



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 14**

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6835

*House of Representatives, February 25, 2025*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY of the 133rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT ADOPTING THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSURE COMPACT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Physician Assistant  
2 Licensure Compact, hereinafter referred to as the "PA Licensure  
3 Compact", is hereby enacted into law and entered into by the state of  
4 Connecticut with any and all states legally joining therein in accordance  
5 with its terms. The compact is substantially as follows:

### 6 PA LICENSURE COMPACT

#### 7 Section 1. Purpose

8 In order to strengthen access to medical services and in recognition  
9 of the advances in the delivery of medical services, the participating  
10 states of the PA Licensure Compact have allied in common purpose to  
11 develop a comprehensive process that complements the existing  
12 authority of state licensing boards to license and discipline PAs and

13 seeks to enhance the portability of a license to practice as a PA while  
14 safeguarding the safety of patients. The compact allows medical services  
15 to be provided by PAs, via the mutual recognition of the licensee's  
16 qualifying license by other compact participating states. The compact  
17 adopts the prevailing standard for PA licensure and affirms that the  
18 practice and delivery of medical services by the PA occurs where the  
19 patient is located at the time of the patient encounter and requires the  
20 PA to be under the jurisdiction of the state licensing board where the  
21 patient is located. Each state licensing board that participates in the  
22 compact shall retain the jurisdiction to impose adverse action against a  
23 compact privilege in such board's state that was issued to a PA through  
24 the procedures of the compact. The PA Licensure Compact will alleviate  
25 burdens for military families by allowing active duty military personnel  
26 and their spouses to obtain a compact privilege based on having an  
27 unrestricted license in good standing from a participating state.

28     Section 2. Definitions

29     As used in the compact:

30       (1) "Adverse action" means any administrative, civil, equitable or  
31 criminal action permitted by a state's laws that is imposed by a licensing  
32 board or other authority against a PA license, PA license application or  
33 compact privilege, including, but not limited to, license denial, censure,  
34 revocation, suspension, probation, monitoring of the licensee or  
35 restriction on the licensee's practice.

36       (2) "Compact privilege" means the authorization granted by a remote  
37 state to allow a licensee from another participating state to practice as a  
38 PA to provide medical services and other licensed activity to a patient  
39 located in the remote state under the remote state's laws and  
40 regulations.

41       (3) "Conviction" means a finding by a court that an individual is  
42 guilty of a felony or misdemeanor offense through adjudication or entry  
43 of a plea of guilt or no contest to the charge by the offender.

44 (4) "Criminal background check" means the submission of  
45 fingerprints or other biometric-based information for a license applicant  
46 for the purpose of obtaining such applicant's criminal history record  
47 information, as defined in 28 CFR 20.3(d), as amended from time to time,  
48 from the state's criminal history record repository, as defined in 28 CFR  
49 20.3(f), as amended from time to time.

50 (5) "Data system" means the repository of information about  
51 licensees, including, but not limited to, license status and adverse  
52 actions, that is created and administered under the terms of the compact.

53 (6) "Executive committee" means a group of directors and ex-officio  
54 individuals elected or appointed pursuant to subdivision (2) of  
55 subsection (f) of section 7 of the compact.

56 (7) "Impaired practitioner" means a PA whose practice is adversely  
57 affected by a health-related condition that impacts the PA's ability to  
58 practice.

59 (8) "Investigative information" means information, records or  
60 documents received or generated by a licensing board pursuant to an  
61 investigation.

62 (9) "Jurisprudence requirement" means the assessment of an  
63 individual's knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of  
64 a PA in a state.

65 (10) "License" means current authorization by a state, other than  
66 authorization pursuant to a compact privilege, for a PA to provide  
67 medical services that would be unlawful without such current  
68 authorization.

69 (11) "Licensee" means an individual who holds a license from a state  
70 to provide medical services as a PA.

71 (12) "Licensing board" means any state entity authorized to license  
72 and otherwise regulate PAs.

73 (13) "Medical services" means health care services provided for the  
74 diagnosis, prevention, treatment, cure or relief of a health condition,  
75 injury or disease, as defined by a state's laws and regulations.

76 (14) "Model compact" means the model for the PA Licensure  
77 Compact on file with the Council of State Governments, or other entity  
78 as designated by the commission.

79 (15) "Participating state" means a state that has enacted the compact.

80 (16) "PA" means an individual who is licensed as a physician assistant  
81 in a state. For purposes of the compact, any other title or status adopted  
82 by a state to replace the term "physician assistant" shall be deemed  
83 synonymous with "physician assistant" and "PA" and shall confer the  
84 same rights and responsibilities to the licensee under the provisions of  
85 the compact at the time of the compact's enactment.

86 (17) "PA Licensure Compact Commission", "compact commission" or  
87 "commission" means the national administrative body created pursuant  
88 to subsection (a) of section 7 of the compact.

89 (18) "Qualifying license" means an unrestricted license issued by a  
90 participating state to provide medical services as a PA.

91 (19) "Remote state" means a participating state where a licensee who  
92 is not licensed as a PA is exercising or seeking to exercise the compact  
93 privilege.

94 (20) "Rule" means a regulation promulgated by an entity that has the  
95 force and effect of law.

96 (21) "Significant investigative information" means investigative  
97 information that a licensing board, after an inquiry or investigation that  
98 includes notification and an opportunity for the PA to respond if  
99 required by state law, has reason to believe is not groundless and, if  
100 proven true, would indicate more than a minor infraction.

101 (22) "State" means any state, commonwealth, district or territory of

102 the United States.

103 Section 3. State Participation in the Compact

104 (a) To participate in the compact, a participating state shall:

105 (1) License PAs.

106 (2) Participate in the compact commission's data system.

107 (3) Have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating  
108 complaints against licensees and license applicants.

109 (4) Notify the commission, in compliance with the terms of the  
110 compact and commission rules, of any adverse action against a licensee  
111 or license applicant and the existence of significant investigative  
112 information regarding a licensee or license applicant.

113 (5) Fully implement a criminal background check requirement,  
114 within a time frame established by commission rule, by the participating  
115 state's licensing board receiving the results of a criminal background  
116 check and reporting to the commission whether the license applicant  
117 has been granted a license.

118 (6) Comply with the rules of the compact commission.

119 (7) Utilize passage of a recognized national licensure examination,  
120 including, but not limited to, the Physician Assistant National  
121 Certifying Examination administered by the National Commission on  
122 Certification of Physician Assistants, as a requirement for PA licensure.

123 (8) Grant the compact privilege to a holder of a qualifying license in  
124 a participating state.

125 (b) Nothing in the compact shall be construed to prohibit a  
126 participating state from charging a fee for granting the compact  
127 privilege.

128 Section 4. Compact Privilege

129 (a) To exercise the compact privilege, a licensee shall:

130 (1) Have graduated from a PA program accredited by the  
131 Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician  
132 Assistant, Inc., or any other PA program authorized by commission  
133 rule.

134 (2) Hold current certification from the National Commission on  
135 Certification of Physician Assistants.

136 (3) Have no felony or misdemeanor convictions.

137 (4) Have never had a controlled substance license, permit or  
138 registration suspended or revoked by a state or by the United States  
139 Drug Enforcement Administration.

140 (5) Have a unique identifier as determined by commission rule.

141 (6) Hold a qualifying license.

142 (7) Have had no revocation of a license or limitation or restriction on  
143 any license currently held or compact privilege due to an adverse action,  
144 provided (A) if a licensee had a limitation or restriction on a license or  
145 compact privilege due to an adverse action, two years shall have elapsed  
146 from the date on which the license or compact privilege is no longer  
147 limited or restricted due to the adverse action, and (B) if a compact  
148 privilege has been revoked or is limited or restricted in a participating  
149 state for conduct that would not be a basis for disciplinary action in a  
150 participating state in which the licensee is practicing or applying to  
151 practice under a compact privilege, such participating state shall have  
152 the discretion not to consider such action as an adverse action requiring  
153 the denial or removal of a compact privilege in such state.

154 (8) Notify the compact commission that the licensee is seeking the  
155 compact privilege in a remote state.

156 (9) Meet any jurisprudence requirement of a remote state in which  
157 the licensee is seeking to practice under the compact privilege and pay

158 any fees applicable to satisfying the jurisprudence requirement.

159 (10) Report to the commission any adverse action taken by a  
160 nonparticipating state not later than thirty days after the adverse action  
161 was taken.

162 (b) The compact privilege shall be valid until the expiration or  
163 revocation of the qualifying license unless terminated pursuant to an  
164 adverse action. The licensee shall comply with all of the requirements of  
165 subsection (a) of this section of the compact to maintain the compact  
166 privilege in a remote state. If the participating state takes adverse action  
167 against a qualifying license, the licensee shall lose the compact privilege  
168 in any remote state in which the licensee has a compact privilege until  
169 both of the following occur:

170 (1) The license is no longer limited or restricted; and

171 (2) Two years have elapsed from the date on which the license is no  
172 longer limited or restricted due to the adverse action.

173 (c) Once a restricted or limited license satisfies the requirements of  
174 subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of this section of the compact,  
175 the licensee shall meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section  
176 of the compact to obtain a compact privilege in any remote state.

177 (d) For each remote state in which a PA seeks authority to prescribe  
178 controlled substances, the PA shall satisfy all requirements imposed by  
179 such state in granting or renewing such authority.

180 Section 5. Designation of the State from Which Licensee is Applying  
181 for a Compact Privilege

182 Upon a licensee's application for a compact privilege, the licensee  
183 shall identify to the commission the participating state from which the  
184 licensee is applying, in accordance with applicable rules adopted by the  
185 commission, and subject to the following requirements:

186 (1) When applying for a compact privilege, the licensee shall (A)

187 provide the commission with the address of the licensee's primary  
188 residence, and (B) report to the commission any change in the address  
189 of the licensee's primary residence immediately following such change.

190 (2) When applying for a compact privilege, the licensee shall be  
191 required to consent to accept service of process by mail at the licensee's  
192 primary residence on file with the commission with respect to any  
193 action brought against the licensee by the commission or a participating  
194 state, including, but not limited to, a subpoena.

195 Section 6. Adverse Actions

196 (a) A participating state in which a licensee is licensed shall have  
197 exclusive power to impose adverse action against the qualifying license  
198 issued by such participating state.

199 (b) In addition to the other powers conferred by state law, a remote  
200 state shall have the authority, in accordance with existing state due  
201 process requirements, to do all of the following:

202 (1) Take adverse action against a PA's compact privilege in such  
203 remote state to remove a licensee's compact privilege or take other  
204 action necessary under applicable law to protect the health and safety of  
205 its citizens.

206 (2) Issue subpoenas for hearings or investigations that require the  
207 attendance and testimony of witnesses and for the production of  
208 evidence. Any subpoena issued by a licensing board in a participating  
209 state for the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of  
210 evidence from another participating state shall be enforced in such other  
211 participating state by any court of competent jurisdiction according to  
212 the practice and procedure of such court applicable to subpoenas issued  
213 in proceedings pending before such court. The issuing authority shall  
214 pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage and other fees required  
215 by the service statutes of the state in which the witnesses or evidence is  
216 located. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subdivision, a  
217 participating state shall not issue a subpoena to gather evidence of



218 conduct in another state that is lawful in such other state for the purpose  
219 of taking adverse action against a licensee's compact privilege or  
220 application for a compact privilege in such participating state.

221 (c) Nothing in the compact shall be construed to authorize a  
222 participating state to impose discipline against a PA's compact privilege  
223 or deny an application for a compact privilege in such participating state  
224 for the PA's otherwise lawful practice in another state.

225 (d) For purposes of taking adverse action, the participating state that  
226 issued the qualifying license shall give the same priority and effect to  
227 reported conduct received from any other participating state as it would  
228 if the conduct had occurred within the participating state that issued the  
229 qualifying license and shall apply its own state laws to determine  
230 appropriate action.

231 (e) A participating state, if otherwise permitted by state law, may  
232 recover from the affected PA the costs of any investigation or disposition  
233 of a case resulting from any adverse action taken against such PA.

234 (f) A participating state may take adverse action based on the factual  
235 findings of a remote state, provided the participating state follows its  
236 own procedures for taking the adverse action.

237 (g) Joint Investigations

238 (1) In addition to the authority granted to a participating state by its  
239 respective state statutes and regulations concerning PAs, or other  
240 applicable state law, any participating state may participate with any  
241 other participating state in a joint investigation of a licensee.

242 (2) A participating state shall share any investigative, litigation or  
243 compliance materials in furtherance of any joint or individual  
244 investigation initiated under the compact.

245 (h) If an adverse action is taken against a PA's qualifying license, the  
246 PA's compact privilege in all remote states shall be deactivated until two  
247 years have elapsed from the date on which all restrictions were removed

248 from the state license. All disciplinary orders by the participating state  
249 that issued the qualifying license that impose one or more adverse  
250 actions against a PA's license shall include a statement that the PA's  
251 compact privilege is deactivated in all participating states during the  
252 pendency of the order.

253 (i) If any participating state takes adverse action, it shall promptly  
254 notify the administrator of the data system.

255 Section 7. Establishment of the PA Licensure Compact Commission

256 (a) The participating states hereby create and establish a joint  
257 government agency and national administrative body known as the PA  
258 Licensure Compact Commission. The commission shall be an  
259 instrumentality of the compact states acting jointly and not an  
260 instrumentality of any one state. The commission shall come into  
261 existence on or after the effective date of the compact as set forth in  
262 subsection (a) of section 11 of the compact.

263 (b) Membership, Voting and Meetings

264 (1) Each participating state shall have and be limited to one delegate  
265 selected by such participating state's licensing board or, if the state has  
266 more than one licensing board, selected collectively by the participating  
267 state's licensing boards.

268 (2) The delegate shall be either:

269 (A) A current PA, physician or public member of a licensing board or  
270 a PA council or committee; or

271 (B) An administrator of a licensing board.

272 (3) Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office as  
273 provided by the laws of the state from which the delegate is appointed.

274 (4) The participating state licensing board shall fill any vacancy  
275 occurring in the commission not later than sixty days after the date on  
276 which the vacancy occurred.

277 (5) Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote on all matters voted on  
278 by the commission and shall otherwise have an opportunity to  
279 participate in the business and affairs of the commission. A delegate  
280 shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in the bylaws.  
281 The bylaws may provide for delegates' participation in meetings by  
282 telecommunications, video conference or other means of  
283 communication.

284 (6) The commission shall meet at least once during each calendar  
285 year. Additional meetings shall be held as set forth in the compact and  
286 the bylaws.

287 (7) The commission shall establish by rule a term of office for  
288 delegates.

289 (c) The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

290 (1) Establish a code of ethics for the commission;

291 (2) Establish the fiscal year of the commission;

292 (3) Establish fees;

293 (4) Establish bylaws;

294 (5) Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws;

295 (6) Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the provisions  
296 of the compact and the bylaws;

297 (7) Promulgate rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and  
298 administration of the compact. The rules shall have the force and effect  
299 of law and shall be binding in all participating states;

300 (8) Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of  
301 the commission, provided the standing of any state licensing board to  
302 sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected;

303 (9) Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

304 (10) Borrow, accept or contract for services of personnel, including,  
305 but not limited to, employees of a participating state;

306 (11) Hire employees and engage contractors, elect or appoint officers,  
307 fix compensation, define duties, grant such individuals appropriate  
308 authority to carry out the purposes of the compact and establish the  
309 commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of  
310 interest, qualifications of personnel and other related personnel matters;

311 (12) Accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money,  
312 equipment, supplies, materials and services, and receive, utilize and  
313 dispose of such money, equipment, supplies material and services,  
314 provided the commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety or  
315 conflict of interest at all times;

316 (13) Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or  
317 otherwise own, hold, improve or use, any property, real, personal or  
318 mixed, provided the commission shall avoid any appearance of  
319 impropriety at all times;

320 (14) Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon or  
321 otherwise dispose of any property real, personal or mixed;

322 (15) Establish a budget and make expenditures;

323 (16) Borrow money;

324 (17) Appoint committees, including standing committees composed  
325 of members, state regulators, state legislators or their representatives  
326 and consumer representatives, and such other interested persons as  
327 may be designated in the compact and the bylaws;

328 (18) Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law  
329 enforcement agencies;

330 (19) Elect a chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer and such other  
331 officers of the commission as provided in the commission's bylaws;

332 (20) Reserve for itself, in addition to those reserved exclusively to the

333 commission under the compact, powers that the executive committee  
334 may not exercise;

335 (21) Approve or disapprove a state's participation in the compact  
336 based upon its determination as to whether the state's compact  
337 legislation departs in a material manner from the model compact  
338 language;

339 (22) Prepare and provide to the participating states an annual report;  
340 and

341 (23) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate  
342 to achieve the purposes of the compact consistent with the state  
343 regulation of PA licensure and practice.

344 (d) Meetings of the Commission

345 (1) All meetings of the commission that are not closed pursuant to  
346 subdivision (3) of this subsection shall be open to the public. Notice of  
347 public meetings shall be posted on the commission's Internet web site  
348 not later than thirty days prior to the public meeting.

349 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
350 subsection, the commission may convene a public meeting by providing  
351 notice of the meeting at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting on  
352 the commission's Internet web site, and any other means as provided in  
353 the commission's rules, for any of the reasons it may dispense with  
354 notice of proposed rulemaking under subsection (l) of section 9 of the  
355 compact.

356 (3) The commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting or  
357 nonpublic part of a public meeting to receive legal advice or to discuss:

358 (A) Noncompliance of a participating state with its obligations under  
359 the compact;

360 (B) The employment, compensation, discipline or other matters,  
361 practices or procedures related to specific employees or other matters

362 related to the commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;

363 (C) Current, threatened or reasonably anticipated litigation;

364 (D) Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease or sale of goods,  
365 services or real estate;

366 (E) Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;

367 (F) Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information  
368 that is privileged or confidential;

369 (G) Disclosure of information of a personal nature where disclosure  
370 would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

371 (H) Disclosure of investigative records compiled for law enforcement  
372 purposes;

373 (I) Disclosure of information related to any investigative reports  
374 prepared by or on behalf of or for use of the commission or other  
375 committee charged with responsibility of investigation or determination  
376 of compliance issues pursuant to the compact;

377 (J) Legal advice; or

378 (K) Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or  
379 participating states' statutes.

380 (4) If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to  
381 subdivision (3) of this subsection, the chair of the meeting, or the chair's  
382 designee, shall certify that the meeting or portion of the meeting may be  
383 closed and shall reference each relevant exempting provision.

384 (5) The commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe  
385 all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate  
386 summary of actions taken, including, but not limited to, a description of  
387 the views expressed at the meeting. All documents considered in  
388 connection with an action shall be identified in such minutes. All  
389 minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal,

390 subject to release by a majority vote of the commission or order of a  
391 court of competent jurisdiction.

392 (e) Financing of the Commission

393 (1) The commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the  
394 reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization and ongoing  
395 activities.

396 (2) The commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue  
397 sources, donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials  
398 and services.

399 (3) The commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment  
400 from each participating state and may impose compact privilege fees on  
401 licensees of participating states to whom a compact privilege is granted  
402 to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the commission and  
403 its staff. Such fees shall be in a total amount that is sufficient to cover its  
404 annual budget as approved by the commission each year for which  
405 revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual  
406 assessment amount levied on participating states shall be allocated  
407 based upon a formula to be determined by commission rule.

408 (A) A compact privilege expires when the licensee's qualifying  
409 license in the participating state from which the licensee applied for the  
410 compact privilege expires.

411 (B) If the licensee terminates the qualifying license through which the  
412 licensee applied for the compact privilege before its scheduled  
413 expiration and the licensee has a qualifying license in another  
414 participating state, the licensee shall inform the commission that it is  
415 changing to such participating state the participating state through  
416 which it applies for a compact privilege and pay to the commission any  
417 compact privilege fee required by commission rule.

418 (4) The commission shall not (A) incur an obligation of any kind prior  
419 to securing the funds adequate to meet the same, or (B) pledge the credit  
420 of any of the participating states, except by and with the authority of the

421 participating state.

422 (5) The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and  
423 disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the commission shall  
424 be subject to the financial review and accounting procedures established  
425 under its bylaws. All receipts and disbursements of funds handled by  
426 the commission shall be subject to an annual financial review by a  
427 certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the financial  
428 review shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the  
429 commission.

430 (f) The Executive Committee

431 (1) The executive committee shall have the power to act on behalf of  
432 the commission according to the terms of the compact and commission  
433 rules.

434 (2) The executive committee shall be composed of the following nine  
435 members:

436 (A) Seven voting members who shall be elected by the commission  
437 from the current membership of the commission;

438 (B) One ex-officio, nonvoting member from a recognized national PA  
439 professional association; and

440 (C) One ex-officio, nonvoting member from a recognized national PA  
441 certification organization.

442 (3) The ex-officio members shall be selected by their respective  
443 organizations.

444 (4) The commission may remove any member of the executive  
445 committee as provided in its bylaws.

446 (5) The executive committee shall meet at least annually.

447 (6) The executive committee shall have the following duties and  
448 responsibilities:



449 (A) Recommend to the commission changes to the commission's rules  
450 or bylaws, changes to the compact legislation, fees to be paid by compact  
451 participating states, including, but not limited to, annual dues, and any  
452 commission compact fee charged to licensees for the compact privilege;

453 (B) Ensure compact administration services are appropriately  
454 provided, contractual or otherwise;

455 (C) Prepare and recommend the budget;

456 (D) Maintain financial records on behalf of the commission;

457 (E) Monitor compact compliance of participating states and provide  
458 compliance reports to the commission;

459 (F) Establish additional committees as necessary;

460 (G) Exercise the powers and duties of the commission during the  
461 interim between commission meetings, except the issuance of proposed  
462 rulemaking, the adoption of commission rules or bylaws or the exercise  
463 of any other powers and duties exclusively reserved to the commission  
464 by the commission's rules; and

465 (H) Perform other duties as provided in the commission's rules or  
466 bylaws.

467 (7) All meetings of the executive committee at which it votes or plans  
468 to vote on matters in exercising the powers and duties of the  
469 commission shall be open to the public and public notice of such  
470 meetings shall be given as public meetings of the commission are given.

471 (8) The executive committee may convene in a closed, nonpublic  
472 meeting for the same reasons that the commission may convene in a  
473 nonpublic meeting as set forth in subdivision (3) of subsection (d) of this  
474 section of the compact and shall announce the closed meeting as the  
475 commission is required to under subdivision (4) of subsection (d) of this  
476 section of the compact and keep minutes of the closed meeting as the  
477 commission is required to under subdivision (5) of subsection (d) of this

478 section of the compact.

479 (g) Qualified Immunity, Defense and Indemnification

480 (1) The members, officers, executive director, employees and  
481 representatives of the commission shall be immune from suit and  
482 liability, both personally and in their official capacity, for any claim for  
483 damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability  
484 caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission  
485 that occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a  
486 reasonable basis for believing occurred, within the scope of commission  
487 employment, duties or responsibilities, provided nothing in this  
488 subdivision shall be construed to protect any such person from suit or  
489 liability for any damage, loss, injury or liability caused by the intentional  
490 or wilful or wanton misconduct of that person. The procurement of  
491 insurance of any type by the commission shall not in any way  
492 compromise or limit the immunity granted under this subdivision.

493 (2) The commission shall defend any member, officer, executive  
494 director, employee and representative of the commission in any civil  
495 action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act,  
496 error or omission that occurred within the scope of commission  
497 employment, duties or responsibilities, or as determined by the  
498 commission that the person against whom the claim is made had a  
499 reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission  
500 employment, duties or responsibilities, provided (A) nothing in this  
501 subdivision shall be construed to prohibit such person from retaining  
502 such person's own counsel at such person's own expense, and (B) the  
503 actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from such person's  
504 intentional or wilful or wanton misconduct.

505 (3) The commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member,  
506 officer, executive director, employee or representative of the  
507 commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment obtained  
508 against such person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or  
509 omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment,  
510 duties or responsibilities, or that such person had a reasonable basis for

511 believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties  
512 or responsibilities, provided the actual or alleged act, error or omission  
513 did not result from the intentional or wilful or wanton misconduct of  
514 such person.

515 (4) Venue shall be proper and judicial proceedings by or against the  
516 commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of  
517 competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the commission is  
518 located. The commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses  
519 in any proceedings as authorized by commission rules.

520 (5) Nothing in the compact shall be construed as a limitation on the  
521 liability of any licensee for professional malpractice or misconduct,  
522 which shall be governed solely by any other applicable state laws.

523 (6) Nothing in the compact shall be construed to designate the venue  
524 or jurisdiction to bring actions for alleged acts of malpractice,  
525 professional misconduct, negligence or other such civil action  
526 pertaining to the practice of a PA. All such matters shall be determined  
527 exclusively by state law other than the compact.

528 (7) Nothing in the compact shall be construed to waive or otherwise  
529 abrogate a participating state's state action immunity or state action  
530 affirmative defense with respect to antitrust claims under the Sherman  
531 Act, 15 USC 1 et seq., as amended from time to time, Clayton Antitrust  
532 Act, 15 USC 12-27, as amended from time to time, or any other state or  
533 federal antitrust or anticompetitive law or regulation.

534 (8) Nothing in the compact shall be construed to be a waiver of  
535 sovereign immunity by the participating states or by the commission.

536 Section 8. Data System

537 (a) The commission shall provide for the development, maintenance,  
538 operation and utilization of a coordinated data and reporting system  
539 containing licensure, adverse action and the reporting of the existence  
540 of significant investigative information on all licensed PAs and  
541 applicants denied a license in participating states.

542 (b) Notwithstanding any other state law, each participating state shall  
543 submit a uniform data set to the data system, utilizing a unique  
544 identifier for such state, on all PAs to whom the compact is applicable  
545 as required by the rules of the commission, including the following:

546 (1) Identifying information;

547 (2) Licensure data;

548 (3) Adverse actions against a license or compact privilege;

549 (4) Any denial of application for licensure, except any criminal  
550 history record information where the reporting of such information is  
551 prohibited by law, and the reason or reasons for such denial;

552 (5) The existence of significant investigative information; and

553 (6) Any other information that may facilitate the administration of the  
554 compact, as determined by the rules of the commission.

555 (c) Significant investigative information pertaining to a licensee in  
556 any participating state shall only be available to other participating  
557 states.

558 (d) The commission shall promptly notify all participating states of  
559 any adverse action taken against a licensee or an individual applying for  
560 a license that has been reported to the commission. Such adverse action  
561 information shall be available to any other participating state.

562 (e) Each participating state contributing information to the data  
563 system may, in accordance with state or federal law, designate  
564 information that may not be shared with the public without the express  
565 permission of the contributing state. Notwithstanding any such  
566 designation, such information shall be reported to the commission  
567 through the data system.

568 (f) Any information submitted to the data system that is subsequently  
569 expunged pursuant to federal law or the laws of the participating state  
570 contributing the information shall be removed from the data system

571 upon the reporting of such expungement by the participating state to  
572 the commission.

573 (g) The records and information provided to a participating state  
574 pursuant to the compact or through the data system, when certified by  
575 the commission or an agent thereof, shall constitute the authenticated  
576 business records of the commission and shall be entitled to any  
577 associated hearsay exception in any relevant judicial, quasi-judicial or  
578 administrative proceedings in a participating state.

579 Section 9. Rulemaking

580 (a) The commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers pursuant to  
581 the criteria set forth in this section of the compact and the rules adopted  
582 under the compact. A commission rule shall become binding as of the  
583 date specified by the commission for each rule.

584 (b) The commission shall promulgate reasonable rules to effectively  
585 and efficiently implement and administer the compact and achieve the  
586 compact's purposes. A commission rule shall be invalid and have no  
587 force or effect only if a court of competent jurisdiction holds that the rule  
588 is invalid because the commission exercised its rulemaking authority in  
589 a manner that is beyond the scope of the purposes of the compact, or the  
590 powers granted under the compact, or based upon another applicable  
591 standard of review.

592 (c) The rules of the commission shall have the force of law in each  
593 participating state, provided where the rules of the commission conflict  
594 with the laws of the participating state that establish the medical  
595 services a PA may perform in the participating state, as held by a court  
596 of competent jurisdiction, the rules of the commission shall be  
597 ineffective in such state to the extent of the conflict.

598 (d) If a majority of the legislatures of the participating states rejects a  
599 commission rule by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same  
600 manner used to adopt the compact not later than four years after the  
601 date of adoption of the commission rule, such rule shall have no further

602 force and effect in any participating state or to any state applying to  
603 participate in the compact.

604 (e) Commission rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting  
605 of the commission.

606 (f) Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules by the  
607 commission, and at least thirty days prior to the meeting at which the  
608 rule will be considered and voted upon, the commission shall file a  
609 notice of proposed rulemaking:

610 (1) On the Internet web site of the commission or other publicly  
611 accessible platform;

612 (2) To persons who have requested notice of the commission's notices  
613 of proposed rulemaking; and

614 (3) In such other manners as the commission may by rule specify.

615 (g) The notice of proposed rulemaking shall include the following:

616 (1) The time, date and location of the public hearing on the proposed  
617 rule and the proposed time, date and location of the meeting in which  
618 the proposed rule will be considered and voted upon;

619 (2) The text of the proposed rule and the reason for the proposed rule;

620 (3) A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested  
621 person and the date by which written comments must be received; and

622 (4) The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the  
623 commission of their intention to attend the public hearing or provide  
624 any written comments.

625 (h) Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the commission shall allow  
626 persons to submit written data, facts, opinions and arguments, which  
627 shall be made available to the public.

628 (i) If the hearing is to be held via electronic means, the commission

629 shall publish the mechanism for access to the electronic hearing.

630 (1) All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing shall, as directed in  
631 the notice of proposed rulemaking, notify the commission of their desire  
632 to appear and testify at the hearing not less than five business days prior  
633 to the scheduled date of the hearing.

634 (2) Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each person  
635 who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment  
636 orally or in writing.

637 (3) All hearings shall be recorded. A copy of the recording and the  
638 written comments, data, facts, opinions and arguments received in  
639 response to the proposed rulemaking shall be made available to a  
640 person upon request.

641 (4) Nothing in this section of the compact shall be construed to  
642 require a separate hearing on each proposed rule. Proposed rules may  
643 be grouped for the convenience of the commission at hearings required  
644 by this section of the compact.

645 (j) Following the public hearing, the commission shall consider all  
646 written and oral comments timely received.

647 (k) The commission shall, by majority vote of all delegates, take final  
648 action on the proposed rule and determine the effective date of the rule,  
649 if adopted, based on the rulemaking record and the full text of the rule.

650 (1) If adopted, the rule shall be posted on the commission's Internet  
651 web site.

652 (2) The commission may adopt changes to the proposed rule,  
653 provided the changes do not expand the original purpose of the  
654 proposed rule.

655 (3) The commission shall post on its Internet web site an explanation  
656 of the reasons for substantive changes made to the proposed rule and  
657 the reasons for any substantive changes that were recommended by

658 commenters but not made.

659 (4) The commission shall determine a reasonable effective date for the  
660 rule. Except for an emergency as provided in subsection (l) of this  
661 section of the compact, the effective date of the rule shall be no sooner  
662 than thirty days after the commission issued the notice that it adopted  
663 the rule.

664 (l) Upon determination that an emergency exists, the commission  
665 may consider and adopt an emergency rule with twenty-four hours'  
666 prior notice, without the opportunity for comment or hearing, provided  
667 the usual rulemaking procedures provided in the compact and in this  
668 section of the compact shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon  
669 as reasonably possible, but in no event later than ninety days after the  
670 effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this subsection,  
671 "emergency rule" means a rule that shall be adopted immediately by the  
672 commission to:

673 (1) Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety or welfare;

674 (2) Prevent a loss of commission or participating state funds;

675 (3) Meet a deadline for the promulgation of a commission rule that is  
676 established by federal law or rule; or

677 (4) Protect public health or safety.

678 (m) The commission or an authorized committee of the commission  
679 may direct revisions to a previously adopted commission rule for  
680 purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format, errors in  
681 consistency or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall  
682 be posted on the Internet web site of the commission. The revision shall  
683 be subject to challenge by any person for a period of thirty days after  
684 posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the  
685 revision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made  
686 as set forth in the notice of revisions and delivered to the commission  
687 prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision  
688 shall take effect without further action. If the revision is challenged, the



689 revision may not take effect without the approval of the commission.

690 (n) No participating state's rulemaking requirements shall apply  
691 under the compact.

692 Section 10. Oversight, Dispute Resolution and Enforcement

693 (a) Oversight

694 (1) The executive and judicial branches of state government in each  
695 participating state shall enforce the compact and take all actions  
696 necessary and appropriate to implement the compact.

697 (2) Venue shall be proper and judicial proceedings by or against the  
698 commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of  
699 competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the commission is  
700 located. The commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses  
701 to the extent it adopts or consents to participate in alternative dispute  
702 resolution proceedings. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed  
703 to affect or limit the selection or propriety of venue in any action against  
704 a licensee for professional malpractice, misconduct or any such similar  
705 matter.

706 (3) The commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in  
707 any proceeding regarding the enforcement or interpretation of the  
708 compact or the commission's rules and shall have standing to intervene  
709 in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide the commission  
710 with service of process shall render a judgment or order in such  
711 proceeding void as to the commission, the compact or commission rules.

712 (b) Default, Technical Assistance and Termination

713 (1) If the commission determines that a participating state has  
714 defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under  
715 the compact or the commission rules, the commission shall provide  
716 written notice to the defaulting state and other participating states. The  
717 notice shall describe the default, the proposed means of curing the  
718 default and any other action that the commission may take and shall

719 offer remedial training and specific technical assistance regarding the  
720 default.

721 (2) If a state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting state  
722 may be terminated from the compact upon an affirmative vote of a  
723 majority of the delegates of the participating states, and all rights,  
724 privileges and benefits conferred by the compact upon such state may  
725 be terminated on the effective date of termination. A cure of the default  
726 shall not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred  
727 during the period of default.

728 (3) Termination of participation in the compact shall be imposed only  
729 after all other means of securing compliance have been exhausted. The  
730 commission shall provide notice of intent to suspend or terminate to the  
731 governor and majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's  
732 legislature and the licensing board or boards of each of the participating  
733 states.

734 (4) A state that has been terminated shall be responsible for all  
735 assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective  
736 date of termination, including, but not limited to, obligations that extend  
737 beyond the effective date of termination.

738 (5) The commission shall not bear any costs related to a state that is  
739 found to be in default or that has been terminated from the compact,  
740 unless agreed upon in writing between the commission and the  
741 defaulting state.

742 (6) The defaulting state may appeal its termination from the compact  
743 by the commission by petitioning the United States District Court for  
744 the District of Columbia or the federal district where the commission  
745 has its principal offices. The prevailing member shall be awarded all  
746 costs of such litigation, including, but not limited to, reasonable  
747 attorney's fees.

748 (7) Upon the termination of a state's participation in the compact, the  
749 state shall immediately provide notice to all licensees within such state

750 of such termination.

751 (A) Licensees who have been granted a compact privilege in such  
752 state shall retain the compact privilege for one hundred eighty days  
753 following the effective date of such termination.

754 (B) Licensees who are licensed in such state who have been granted a  
755 compact privilege in a participating state shall retain the compact  
756 privilege for one hundred eighty days unless the licensee also has a  
757 qualifying license in a participating state or obtains a qualifying license  
758 in a participating state before the one-hundred-eighty-day period ends,  
759 in which case the compact privilege shall continue.

760 (c) Dispute Resolution

761 (1) Upon request by a participating state, the commission shall  
762 attempt to resolve disputes related to the compact that arise among  
763 participating states and between participating and nonparticipating  
764 states.

765 (2) The commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both  
766 mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.

767 (d) Enforcement

768 (1) The commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall  
769 enforce the provisions of the compact and rules of the commission.

770 (2) If compliance is not secured after all means to secure compliance  
771 have been exhausted, the commission may, by majority vote, initiate  
772 legal action in the United States District Court for the District of  
773 Columbia, or the federal district where the commission has its principal  
774 offices, against a participating state in default to enforce compliance  
775 with the provisions of the compact and the commission's promulgated  
776 rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief  
777 and damages. If judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party  
778 shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable  
779 attorney's fees.

780 (3) The remedies set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall  
781 not be the exclusive remedies of the commission. The commission may  
782 pursue any other remedies available under federal or state law.

783 (e) Legal Action Against the Commission

784 (1) A participating state may initiate legal action against the  
785 commission in the United States District Court for the District of  
786 Columbia, or the federal district where the commission has its principal  
787 offices, to enforce compliance with the provisions of the compact and its  
788 rules. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages.  
789 If judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall be  
790 awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.

791 (2) No person other than a participating state shall enforce the  
792 compact against the commission.

793 Section 11. Date of Implementation of the PA Licensure Compact  
794 Commission

795 (a) The compact shall come into effect on the date on which this  
796 compact statute is enacted into law in the seventh participating state.

797 (1) On or after the effective date of the compact, the commission shall  
798 convene and review the enactment of each of the states that enacted the  
799 compact prior to the commission convening, which shall be known as  
800 the charter participating states, to determine if the statute enacted by  
801 each such charter participating state is materially different from the  
802 compact.

803 (A) A charter participating state whose enactment is found to be  
804 materially different from the compact shall be entitled to the default  
805 process set forth in subsection (b) of section 10 of the compact.

806 (B) If any participating state later withdraws from the compact or its  
807 participation is terminated, the commission shall remain in existence  
808 and the compact shall remain in effect even if the number of  
809 participating states is less than seven after such withdrawal.

810 Participating states enacting the compact subsequent to the commission  
811 convening shall be subject to the process set forth in subdivision (21) of  
812 subsection (c) of section 7 of the compact to determine if such  
813 enactments are materially different from the compact and whether such  
814 participating states qualify for participation in the compact.

815 (2) Participating states enacting the compact subsequent to the seven  
816 initial charter participating states shall be subject to the process set forth  
817 in subdivision (21) of subsection (c) of section 7 of the compact to  
818 determine if such enactments are materially different from the compact  
819 and whether such participating states qualify for participation in the  
820 compact.

821 (3) All actions taken for the benefit of the commission or in  
822 furtherance of the purposes of the administration of the compact prior  
823 to the effective date of the compact or the commission coming into  
824 existence shall be considered to be actions of the commission unless  
825 specifically repudiated by the commission.

826 (b) Any state that joins the compact shall be subject to the  
827 commission's rules and bylaws as such rules and bylaws exist on the  
828 date on which the compact becomes law in such state. Any rule that has  
829 been previously adopted by the commission shall have the full force and  
830 effect of law on the day the compact becomes law in such state.

831 (c) Any participating state may withdraw from the compact by  
832 enacting a statute repealing the compact.

833 (1) A participating state's withdrawal from the compact shall not take  
834 effect until one hundred eighty days after enactment of the repealing  
835 statute. During such one-hundred-eighty-day period, all compact  
836 privileges that were in effect in the withdrawing state and were granted  
837 to licensees licensed in the withdrawing state shall remain in effect. If  
838 any licensee licensed in the withdrawing state is also licensed in another  
839 participating state or obtains a license in another participating state on  
840 or before one hundred eighty days after such withdrawal, the licensee's  
841 compact privileges in other participating states shall not be affected by

842 the passage of such one hundred eighty days.

843 (2) Withdrawal under subsection (d) of this section of the compact  
844 shall not affect the continuing requirement of the state licensing board  
845 or boards of the withdrawing state to comply with the investigative and  
846 adverse action reporting requirements of the compact prior to the  
847 effective date of withdrawal.

848 (3) Upon the enactment of a statute withdrawing a state from the  
849 compact, the state shall immediately provide notice of such withdrawal  
850 to all licensees in such state. Such withdrawing state shall continue to  
851 recognize all licenses granted pursuant to the compact for a minimum  
852 of one hundred eighty days after the date of such notice of withdrawal.

853 (d) Nothing in the compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent  
854 any PA licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between  
855 participating states and between a participating state and  
856 nonparticipating state that does not conflict with the provisions of the  
857 compact.

858 (e) The compact may be amended by the participating states. No  
859 amendment to the compact shall become effective and binding upon  
860 any participating state until it is enacted materially in the same manner  
861 into the laws of all participating states as determined by the  
862 commission.

863 Section 12. Construction and Severability

864 (a) The compact and the commission's rulemaking authority shall be  
865 liberally construed to effectuate the purposes and the implementation  
866 and administration of the compact. Provisions of the compact expressly  
867 authorizing or requiring the promulgation of rules shall not be  
868 construed to limit the commission's rulemaking authority solely for  
869 those purposes.

870 (b) The provisions of the compact shall be severable and if any phrase,  
871 clause, sentence or provision of the compact is held by a court of  
872 competent jurisdiction to be contrary to the constitution of any

873 participating state, a state seeking participation in the compact or of the  
874 United States, or the applicability of the compact to any government,  
875 agency, person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional by a court  
876 of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of the compact  
877 and the applicability thereof to any other government, agency, person  
878 or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.

879 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section of  
880 the compact, the commission may deny a state's participation in the  
881 compact or, in accordance with the requirements of subsection (b) of  
882 section 10 of the compact, terminate a participating state's participation  
883 in the compact if it determines that a constitutional requirement of a  
884 participating state is, or would be with respect to a state seeking to  
885 participate in the compact, a material departure from the compact.  
886 Otherwise, if the compact is held to be contrary to the constitution of  
887 any participating state, the compact shall remain in full force and effect  
888 as to the remaining participating states and in full force and effect as to  
889 the participating state affected as to all severable matters.

890 Section 13. Binding Effect of Compact

891 (a) Nothing in the compact shall prevent the enforcement of any other  
892 law of a participating state that is not inconsistent with the compact.

893 (b) Any laws in a participating state in conflict with the compact are  
894 superseded to the extent of the conflict.

895 (c) All agreements between the commission and the participating  
896 states are binding in accordance with the terms of such agreements.

897 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Commissioner of Public  
898 Health shall require each person applying for licensure as a physician  
899 assistant to submit to a state and national fingerprint-based criminal  
900 history records check pursuant to section 29-17a of the general statutes.  
901 As used in this section, (1) "physician assistant" means an individual  
902 licensed to practice as a physician assistant, and (2) "licensure" means  
903 authorization by a state physician assistant regulatory authority to

904 practice as a physician assistant, the practice of which would be  
905 unlawful without such authorization.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2025	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 5 of Section 1, the subsection (a) designator was deleted, in Section 6(b) of Section 1, the subdivision (3) designator was deleted, the sentence beginning with "Notwithstanding" was moved to after "located." In subdivision (2), "subdivision (2) of this subsection" was changed to "this subdivision" and the subdivision (4) designator was changed to a subsection (c) designator, and the existing subsection designators (c) to (h), inclusive, were changed to subsection designators (d) to (i), inclusive, for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

**PH**            *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*



*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 26 \$</b>	<b>FY 27 \$</b>
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Revenue Loss	80,000	178,000
Public Health, Dept.	Professional Assistance Program Account - Revenue Loss	2,400	5,200
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal
Emergency Services and Public Protection, Dept.	Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

### **Municipal Impact:**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 26 \$</b>	<b>FY 27 \$</b>
Various Municipal Police Departments	Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

### **Explanation**

The bill enters Connecticut into the Physician Assistant (PA) Licensure Compact, allowing PAs who are licensed in one participating compact state to practice in another without requiring additional licensure. This results in several fiscal impacts, described below.

**Section 1** results in: (1) a General Fund revenue loss<sup>1</sup> of an estimated \$80,000 in FY 26 and \$180,000 in FY 27 from the loss of Connecticut licensure fees from applicants who are also licensed within other participating compact states, (2) an estimated revenue loss of \$2,400 in FY 26 and \$5,200 in FY 27 to the professional assistance program account that supports the Health Assistance InterVention Education Network (HAVEN) through a priced-in \$5 fee within annual licensure renewals; and (3) a potential General Fund annual cost from the PA Licensure Compact Commission's collection of an undetermined yearly fee.

Although the PA compact allows the Compact Commission to levy an annual assessment on participating states and fees on participating PAs to cover the cost of its operations, such authority has historically been unexercised in similar occupational compact agreements. A state assessment fee has yet to be established by the Commission.

FY 26 estimates are given as half-year calculations. The PA compact is still in the process of being implemented and is not projected to be operationalized until early 2026.

**Section 2** requires physician assistant license applicants to submit to fingerprint-based state criminal history records checks, resulting in: (1) a potential cost to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), (2) a potential revenue gain to the General Fund,<sup>2</sup> and (3) a potential revenue gain to the Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account and various municipal police departments<sup>3</sup> in FY 26 and FY 27. The potential cost to DESPP will depend on the extent to

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<sup>1</sup> It is anticipated that DPH will receive 50 fewer initial PA applications (\$190 per application) and 475 fewer PA renewals (at \$150 per renewal excluding the HAVEN fee) in the first year of joining the compact (assumed to be the second half of FY 26). This is anticipated to increase to 110 initial applicants and 1,049 applicants in FY 2, for full-year impacts and growth of 10.5% as in FY 23 to FY 24.

<sup>2</sup>DESPP conducts state criminal history records checks for a fee of \$75. The revenue that is collected from this fee is deposited into the General Fund.

<sup>3</sup>DESPP conducts fingerprinting for a fee of \$15 fee per person paid to the Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account. Municipal police departments may also conduct the required fingerprinting for state criminal history records checks and typically charge a fee of \$10 to \$15.

which the volume of new applicants for state criminal history checks increases department workload and impacts overtime. It is unknown how many employers already require such applicants to submit to such checks as a condition of employment.

***The Out Years***

The fiscal impact identified above will continue in the future subject to: (1) the number of new and renewal Compact applicants who would otherwise have sought Connecticut licensure and are also licensed in other, Compact-participating states; and (2) the number of state criminal history records checks performed by DESPP and various municipal police departments for PA license applicants. The timing and scale of these impacts depend on when the Compact becomes fully operational.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6835*****AN ACT ADOPTING THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSURE COMPACT.*****SUMMARY**

This bill enters Connecticut into the Physician Assistant (PA) Licensure Compact. The compact creates a process authorizing PAs who are licensed in one participating state to practice across state boundaries (including by telehealth) without requiring licensure in each state. Participating states must grant the “compact privilege” (i.e., the authority to practice in the state) to PAs who meet the compact’s eligibility requirements. The compact is administered by the PA Licensure Compact Commission, which Connecticut joins under the bill.

Among various other provisions, the compact:

1. sets eligibility criteria for states to enter the compact and for PAs to practice under it;
2. addresses several matters related to disciplinary actions for PAs practicing under the compact, such as information sharing among states and automatic deactivation of a PA’s compact privilege in some circumstances;
3. allows the commission to levy an annual assessment on participating states and fees on participating PAs to cover the cost of its operations; and
4. provides that amendments to the compact only take effect if all participating states adopt them into law.

In practice, the compact is still in the process of being implemented.

The commission first met in September 2024, and compact privileges to practice are projected to be available in early 2026. A broad overview of the compact appears below.

Additionally, under the bill, the public health commissioner must require anyone applying for PA licensure to submit to a state and national fingerprint-based criminal history records check by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (§ 2). This corresponds to a compact requirement (see *State Participation in the Compact*, below).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

## **PA LICENSURE COMPACT**

### ***Compact Overview***

The PA Licensure Compact provides a process authorizing PAs to work in multiple states (including by telehealth) if they are licensed in one participating state. (The compact applies regardless of whether states use the term “physician assistant” or another title for this profession.)

Under the compact, a “state” is a U.S. state, commonwealth, district, or territory. A “participating state” is a state that has enacted the compact. A “remote state” is a participating state where a licensee who is not licensed as a PA is exercising, or seeking to exercise, the compact privilege to practice.

The “compact privilege” is the authorization granted by a remote state allowing a licensee from another participating state to practice as a PA in a remote state, by providing services to a patient in a remote state under that state’s laws and regulations.

### ***State Participation in the Compact (§ 1(3))***

To participate in the compact, a state must do the following:

1. license PAs;
2. participate in the compact commission’s data system (see below);

3. have a mechanism to receive and investigate complaints against PA licensees and license applicants;
4. notify the commission, in compliance with the compact's terms and commission rules, about any adverse action (e.g., license denial or suspension) and the existence of significant investigative information regarding a licensee or license applicant (generally, information that a licensing board, after following certain procedures, believes is not groundless and if proven true, would indicate more than a minor infraction);
5. fully implement a criminal background check requirement, within a time frame set by rule, by receiving criminal background check results and reporting to the commission whether the applicant has been granted a license;
6. comply with the commission's rules;
7. require passage of a recognized national examination for PA licensure (such as the PA National Certifying Examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of PAs (NCCPA)); and
8. grant the compact privilege to a holder of a qualifying license (i.e., an unrestricted PA license) in a participating state.

Participating states may charge a fee for granting the compact privilege.

**Compact Privilege (§ 1(4))**

To exercise the compact privilege, a licensee must meet the following requirements:

1. have graduated from a PA program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc., or any other program authorized by commission rule;

2. hold current NCCPA certification;
3. have no felony or misdemeanor convictions;
4. have never had a controlled substance license, permit, or registration suspended or revoked by a state or the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration;
5. have a unique identifier as determined by commission rule;
6. hold a qualifying license;
7. notify the commission that the licensee is seeking the compact privilege in a remote state;
8. meet the remote state's jurisprudence requirements (i.e., assessment of knowledge of PA practice laws and rules for that state), if any, and pay any applicable fees; and
9. report to the commission within 30 days after being subject to adverse action by any nonparticipating state.

In addition, a licensee cannot have had a license revocation due to an adverse action. If a licensee has had a limitation or restriction on a license or compact privilege due to an adverse action, two years must have passed since the limitation or restriction ended. However, a participating state has the discretion to not consider something as an adverse action on a compact privilege if it was based on conduct that would not be the basis for disciplinary action in that state.

The compact privilege is valid until the license expires or is revoked, unless it ends earlier due to an adverse action. Licensees must comply with the above requirements to maintain the privilege in a remote state.

If a participating state takes adverse action against a license, the licensee loses the compact privilege in any remote state until two years after the license is no longer limited or restricted. To regain the privilege after that two-year period, the licensee must also meet the above eligibility requirements.

PAs who are seeking authority to prescribe controlled substances in remote states must meet the applicable requirements in each state in which they seek to do so.

***Designation of the State From Which Licensee is Applying (§ 1(5))***

The compact requires PAs applying for a compact privilege to identify to the commission the state from where they are applying, under rules set by the commission. In addition, when applying for the privilege, PAs must:

1. give the commission the address of their primary residence (and report any change immediately) and
2. consent to accept service of process by mail at that address for any action (such as a subpoena) that the commission or a participating state brings against the licensee.

***Adverse Actions (§ 1(6))***

The compact addresses several matters related to states' authority to investigate and discipline PAs practicing under its procedures. The following are examples of the regulatory structure under the compact:

1. a participating state in which a PA is licensed has exclusive authority to take adverse action against that license, and if it takes such an action, the PA's compact privilege in all remote states is deactivated until two years after the restrictions are removed from the license;
2. a remote state may take adverse action against a PA's compact privilege in that state to remove the privilege, issue subpoenas under certain conditions, and take other necessary action to protect the health and safety of its citizens;
3. the compact does not authorize participating states to impose discipline against a PA's compact privilege, or deny an application for such a privilege, for the PA's otherwise lawful practice in another state;



4. for taking adverse action, a PA's state of licensure must give the same priority and effect to reported conduct from other participating states as it would to conduct within the state, and must apply its own state law to determine appropriate action;
5. if allowed by that state's law, a participating state may recover from the affected PA the investigation and disposition costs for cases resulting from adverse actions;
6. participating states may take adverse actions based on a remote state's factual findings, and must follow its own procedures in doing so; and
7. if any participating state takes adverse action, it must promptly notify the data system's administrator (see below).

***PA Licensure Compact Commission (§ 1(7), (9) & (10))***

The compact is administered by the PA Licensure Compact Commission, which consists of one voting delegate per participating state (selected by each state's licensing board). The compact sets several powers, duties, and procedures for the commission. For example, the commission must:

1. promulgate rules to facilitate and coordinate the compact's implementation and administration (a rule has no further effect if a majority of the participating states' legislatures reject it within four years after the rule's adoption),
2. enforce the compact's provisions and the commission's rules, and
3. prepare an annual report (including on its financial review) to be provided to participating states.

The commission (1) can levy an annual assessment on participating states and impose fees on participating PAs to cover the costs of its operations, and (2) is subject to a yearly financial review.

The compact addresses several other matters regarding the

commission and its operations, such as setting conditions under which its members, officers, and employees are immune from civil liability.

***Data System (§ 1(8))***

Under the compact, participating states must submit specified information on PAs and denied applicants for inclusion in a database the commission creates. The compact addresses several matters related to this data system, such as establishing the following:

1. significant investigative information about a licensee in any participating state is only available to other participating states;
2. the commission must promptly notify all participating states about adverse actions reported to it against licensees or applicants, and this information is available to any other participating state; and
3. participating states that contribute information to the data system may designate information that may not be shared publicly without the state's express permission.

***Compact Oversight, Dispute Resolution, Participating State Withdrawal, and Related Matters (§ 1(10)-(13))***

Among several other related provisions, the compact provides the following:

1. each participating state's executive and judicial branches must enforce the compact and take all necessary and appropriate steps to implement it;
2. the commission must take specified steps if a participating state is in default and, after all other means of securing compliance have been exhausted, a defaulting state is terminated from the compact upon a majority vote of the delegates (the commission may also bring a legal action against a defaulting state in these circumstances);
3. upon a participating state's request, the commission must

attempt to resolve a compact-related dispute among participating states and between participating and nonparticipating states;

4. a participating state may withdraw from the compact by repealing that state's compact legislation, but withdrawal does not take effect until 180 days after the repealing statute's enactment;
5. the participating states may amend the compact, but no amendment takes effect until it is enacted materially in the same way into the laws of all participating states;
6. the compact's provisions are severable and its provisions must be liberally construed to carry out its purposes; and
7. all participating state laws in conflict with the compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.

## COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32    Nay 0    (02/10/2025)