug that is not a controlled  
20          substance and is prohibited under state or federal law from being dispensed without a  
21          prescription. The term includes a device or drug that bears or is required to bear the  
22          legend "caution: federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription" or "prescription  
23          only" or other legend that complies with federal law.
- 24          14. "Party state" means any state that has adopted this compact.
- 25          15. "Population focus" means ~~a specific patient population that is congruent with the~~  
26          ~~advanced practice registered nurse educational program, certification, and~~  
27          ~~commission rules~~ one of the six population foci of family or individual across the  
28          lifespan, adult-gerontology, pediatrics, neonatal, women's health or gender-related,  
29          and psychiatric mental health.
- 30          16. "Prescriptive authority" means the legal authority to prescribe medications and devices  
31          as defined by party state laws.

1 17. "Remote state" means a party state that is not the home state.

2 18. "Role" means one of the four recognized roles of certified registered nurse  
3 anesthetists, certified nurse midwives, clinical nurse specialists, and certified nurse  
4 practitioners.

5 19. "Single-state license" means an advanced practice registered nurse license issued by  
6 a party state which authorizes practice only within the issuing state and does not  
7 include a multistate licensure privilege to practice in any other party state.

8 ~~19:20.~~ "State" means a state, territory, or possession of the United States and the District of  
9 Columbia.

10 ~~20:21.~~ "State practice laws" means a party state's laws, rules, and regulations that govern  
11 advanced practice registered nurse practice, define the scope of advanced nursing  
12 practice, ~~including prescriptive authority,~~ and create the methods and grounds for  
13 imposing discipline except that prescriptive authority must be treated in accordance  
14 with subsections 6 and 7 of article III. State practice laws do not include the:

15 a. A party state's laws, rules, and regulations requiring supervision or collaboration  
16 with a health care professional, except for laws, rules, and regulations regarding  
17 prescribing controlled substances; and

18 b. The requirements necessary to obtain and retain an advanced practice registered  
19 nurse license, except for qualifications or requirements of the home state.

### 20 **ARTICLE III - GENERAL PROVISIONS AND JURISDICTION**

21 1. A state must implement procedures for considering the criminal history records of  
22 applicants for initial advanced practice registered nurse licensure or advanced practice  
23 registered nurse licensure by endorsement. Such procedures must include the  
24 submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based information by advanced practice  
25 registered nurse applicants for the purpose of obtaining an applicant's criminal history  
26 record information from the federal bureau of investigation and the agency responsible  
27 for retaining that state's criminal records.

28 2. ~~By rule, the commission shall adopt the advanced practice registered nurse uniform~~  
29 ~~licensure requirements. The uniform licensure requirements must provide the~~  
30 ~~minimum requirements for advanced practice registered nurse multistate licensure in~~  
31 ~~party states, if the commission may adopt rules whereby an advanced practice~~

1           ~~registered nurse, with an unencumbered license on the effective date of this compact,~~  
2           ~~may obtain, by endorsement~~Each party state shall require an applicant to satisfy the  
3           following advanced practice registered nurse uniform licensure requirements to obtain  
4           ~~or otherwise, and retain a multistate license in a party~~the home state.

5           3. ~~In order to obtain or retain a multistate license, an advanced practice registered nurse~~  
6           ~~shall meet, in addition to the uniform licensure requirements,:~~

7           a. Meets the home state's qualifications for licensure or renewal of licensure, as well  
8           as, all other applicable home state laws:

9           4. ~~By rule, the commission shall identify the approved advanced practice registered~~  
10           ~~nurse roles and population foci for licensure as an advanced practice registered~~  
11           ~~nurse.:~~

12           b. (1) Has completed an accredited graduate-level education program that  
13           prepares the applicant for one of the four recognized roles and population  
14           foci; or

15           (2) Has completed a foreign advanced practice registered nurse education  
16           program for one of the four recognized roles and population foci that:

17           (a) Has been approved by the authorized accrediting body in the  
18           applicable country; and

19           (b) Has been verified by an independent credentials review agency to be  
20           comparable to a licensing board-approved advanced practice  
21           registered nurse education program;

22           c. Has, if a graduate of a foreign advanced practice registered nurse program not  
23           taught in English or if English is not the individual's native language, successfully  
24           passed an English proficiency examination that includes the components of  
25           reading, speaking, writing, and listening;

26           d. Has successfully passed a national certification examination that measures  
27           advanced practice registered nurse, role and population-focused competencies  
28           and maintains continued competence as evidenced by recertification in the role  
29           and population focus through the national certification program;

- 1           e. Holds an active, unencumbered license as a registered nurse and an active,  
2           unencumbered authorization to practice as an advanced practice registered  
3           nurse;
- 4           f. Has successfully passed an NCLEX-RN® examination or recognized  
5           predecessor, as applicable;
- 6           g. Has practiced for at least two thousand eighty hours as an advanced practice  
7           registered nurse in a role and population focus congruent with the applicant's  
8           education and training. For purposes of this section, practice must not include  
9           hours obtained as part of enrollment in an advanced practice registered nurse  
10          education program;
- 11          h. Has submitted, in connection with an application for initial licensure or licensure  
12          by endorsement, fingerprints or other biometric data for the purpose of obtaining  
13          criminal history record information from the federal bureau of investigation and  
14          the agency responsible for retaining that state or, if applicable, foreign country's  
15          criminal records;
- 16          i. Has not been convicted or found guilty or, has entered into an agreed disposition  
17          of a felony offense under applicable state, federal, or foreign criminal law;
- 18          j. Has not been convicted or found guilty or has entered into an agreed disposition,  
19          of a misdemeanor offense related to the practice of nursing as determined by  
20          factors set forth in rules adopted by the commission;
- 21          k. Is not currently enrolled in an alternative program;
- 22          l. Is subject to self-disclosure requirements regarding current participation in an  
23          alternative program; and
- 24          m. Has a valid United States social security number.
- 25      3. An advanced practice registered nurse issued a multistate license must be licensed in  
26      an approved ~~advanced practice registered nurse~~ role and at least one approved  
27      population focus.
- 28      5.4. An advanced practice registered nurse multistate license issued by a home state to a  
29      resident in that state will be recognized by each party state as authorizing the  
30      advanced practice registered nurse to practice as an advanced practice registered  
31      nurse in each party state, under a multistate licensure privilege, in the same role and

1 population focus as the advanced practice registered nurse is licensed in the home  
2 state. If an applicant does not qualify for a multistate license, a single-state license  
3 may be issued by a home state.

4 5. Nothing in this compact shall affect the requirements established by a party state for  
5 the issuance of a single-state license, except that an individual may apply for a single-  
6 state license, instead of a multistate license, even if otherwise qualified for the  
7 multistate license. However, the failure of such an individual to affirmatively opt for a  
8 single-state license may result in the issuance of a multistate license.

9 6. Issuance of an advanced practice registered nurse multistate license must include  
10 prescriptive authority for noncontrolled prescription drugs, unless the advanced-  
11 practice registered nurse was licensed by the home state before the home state's  
12 adoption of this compact and has not previously held prescriptive authority.

13 a. ~~An advanced practice registered nurse granted prescriptive authority for~~  
14 ~~noncontrolled prescription drugs in the home state may exercise prescriptive~~  
15 ~~authority for noncontrolled prescription drugs in any remote state while exercising~~  
16 ~~a multistate licensure privilege under an advanced practice registered nurse~~  
17 ~~multistate license; the advanced practice registered nurse may not be required to~~  
18 ~~meet any additional eligibility requirements imposed by the remote state in~~  
19 ~~exercising prescriptive authority for noncontrolled prescription drugs.~~

20 b. ~~Prescriptive authority in the home state for an advanced practice registered nurse~~  
21 ~~who was not granted prescriptive authority at the time of initial licensure by the~~  
22 ~~home state, before the adoption of this compact, must be determined under~~  
23 ~~home state law.~~

24 e. ~~Prescriptive authority eligibility for an advanced practice registered nurse holding~~  
25 ~~a single-state license must be determined under the law of the licensing state.~~

26 7. For each state in which an advanced practice registered nurse seeks authority to  
27 prescribe controlled substances, the advanced practice registered nurse shall satisfy  
28 all requirements imposed by such state in granting and/or renewing such authority.

29 8. An advanced practice registered nurse issued a multistate license may assume  
30 responsibility and accountability for patient care independent of any supervisory or  
31 collaborative relationship ~~with a physician~~. This authority may be exercised in the



1 home state and in any remote state in which the advanced practice registered nurse  
2 exercises a multistate licensure privilege. ~~For an advanced practice registered nurse  
3 issued a single state license in a party state, the requirement for a supervisory or  
4 collaborative relationship with a physician must be determined under applicable party  
5 state law.~~

6 9. All party states are authorized, in accordance with state due process laws, to take  
7 adverse action against an advanced practice registered nurse's multistate licensure  
8 privilege such as revocation, suspension, probation, or any other action that affects an  
9 advanced practice registered nurse's authorization to practice under a multistate  
10 licensure privilege, including cease and desist actions. If a party state takes such  
11 action, it promptly shall notify the administrator of the coordinated licensure  
12 information system. The administrator of the coordinated licensure information system  
13 promptly shall notify the home state of any such actions by remote states.

14 10. ~~An~~Except as otherwise expressly provided in this compact, an advanced practice  
15 registered nurse practicing in a party state shall comply with the state practice laws of  
16 the state in which the client is located at the time service is provided. Advanced  
17 practice registered nurse practice is not limited to patient care, but includes all  
18 advanced nursing practice as defined by the state practice laws of the party state in  
19 which the client is located. Advanced practice registered nurse practice in a party state  
20 under a multistate licensure privilege subjects the advanced practice registered nurse  
21 to the jurisdiction of the licensing board, the courts, and the laws of the party state in  
22 which the client is located at the time service is provided.

23 11. ~~This~~Except as otherwise expressly provided in this compact, this compact does not  
24 affect additional requirements imposed by states for advanced practice registered  
25 nursing. However, a multistate licensure privilege to practice registered nursing  
26 granted by a party state must be recognized by other party states as satisfying any  
27 state law requirement for registered nurse licensure as a precondition for authorization  
28 to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in that state.

29 12. Individuals not residing in a party state shall continue to be able to apply for a party  
30 state's single-state advanced practice registered nurse license as provided under the  
31 laws of each party state. However, the single-state license granted to these individuals

1 will not be recognized as granting the privilege to practice as an advanced practice  
2 registered nurse in any other party state.

3 **ARTICLE IV - APPLICATIONS FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE**  
4 **LICENSURE IN A PARTY STATE**

- 5 1. Upon application for an advanced practice registered nurse multistate license, the  
6 licensing board in the issuing party state shall ascertain, through the coordinated  
7 licensure information system, whether the applicant has ever held or is the holder of a  
8 licensed practical/vocational nursing license, a registered nursing license, or an  
9 advanced practice registered nurse license issued by any other state, whether there  
10 are any encumbrances on any license or multistate licensure privilege held by the  
11 applicant, whether any adverse action has been taken against any license or  
12 multistate licensure privilege held by the applicant, and whether the applicant is  
13 currently participating in an alternative program.
- 14 2. An advanced practice registered nurse may hold a multistate advanced practice  
15 registered nurse license, issued by the home state, in only one party state at a time.
- 16 3. If an advanced practice registered nurse changes primary state of residence by  
17 moving between two party states, the advanced practice registered nurse shall apply  
18 for advanced practice registered nurse licensure in the new home state, and the  
19 multistate license issued by the prior home state must be deactivated in accordance  
20 with applicable commission rules.
- 21 a. The advanced practice registered nurse may apply for licensure in advance of a  
22 change in primary state of residence.
- 23 b. A multistate advanced practice registered nurse license may not be issued by the  
24 new home state until the advanced practice registered nurse provides  
25 satisfactory evidence of a change in primary state of residence to the new home  
26 state and satisfies all applicable requirements to obtain a multistate advanced  
27 practice registered nurse license from the new home state.
- 28 4. If an advanced practice registered nurse changes primary state of residence by  
29 moving from a party state to a nonparty state, the advanced practice registered nurse  
30 multistate license issued by the prior home state converts to a single-state license,  
31 valid only in the former home state.

1           **ARTICLE V - ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES INVESTED IN PARTY STATE LICENSING**

2   **BOARDS**

3           1.    In addition to the other powers conferred by state law, a licensing board may:

4                   a.    Take adverse action against an advanced practice registered nurse's multistate  
5                   licensure privilege to practice within that party state.

6                           (1)   Only the home state may take adverse action against an advanced practice  
7                           registered nurse's license issued by the home state.

8                           (2)   For purposes of taking adverse action, the home state licensing board shall  
9                           give the same priority and effect to reported conduct that occurred outside  
10                          of the home state as it would if such conduct had occurred within the home  
11                          state. In so doing, the home state shall apply its own state laws to determine  
12                          appropriate action.

13                  b.    Issue cease and desist orders or impose an encumbrance on an advanced  
14                   practice registered nurse's authority to practice within that party state.

15                  c.    Complete any pending investigations of an advanced practice registered nurse  
16                   who changes primary state of residence during the course of such investigations.  
17                   The licensing board also may take any appropriate action and promptly shall  
18                   report the conclusions of such investigations to the administrator of the  
19                   coordinated licensure information system. The administrator of the coordinated  
20                   licensure information system promptly shall notify the new home state of any  
21                   such actions.

22                  d.    Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations which require the  
23                   attendance and testimony of witnesses, as well as, the production of evidence.  
24                   Subpoenas issued by a party state licensing board for the attendance and  
25                   testimony of witnesses ~~and/or~~and the production of evidence from another party  
26                   state must be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent jurisdiction,  
27                   according to that court's practice and procedure in considering subpoenas issued  
28                   in its own proceedings. The issuing licensing board shall pay any witness fees,  
29                   travel expenses, mileage, and other fees required by the service statutes of the  
30                   state in which the witnesses ~~and/or~~and evidence are located.

- 1 e. Obtain and submit, for an advanced practice registered nurse licensure applicant,  
2 fingerprints or other biometric-based information to the federal bureau of  
3 investigation for criminal background checks, receive the results of the federal  
4 bureau of investigation record search on criminal background checks and use the  
5 results in making licensure decisions.
- 6 f. If otherwise permitted by state law, recover from the affected advanced practice  
7 registered nurse the costs of investigations and disposition of cases resulting  
8 from any adverse action taken against that advanced practice registered nurse.
- 9 g. Take adverse action based on the factual findings of another party state, if the  
10 licensing board follows its own procedures for taking such adverse action.
- 11 2. If adverse action is taken by a home state against an advanced practice registered  
12 nurse's multistate licensure, the privilege to practice in all other party states under a  
13 multistate licensure privilege must be deactivated until all encumbrances have been  
14 removed from the advanced practice registered nurse's multistate license. All home  
15 state disciplinary orders that impose adverse action against an advanced practice  
16 registered nurse's multistate license must include a statement that the advanced  
17 practice registered nurse's multistate licensure privilege is deactivated in all party  
18 states during the pendency of the order.
- 19 3. This compact does not override a party state's decision that participation in an  
20 alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action. The home state licensing  
21 board shall deactivate the multistate licensure privilege under the multistate license of  
22 any advanced practice registered nurse for the duration of the advanced practice  
23 registered nurse's participation in an alternative program.

24 **ARTICLE VI - COORDINATED LICENSURE INFORMATION SYSTEM AND EXCHANGE**  
25 **INFORMATION**

- 26 1. All party states shall participate in a coordinated licensure information system of all  
27 advanced practice registered nurses, licensed registered nurses, and licensed  
28 practical/vocational nurses. This system includes information on the licensure and  
29 disciplinary history of each advanced practice registered nurse, as submitted by party  
30 states, to assist in the coordinated administration of advanced practice registered  
31 nurse licensure and enforcement efforts.

- 1           2.    The commission, in consultation with the administrator of the coordinated licensure  
2           information system, shall formulate necessary and proper procedures for the  
3           identification, collection, and exchange of information under this compact.
- 4           3.    All licensing boards promptly shall report to the coordinated licensure information  
5           system any adverse action, any current significant investigative information, denials of  
6           applications (with the reasons for such denials), and advanced practice registered  
7           nurse participation in alternative programs known to the licensing board regardless of  
8           whether such participation is deemed nonpublic ~~and/or~~ and confidential under state  
9           law.
- 10          4.    ~~Current significant investigative information and participation in nonpublic or~~  
11          ~~confidential alternative programs must be transmitted through the coordinated~~  
12          ~~licensure information system only to party state licensing boards.~~
- 13          5.    Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all party state licensing boards contributing  
14          information to the coordinated licensure information system may designate information  
15          that may not be shared with nonparty states or disclosed to other entities or individuals  
16          without the express permission of the contributing state.
- 17          ~~6.5.~~ Any personally identifiable information obtained from the coordinated licensure  
18          information system by a party state licensing board may not be shared with nonparty  
19          states or disclosed to other entities or individuals except to the extent permitted by the  
20          laws of the party state contributing the information.
- 21          ~~7.6.~~ Any information contributed to the coordinated licensure information system which is  
22          subsequently required to be expunged by the laws of the party state contributing the  
23          information must be removed from the coordinated licensure information system.
- 24          ~~8.7.~~ The compact administrator of each party state shall furnish a uniform data set to the  
25          compact administrator of each other party state, which must include, at a minimum:  
26          a.    Identifying information;  
27          b.    Licensure data;  
28          c.    Information related to alternative program participation information; and  
29          d.    Other information that may facilitate the administration of this compact, as  
30          determined by commission rules.

1     ~~9-8.~~   The compact administrator of a party state shall provide all investigative documents  
2                   and information requested by another party state.

3     **ARTICLE VII - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION OF ADVANCED**  
4                   **PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE COMPACT ADMINISTRATORS**

- 5     1.   The party states hereby create and establish a joint public agency known as the  
6           interstate commission of advanced practice registered nurse compact administrators.
- 7         a.   The commission is an instrumentality of the party states.
- 8         b.   Venue is proper, and judicial proceedings by or against the commission must be  
9             brought solely and exclusively, in a court of competent jurisdiction where the  
10            principal office of the commission is located. The commission may waive venue  
11            and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to participate in  
12            alternative dispute resolution proceedings.
- 13        c.   This compact may not be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity.
- 14    2.   Membership, voting, and meetings.
- 15        a.   Each party state must have and be limited to one administrator. The head of the  
16            state licensing board or designee is the administrator of this compact for each  
17            party state. Any administrator may be removed or suspended from office as  
18            provided by the law of the state from which the administrator is appointed. Any  
19            vacancy occurring in the commission must be filled in accordance with the laws  
20            of the party state in which the vacancy exists.
- 21        b.   Each administrator is entitled to one vote with regard to the promulgation of rules  
22            and creation of bylaws and otherwise must have an opportunity to participate in  
23            the business and affairs of the commission. An administrator shall vote in person  
24            or by such other means as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for  
25            an administrator's participation in meetings by telephone or other means of  
26            communication.
- 27        c.   The commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. Additional  
28            meetings must be held as set forth in the bylaws or rules of the commission.
- 29        d.   All meetings are open to the public, and public notice of meetings must be given  
30            in the same manner as required under the rulemaking provisions in article VIII.

- 1           e. The commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting if the commission  
2           must discuss:
- 3           (1) Noncompliance of a party state with its obligations under this compact;  
4           (2) The employment, compensation, discipline, or other personnel matters,  
5           practices, or procedures related to specific employees or other matters  
6           related to the commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;  
7           (3) Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation;  
8           (4) Negotiation of contracts for the purchase or sale of goods, services, or real  
9           estate;  
10          (5) Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;  
11          (6) Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is  
12          privileged or confidential;  
13          (7) Disclosure of information of a personal nature if disclosure would constitute  
14          a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;  
15          (8) Disclosure of investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes;  
16          (9) Disclosure of information related to any reports prepared by or on behalf of  
17          the commission for the purpose of investigation of compliance with this  
18          compact; or  
19          (10) Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or state statute.
- 20          f. If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to this provision, the  
21          commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may be  
22          closed and shall reference each relevant exempting provision. The commission  
23          shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a  
24          meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the  
25          reasons for those actions, including a description of the views expressed. All  
26          documents considered in connection with an action must be identified in such  
27          minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting must remain under seal,  
28          subject to release by a majority vote of the commission or order of a court of  
29          competent jurisdiction.

- 1           3. By a majority vote of the administrators, the commission shall prescribe bylaws or  
2           rules to govern its conduct as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the  
3           purposes and exercise the powers of this compact, including:
- 4           a. Establishing the fiscal year of the commission;
- 5           b. Providing reasonable standards and procedures:
- 6                 (1) For the establishment and meetings of other committees; and
- 7                 (2) Governing any general or specific delegation of any authority or function of  
8                 the commission;
- 9           c. Providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting meetings of the  
10           commission, ensuring reasonable advance notice of all meetings, and providing  
11           an opportunity for attendance of such meetings by interested parties, with  
12           enumerated exceptions designed to protect the public's interest, the privacy of  
13           individuals, and proprietary information, including trade secrets. The commission  
14           may meet in closed session only after a majority of the administrators vote to  
15           close a meeting in whole or in part. As soon as practicable, the commission shall  
16           make public a copy of the vote to close the meeting revealing the vote of each  
17           administrator, with no proxy votes allowed;
- 18           d. Establishing the titles, duties, and authority and reasonable procedures for the  
19           election of the officers of the commission;
- 20           e. Providing reasonable standards and procedures for the establishment of the  
21           personnel policies and programs of the commission. Notwithstanding any civil  
22           service or other similar laws of any party state, the bylaws exclusively govern the  
23           personnel policies and programs of the commission; and
- 24           f. Providing a mechanism for winding up the operations of the commission and the  
25           equitable disposition of any surplus funds that may exist after the termination of  
26           this compact after the payment ~~and/or~~ and reserving of all of its debts and  
27           obligations.
- 28           4. The commission shall publish its bylaws and rules, and any amendments to the  
29           bylaws and rules, in a convenient form on the website of the commission.
- 30           5. The commission shall maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws.



- 1           6.    The commission shall meet and take such actions as are consistent with the  
2           provisions of this compact and the bylaws.
- 3           7.    The commission may:
- 4           a.    Promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and  
5           administration of this compact. The rules have the force and effect of law and are  
6           binding in all party states;
- 7           b.    Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the commission.  
8           However, the standing of any licensing board to sue or be sued under applicable  
9           law may not be affected;
- 10          c.    Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;
- 11          d.    Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including employees of a  
12          party state or nonprofit organizations;
- 13          e.    Cooperate with other organizations that administer state compacts related to the  
14          regulation of nursing, including sharing administrative or staff expenses, office  
15          space, or other resources;
- 16          f.    Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant  
17          such individuals appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of this compact,  
18          and to establish the commission's personnel policies and programs relating to  
19          conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel, and other related personnel  
20          matters;
- 21          g.    Accept any and all appropriate donations, grants, and gifts of money, equipment,  
22          supplies, materials, and services, and to receive, utilize, and dispose of the  
23          same. However, at all times the commission shall strive to avoid any appearance  
24          of impropriety ~~and/or~~ conflict of interest;
- 25          h.    Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise to own,  
26          hold, improve, or use, any property, whether real, personal, or mixed. However, at  
27          all times the commission shall strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety;
- 28          i.    Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose  
29          of any property, whether real, personal, or mixed;
- 30          j.    Establish a budget and make expenditures;
- 31          k.    Borrow money;

- 1           l. Appoint committees, including advisory committees comprised of administrators,  
2           state nursing regulators, state legislators, or their representatives, and consumer  
3           representatives, and other such interested persons;
- 4           m. Issue advisory opinions;
- 5           n. Provide and receive information from, and to cooperate with, law enforcement  
6           agencies;
- 7           ~~n.o.~~ Adopt and use an official seal; and
- 8           ~~o.p.~~ Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the  
9           purposes of this compact consistent with the state regulation of advanced  
10          practice registered nurse licensure and practice.
- 11         8. Financing of the commission.
- 12           a. The commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable  
13           expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.
- 14           b. The commission may also levy on and collect an annual assessment from each  
15           party state to cover the cost of theits operations and, activities of ~~the interstate~~  
16           ~~commission,~~ and its staff ~~which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover its~~  
17           annual budget as approved each year. The aggregate annual assessment  
18           amount ~~must, if any, must~~ be allocated based upon a formula to be determined  
19           by the commission, which shall promulgate a rule that is binding upon all party  
20           states.
- 21           c. The commission may not incur obligations of any kind before securing the funds  
22           adequate to meet the same, nor may the commission pledge the credit of any of  
23           the party states, except by, and with the authority of, such party state.
- 24           d. The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements.  
25           The receipts and disbursements of the commission are subject to the audit and  
26           accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and  
27           disbursements of funds handled by the commission must be audited yearly by a  
28           certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the audit must be  
29           included in and become part of the annual report of the commission.
- 30         9. Qualified immunity, defense, and indemnification.



- 1        1. The commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set forth  
2            in this article and the rules adopted thereunder. Rules and amendments become  
3            binding as of the date specified in each rule or amendment and have the same force  
4            and effect as provisions of this compact.
- 5        2. Rules or amendments to the rules must be adopted at a regular or special meeting of  
6            the commission.
- 7        3. Before promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules by the commission, and at  
8            least sixty days in advance of the meeting at which the rule will be considered and  
9            voted upon, the commission shall file a notice of proposed rulemaking:  
10           a. On the website of the commission; and  
11           b. On the website of each licensing board or the publication in which each state  
12              would otherwise publish proposed rules.
- 13       4. The notice of proposed rulemaking must include:  
14           a. The proposed time, date, and location of the meeting at which the rule will be  
15              considered and voted upon;  
16           b. The text of the proposed rule or amendment, and the reason for the proposed  
17              rule;  
18           c. A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person; and  
19           d. The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the commission of  
20              their intention to attend the public hearing and any written comments.
- 21       5. Before adoption of a proposed rule, the commission shall allow persons to submit  
22            written data, facts, opinions, and arguments, which must be made available to the  
23            public.
- 24       6. The commission shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing before it adopts a rule  
25            or amendment.
- 26       7. The commission shall publish the place, time, and date of the scheduled public  
27            hearing.  
28           a. Hearings must be conducted in a manner providing each person that wishes to  
29              comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in writing. All  
30              hearings must be recorded, and a copy must be made available upon request.

- 1           b. This section may not be construed as requiring a separate hearing on each rule.  
2           Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the commission at hearings  
3           required by this section.
- 4       8. If no one appears at the public hearing, the commission may proceed with  
5       promulgation of the proposed rule.
- 6       9. Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close of business on the scheduled  
7       hearing date if the hearing was not held, the commission shall consider all written and  
8       oral comments received.
- 9       10. By majority vote of all administrators, the commission shall take final action on the  
10       proposed rule and shall determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the  
11       rulemaking record and the full text of the rule.
- 12       11. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the commission may consider and  
13       adopt an emergency rule without prior notice, opportunity for comment, or hearing.  
14       However, the usual rulemaking procedures provided in this compact and in this section  
15       must be retroactively applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event  
16       later than ninety days after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this  
17       provision, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted immediately in order to:
- 18       a. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;  
19       b. Prevent a loss of commission or party state funds; or  
20       c. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is established  
21       by federal law or rule.
- 22       12. The commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule or amendment for  
23       purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format, errors in consistency, or  
24       grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions must be posted on the website of  
25       the commission. The revision may be subject to challenge by any person for a period  
26       of thirty days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the  
27       revision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge must be made in writing,  
28       and delivered to the commission, before the end of the notice period. If no challenge is  
29       made, the revision will take effect without further action. If the revision is challenged,  
30       the revision may not take effect without the approval of the commission.

31       **ARTICLE IX - OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AND ENFORCEMENT**

- 1           1. Oversight.
- 2           a. Each party state shall enforce this compact and take all actions necessary and
- 3           appropriate to effectuate this compact's purposes and intent.
- 4           b. The commission is entitled to receive service of process in any proceeding that
- 5           may affect the powers, responsibilities, or actions of the commission, and has
- 6           standing to intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide
- 7           service of process to the commission renders a judgment or order void as to the
- 8           commission, this compact, or promulgated rules.
- 9           2. Default, technical assistance, and termination.
- 10          a. If the commission determines that a party state has defaulted in the performance
- 11          of its obligations or responsibilities under this compact or the promulgated rules,
- 12          the commission shall:
- 13           (1) Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other party states of the
- 14           nature of the default, the proposed means of curing the default ~~and/or~~ any
- 15           other action to be taken by the commission; and
- 16           (2) Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance regarding the
- 17           default.
- 18          b. If a state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting state's membership in
- 19          this compact may be terminated upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the
- 20          administrators, and all rights, privileges, and benefits conferred by this compact
- 21          may be terminated on the effective date of termination. A cure of the default does
- 22          not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during the
- 23          period of default.
- 24          c. Termination of membership in this compact must be imposed only after all other
- 25          means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend
- 26          or terminate must be given by the commission to the governor of the defaulting
- 27          state and to the executive officer of the defaulting state's licensing board, the
- 28          defaulting state's licensing board, and each of the party states.
- 29          d. A state whose membership in this compact has been terminated is responsible
- 30          for all assessments, obligations, and liabilities incurred through the effective date

1 of termination, including obligations that extend beyond the effective date of  
2 termination.

3 e. The commission may not bear any costs related to a state that is found to be in  
4 default or whose membership in this compact has been terminated, unless  
5 agreed upon in writing between the commission and the defaulting state.

6 f. The defaulting state may appeal the action of the commission by petitioning the  
7 United States district court for the District of Columbia or the federal district in  
8 which the commission has its principal offices. The prevailing party must be  
9 awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

10 3. Dispute resolution.

11 a. Upon request by a party state, the commission shall attempt to resolve disputes  
12 related to the compact that arise among party states and between party and  
13 nonparty states.

14 b. The commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding  
15 dispute resolution for disputes, as appropriate.

16 c. If the commission cannot resolve disputes among party states arising under this  
17 compact:

18 (1) The party states may submit the issues in dispute to an arbitration panel,  
19 which will be comprised of individuals appointed by the compact  
20 administrator in each of the affected party states and an individual mutually  
21 agreed upon by the compact administrators of all the party states involved in  
22 the dispute.

23 (2) The decision of a majority of the arbitrators is final and binding.

24 4. Enforcement.

25 a. The commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the  
26 provisions and rules of this compact.

27 b. By majority vote, the commission may initiate legal action in the United States  
28 district court for the District of Columbia or the federal district in which the  
29 commission has its principal offices against a party state that is in default to  
30 enforce compliance with the provisions of this compact and its promulgated rules  
31 and bylaws. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. If

1           judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party must be awarded all costs  
2           of such litigation, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

3           c. The remedies herein are not the exclusive remedies of the commission. The  
4           commission may pursue any other remedies available under federal or state law.

5           **ARTICLE X - EFFECTIVE DATE, WITHDRAWAL, AND AMENDMENT**

6           1. This compact comes into limited effect at such time as this compact has been enacted  
7           into law in ~~ten~~seven party states for the sole purpose of establishing and convening  
8           the commission to adopt rules relating to its operation and the advanced practice  
9           registered nurse uniform licensure requirements.

10          2. ~~On the date of the commission's adoption of the advanced practice registered nurse~~  
11          ~~uniform licensure requirements, all remaining provisions of this compact, and rules~~  
12          ~~adopted by the commission, come into full force and effect in all party states.~~

13          3. Any state that joins this compact after the commission's initial adoption of the  
14          advanced practice registered nurse uniform licensure requirements are subject to all  
15          rules that have been previously adopted by the commission.

16          4.3. Any party state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the  
17          same. A party state's withdrawal does not take effect until six months after enactment  
18          of the repealing statute.

19          5.4. A party state's withdrawal or termination does not affect the continuing requirement of  
20          the withdrawing or terminated state's licensing board to report adverse actions and  
21          significant investigations occurring before the effective date of such withdrawal or  
22          termination.

23          6.5. This compact may not be construed to invalidate or prevent any advanced practice  
24          registered nurse licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a  
25          party state and a nonparty state that does not conflict with the provisions of this  
26          compact.

27          7.6. This compact may be amended by the party states. An amendment to this compact  
28          does not become effective and binding upon any party state until it is enacted into the  
29          laws of all party states.



1     ~~8.7.~~ Representatives of nonparty states to this compact must be invited to participate in the  
2             activities of the commission, on a nonvoting basis, before the adoption of this compact  
3             by all states.

4                             **ARTICLE XI - CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY**

5             This compact must be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes of this compact.  
6     The provisions of this compact are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision  
7     of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any party state or of the United  
8     States, or if the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held  
9     invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any  
10    government, agency, person, or circumstance is not affected thereby. If this compact is held to  
11    be contrary to the constitution of any party state, this compact remains in full force and effect as  
12    to the remaining party states and in full force and effect as to the party state affected as to all  
13    severable matters.