

# **West VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

**House Bill 4501**

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

By Delegates Clark, Kump, Worrell, Hite, Funkhouser,  
Browning, Crouse, and Horst

[Introduced January 19, 2026; referred to the  
Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article,  
2 designated §30-35A-1, §30-35A-2, §30-35A-3, §30-35A-4, §30-35A-5, §30-35A-6, §30-  
3 35A-7, §30-35A-8, §30-35A-9, §30-35A-10, §30-35A-11, §30-35A-12, §30-35A-13, and  
4 §30-35A-14, relating to joining the Dietitian Licensure Compact Commission by the state of  
5 West Virginia; providing for a purpose; providing for definitions; providing requirements for  
6 state participation in the compact; requirements to exercise the compact privilege;  
7 requirements for a licensee to hold a home state license based on a compact privilege;  
8 requiring criminal background check and setting educational and other requirements for a  
9 licensed dietitian; authorizing member state to charge fee for granting compact privilege;  
10 providing for state participation in the compact; establishing the privilege to practice in  
11 member states; providing for change in primary state or residence procedures relating to  
12 licensing for active duty military personnel and their spouses; providing for procedures  
13 relating to duties, meetings, responsibilities, and adverse actions; establishing the dietitian  
14 licensure compact commission; providing for membership, powers and duties of the  
15 commission; and providing for an executive committee; providing for a data system  
16 available for use among the member states; providing for rulemaking authority of the  
17 commission; providing for dispute resolution, and enforcement provisions of the  
18 commission among the member states; providing for date of implementation among the  
19 member states; providing for applicability of the existing rules at the time a new member  
20 state joins the commission; providing for withdrawal of any member states and conditions  
21 that must be met until withdrawal is effective; providing for a six-month period before  
22 withdrawal is effective; providing for construction and severability of the provisions of the  
23 compact; and providing for a binding effect of the laws and rules of the compact among the  
24 member states.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 35A. DIETITIAN LICENSURE COMPACT**

**§30-35A-1. Purpose.**

1       (a) The purpose of this compact is to facilitate interstate practice of dietetics with the goal of  
2 improving public access to dietetics services. This compact preserves the regulatory authority of  
3 states to protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure, while also  
4 providing for licensure portability through a compact privilege granted to qualifying professionals.

5       (b) This compact is designed to achieve the following objectives:

6       (1) Increase public access to dietetics services;  
7       (2) Provide opportunities for interstate practice by licensed Dietitians who meet uniform  
8 requirements;

9       (3) Eliminate the necessity for licenses in multiple states;  
10       (4) Reduce administrative burden on member states and licensees;  
11       (5) Enhance the states' ability to protect the public's health and safety;  
12       (6) Encourage the cooperation of member states in regulating multistate practice of  
13 licensed Dietitians;

14       (7) Support relocating active military members and their spouses;  
15       (8) Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative, and disciplinary information among  
16 member states; and

17       (9) Vest all member states with the authority to hold a licensed Dietitian accountable for  
18 meeting all state practice laws in the state in which the patient is located at the time care is  
19 rendered.

**§30-35A-2. Definitions.**

1       As used in this compact, and except as otherwise provided, the following definitions shall  
2 apply:

3       "ACEND" means the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics or its  
4 successor organization.

5       "Active military member" means any individual with full-time duty status in the active armed

6 forces of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve.

7       "Adverse action" means any administrative, civil, equitable or criminal action permitted by  
8       a state's laws which is imposed by a licensing authority or other authority against a licensee,  
9       including actions against an individual's license or compact privilege such as revocation,  
10      suspension, probation, monitoring of the licensee, limitation on the licensee's practice, or any  
11      other encumbrance on licensure affecting a licensee's authorization to practice, including  
12      issuance of a cease and desist action.

13       "Alternative program" means a non-disciplinary monitoring or practice remediation process  
14      approved by a licensing authority.

15       "Charter member state" means any member state which enacted this compact by law  
16      before the effective date specified in §30-35A-12 of this code.

17       "Continuing education" means a requirement, as a condition of license renewal, to provide  
18      evidence of participation in, and completion of, educational and professional activities relevant to  
19      practice or area of work.

20       "CDR" means the commission on dietetic registration or its successor organization.

21       "Compact commission" means the government agency whose membership consists of all  
22      states that have enacted this compact, which is known as the Dietitian Licensure Compact  
23      Commission, as described in §30-35A-8 of this code, and which shall operate as an  
24      instrumentality of the member states.

25       "Compact privilege" means a legal authorization, which is equivalent to a license,  
26      permitting the practice of dietetics in a remote state.

27       "Current significant investigative information" means:

28        (1) Investigative information that a licensing authority, after a preliminary inquiry that  
29      includes notification and an opportunity for the subject licensee to respond, if required by state law,  
30      has reason to believe is not groundless and, if proved true, would indicate more than a minor  
31      infraction; or

32        (2) Investigative information that indicates that the subject licensee represents an  
33        immediate threat to public health and safety regardless of whether the subject licensee has been  
34        notified and had an opportunity to respond.

35        "Data system" means a repository of information about licensees, including, but not limited  
36        to, continuing education, examination, licensure, investigative, compact privilege and adverse  
37        action information.

38        "Encumbered license" means a license in which an adverse action restricts a licensee's  
39        ability to practice dietetics.

40        "Encumbrance" means a revocation or suspension of, or any limitation on a licensee's full  
41        and unrestricted practice of dietetics by a licensing authority.

42        "Executive committee" means a group of delegates elected or appointed to act on behalf  
43        of, and within the powers granted to them by, this compact, and the compact commission.

44        "Home state" means the member state that is the licensee's primary state of residence or  
45        that has been designated pursuant to §30-35A-6 of this code.

46        "Investigative information" means information, records, and documents received or  
47        generated by a licensing authority pursuant to an investigation.

48        "Jurisprudence requirement" means an assessment of an individual's knowledge of the  
49        state laws and regulations governing the practice of dietetics in such state.

50        "License" means an authorization from a member state to either:  
51        (1) Engage in the practice of dietetics, including medical nutrition therapy; or  
52        (2) Use the title "dietitian," "licensed dietitian," "licensed dietitian nutritionist," "certified  
53        dietitian," or other title describing a substantially similar practitioner as the compact commission  
54        may further define by rule.

55        "Licensee" or "licensed dietitian" means an individual who currently holds a license and  
56        who meets all of the requirements outlined in Section 4.

57        "Licensing authority" means the board or agency of a state, or equivalent, that is

58 responsible for the licensing and regulation of the practice of dietetics.

59 "Member state" means a state that has enacted the compact.

60 "Practice of dietetics" means the synthesis and application of dietetics as defined by state  
61 law and regulations, primarily for the provision of nutrition care services, including medical  
62 nutrition therapy, in person or via telehealth, to prevent, manage, or treat diseases or medical  
63 conditions and promote wellness.

64 "Registered dietitian" means a person who:

65 (1) Has completed applicable education, experience, examination, and recertification  
66 requirements approved by CDR;

67 (2) Is credentialed by CDR as a registered dietitian or a registered dietitian nutritionist; and  
68 (3) Is legally authorized to use the title registered dietitian or registered dietitian nutritionist  
69 and the corresponding abbreviations "RD" or "RDN."

70 "Remote state" means a member state other than the home state, where a licensee is  
71 exercising or seeking to exercise a compact privilege.

72 "Rule" means a regulation promulgated by the compact commission that has the force of  
73 law.

74 "Single state license" means a license issued by a member state within the issuing state  
75 and does not include a compact privilege in any other member state.

76 "State" means any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States of  
77 America.

78 "Unencumbered license" means a license that authorizes a licensee to engage in the full  
79 and unrestricted practice of dietetics.

### **§30-35A-3. State participation in the compact.**

1 (a) To participate in the compact, a state must currently:

2 (1) License and regulate the practice of dietetics; and

3 (2) Have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints about licensees.

4                   (b) A member state shall:

5                   (1) Participate fully in the compact commission's data system, including using the unique  
6 identifier as defined in rules;

7                   (2) Notify the compact commission, in compliance with the terms of the compact and rules,  
8 of any adverse action or the availability of current significant investigative information regarding a  
9 licensee;

10                  (3) Implement or utilize procedures for considering the criminal history record information  
11 of applicants for an initial compact privilege. These procedures shall include the submission of  
12 fingerprints or other biometric-based information by applicants for the purpose of obtaining an  
13 applicant's criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the  
14 agency responsible for retaining that state's criminal records;

15                  (A) A member state must fully implement a criminal history record information requirement,  
16 within a time frame established by rule, which includes receiving the results of the Federal Bureau  
17 of Investigation record search and shall use those results in determining compact privilege  
18 eligibility.

19                  (B) Communication between a member state and the compact commission or among  
20 member states regarding the verification of eligibility for a compact privilege shall not include any  
21 information received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation relating to a federal criminal history  
22 record information check performed by a member state.

23                  (4) Comply with and enforce the rules of the compact commission;

24                  (5) Require an applicant for a compact privilege to obtain or retain a license in the  
25 licensee's home state and meet the home state's qualifications for licensure or renewal of  
26 licensure, as well as all other applicable state laws; and

27                  (6) Recognize a compact privilege granted to a licensee who meets all of the requirements  
28 outlined in §30-35A-4 of this code in accordance with the terms of the compact and rules.

29                  (c) Member states may set and collect a fee for granting a compact privilege.

30        (d) Individuals not residing in a member state shall continue to be able to apply for a  
31        member state's single state license as provided under the laws of each member state. However,  
32        the single state license granted to these individuals shall not be recognized as granting a compact  
33        privilege to engage in the practice of dietetics in any other member state.

34        (e) Nothing in this compact shall affect the requirements established by a member state for  
35        the issuance of a single state license.

36        (f) At no point shall the compact commission have the power to define the requirements for  
37        the issuance of a single state license to practice dietetics. The member states shall retain sole  
38        jurisdiction over the provision of these requirements.

#### **§30-35A-4. Compact privilege.**

1        (a) To exercise the compact privilege under the terms and provisions of the compact, the  
2        licensee shall:

3               (1) Satisfy one of the following:

4               (A) Hold a valid current registration that gives the applicant the right to use the term  
5        registered dietitian; or

6               (B) Complete all of the following:

7                      (i) An education program which is either:

8                             (I) A master's degree or doctoral degree that is programmatically accredited by ACEND or  
9        a dietetics accrediting agency recognized by the United states Department of Education, which  
10        the compact commission may by rule determine, and from a college or university accredited at the  
11        time of graduation by the appropriate regional accrediting agency recognized by the Council on  
12        Higher Education Accreditation and the United states Department of Education;

13                             (II) An academic degree from a college or university in a foreign country equivalent to the  
14        degree described in clause (I) of this subparagraph that is programmatically accredited by  
15        ACEND, or a dietetics accrediting agency recognized by the United states Department of  
16        Education, which the compact commission may by rule determine; or

17       (ii) A planned, documented, supervised practice experience in dietetics that is  
18 programmatically accredited by ACEND, or a dietetics accrediting agency recognized by the  
19 United States Department of Education which the compact commission may by rule determine  
20 and which involves at least 1,000 hours of practice experience under the supervision of a  
21 registered dietitian or a licensed Dietitian.

22       (ii) Successful completion of either (I) the Registration Examination for Dietitians  
23 administered by CDR, or (II) a national credentialing examination for dietitians approved by the  
24 compact commission by rule; such completion being no more than five years prior to the date of  
25 the licensee's application for initial licensure and accompanied by a period of continuous licensure  
26 thereafter, all of which may be further governed by the rules of the compact commission.

27       (2) Hold an unencumbered license in the home state;

28       (3) Notify the compact commission that the licensee is seeking a compact privilege within a  
29 remote state;

30       (4) Pay any applicable fees, including any state fee, for the compact privilege;

31       (5) Meet any jurisprudence requirements established by the remote states in which the  
32 licensee is seeking a compact privilege; and

33       (6) Report to the compact commission any adverse action, encumbrance, or restriction on  
34 a license taken by any non-member state within 30 days from the date the action is taken.

35       (b) The compact privilege is valid until the expiration date of the home state license. To  
36 maintain a compact privilege, renewal of the compact privilege shall be congruent with the renewal  
37 of the home state license as the compact commission may define by rule. The licensee must  
38 comply with the requirements of §30-35-4(a) of this code to maintain the compact privilege in the  
39 remote states.

40       (c) A licensee exercising a compact privilege shall adhere to the laws and regulations of  
41 the remote states. licensees shall be responsible for educating themselves on, and complying  
42 with, any and all state laws relating to the practice of dietetics in the remote states.

43        (d) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary provided in this compact or state law, a  
44        licensee exercising a compact privilege shall not be required to complete continuing education  
45        requirements required by a remote state. A licensee exercising a compact privilege is only  
46        required to meet any continuing education requirements as required by the home state.

**§30-35A-5. Obtaining a new home state license based on a compact privilege.**

1        (a) A licensee may hold a home state license, which allows for a compact privilege in other  
2        member states, in only one member state at a time.

3        (b) If a licensee changes home state by moving between two member states:

4        (1) The licensee shall file an application for obtaining a new home state license based on a  
5        compact privilege, pay all applicable fees, and notify the current and new home state in  
6        accordance with the rules of the compact commission.

7        (2) Upon receipt of an application for obtaining a new home state license by virtue of a  
8        compact privilege, the new home state shall verify that the licensee meets the criteria in §30-35A-4  
9        of this code via the data system, and require that the licensee complete the following:

10        (A) Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint based criminal history record information  
11        check;

12        (B) Any other criminal history record information required by the new home state; and

13        (C) Any jurisprudence requirements of the new home state.

14        (3) The former home state shall convert the former home state license into a compact  
15        privilege once the new home state has activated the new home state license in accordance with  
16        applicable rules adopted by the compact commission.

17        (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this compact, if the licensee cannot meet the  
18        criteria in §30-35A-4 of this code, the new home state may apply its requirements for issuing a new  
19        single state license.

20        (5) The licensee shall pay all applicable fees to the new home state in order to be issued a  
21        new home state license.

22        (c) If a licensee changes their state of residence by moving from a member state to a non-  
23        member state, or from a non-member state to a member state, the state criteria shall apply for  
24        issuance of a single state license in the new state.

25        (d) Nothing in this compact shall interfere with a licensee's ability to hold a single state  
26        license in multiple states; however, for the purposes of this compact, a licensee shall have only  
27        one home state license.

28        (e) Nothing in this compact shall affect the requirements established by a member state for  
29        the issuance of a single state license.

#### **§30-35A-6. Active military members or their spouses.**

1        An active military member, or their spouse, shall designate a home state where the  
2        individual has a current license in good standing. The individual may retain the home state  
3        designation during the period the service member is on active duty.

#### **§30-35A-7. Adverse actions.**

1        (a) In addition to the other powers conferred by state law, a remote state shall have the  
2        authority, in accordance with existing state due process law, to:

3        (1) Take adverse action against a licensee's compact privilege within that member state;  
4        and

5        (2) Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and  
6        testimony of witnesses as well as the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a licensing  
7        authority in a member state for the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of  
8        evidence from another member state shall be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent  
9        jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure applicable to subpoenas issued in  
10        proceedings pending before that court. The issuing authority shall pay any witness fees, travel  
11        expenses, mileage, and other fees required by the service statutes of the state in which the  
12        witnesses or evidence are located.

13        (b) Only the home state shall have the power to take adverse action against a licensee's

14 home state license.

15 (c) For purposes of taking adverse action, the home state shall give the same priority and  
16 effect to reported conduct received from a member state as it would if the conduct had occurred  
17 within the home state. In so doing, the home state shall apply its own state laws to determine  
18 appropriate action.

19 (d) The home state shall complete any pending investigations of a licensee who changes  
20 home states during the course of the investigations. The home state shall also have authority to  
21 take appropriate action(s) and shall promptly report the conclusions of the investigations to the  
22 administrator of the data system. The administrator of the data system shall promptly notify the  
23 new home state of any adverse actions.

24 (e) A member state, if otherwise permitted by state law, may recover from the affected  
25 licensee the costs of investigations and dispositions of cases resulting from any adverse action  
26 taken against that licensee.

27 (f) A member state may take adverse action based on the factual findings of another  
28 remote state: *Provided*, That the member state follows its own procedures for taking the adverse  
29 action.

30 (g) Joint Investigations:

31 (1) In addition to the authority granted to a member state by its respective state law, any  
32 member state may participate with other member states in joint investigations of licensees.

33 (2) Member states shall share any investigative, litigation, or compliance materials in  
34 furtherance of any joint investigation initiated under the compact.

35 (h) If adverse action is taken by the home state against a licensee's home state license  
36 resulting in an encumbrance on the home state license, the licensee's compact privileges in all  
37 other member states shall be revoked until all encumbrances have been removed from the home  
38 state license. All home state disciplinary orders that impose adverse action against a licensee  
39 shall include a statement that the licensee's compact privileges are revoked in all member states

40 during the pendency of the order.

41 (i) Once an encumbered license in the home state is restored to an unencumbered license,  
42 as certified by the home state's licensing authority, the licensee must meet the requirements of  
43 §30-35A-4(a) of this code and follow the administrative requirements to reapply to obtain a  
44 compact privilege in any remote state.

45 (j) If a member state takes adverse action, it shall promptly notify the administrator of the  
46 data system. The administrator of the data system shall promptly notify the other member states  
47 state of any adverse actions.

48 (k) Nothing in this compact shall override a member state's decision that participation in an  
49 alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action.

#### **§30-35A-8. Establishment of the dietitian licensure compact commission.**

1 (a) The compact member states hereby create and establish a joint government agency  
2 whose membership consists of all member states that have enacted the compact known as the  
3 dietitian licensure compact commission. The compact commission is an instrumentality of the  
4 compact states acting jointly and not an instrumentality of any one state. The compact commission  
5 shall come into existence on or after the effective date of the compact as set forth in §30-35A-12 of  
6 this code.

7 (b) Membership, Voting, and Meetings

8 (1) Each member state shall have and be limited to one delegate selected by that member  
9 state's licensing authority.

10 (2) The delegate shall be the primary administrator of the licensing authority or their  
11 designee.

12 (3) The compact commission shall by rule or bylaw establish a term of office for delegates  
13 and may by rule or bylaw establish term limits.

14 (4) The compact commission may recommend removal or suspension of any delegate  
15 from office.

16       (5) A member state's licensing authority shall fill any vacancy of its delegate occurring on  
17       the compact commission within 60 days of the vacancy.

18       (6) Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote on all matters before the compact  
19       commission requiring a vote by the delegates.

20       (7) Delegates shall meet and vote by such means as set forth in the bylaws. The bylaws  
21       may provide for delegates to meet and vote in-person or by telecommunication, video conference,  
22       or other means of communication.

23       (8) The compact commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year.  
24       Additional meetings may be held as set forth in the bylaws. The compact commission may meet in  
25       person or by telecommunication, video conference, or other means of communication.

26       (c) The compact commission shall have the following powers:

27       (1) Establish the fiscal year of the compact commission;

28       (2) Establish code of conduct and conflict of interest policies;

29       (3) Establish and amend rules and bylaws;

30       (4) Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws;

31       (5) Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the provisions of this compact, the  
32       compact commission's rules, and the bylaws;

33       (6) Initiate and conclude legal proceedings or actions in the name of the compact  
34       commission, provided that the standing of any licensing authority to sue or be sued under  
35       applicable law shall not be affected;

36       (7) Maintain and certify records and information provided to a member state as the  
37       authenticated business records of the compact commission, and designate an agent to do so on  
38       the compact commission's behalf;

39       (8) Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

40       (9) Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including, but not limited to,  
41       employees of a member state;

42           (10) Conduct an annual financial review;

43           (11) Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant such

44           individuals appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the compact, and establish the

45           compact commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest,

46           qualifications of personnel, and other related personnel matters;

47           (12) Assess and collect fees;

48           (13) Accept any and all appropriate donations, grants of money, other sources of revenue,

49           equipment, supplies, materials, services, and gifts, and receive, utilize, and dispose of the same;

50           Provided, that at all times the compact commission shall avoid any actual or appearance of

51           impropriety or conflict of interest;

52           (14) Lease, purchase, retain, own, hold, improve, or use any property, real, personal, or

53           mixed, or any undivided interest therein;

54           (15) Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose of

55           any property real, personal, or mixed;

56           (16) Establish a budget and make expenditures;

57           (17) Borrow money;

58           (18) Appoint committees, including standing committees, composed of members, state

59           regulators, state legislators or their representatives, and consumer representatives, and such

60           other interested persons as may be designated in this compact or the bylaws;

61           (19) Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law enforcement agencies;

62           (20) Establish and elect an executive committee, including a chair and a vice chair;

63           (21) Determine whether a state's adopted language is materially different from the model

64           compact language such that the state would not qualify for participation in the compact; and

65           (22) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the

66           purposes of this compact.

67           (d) The executive committee.

68       (1) The executive committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the compact  
69 commission according to the terms of this compact. The powers, duties, and responsibilities of the  
70 executive committee shall include:

71       (A) Oversee the day-to-day activities of the administration of the compact including  
72 enforcement and compliance with the provisions of the compact, its rules and bylaws, and other  
73 such duties as deemed necessary;

74       (B) Recommend to the compact commission changes to the rules or bylaws, changes to  
75 this compact legislation, fees charged to compact member states, fees charged to licensees, and  
76 other fees;

77       (C) Ensure compact administration services are appropriately provided, including by  
78 contract;

79       (D) Prepare and recommend the budget;

80       (E) Maintain financial records on behalf of the compact commission;

81       (F) Monitor compact compliance of member states and provide compliance reports to the  
82 compact commission;

83       (G) Establish additional committees as necessary;

84       (H) Exercise the powers and duties of the compact commission during the interim between  
85 compact commission meetings, except for adopting or amending rules, adopting or amending  
86 bylaws, and exercising any other powers and duties expressly reserved to the compact  
87 commission by rule or bylaw; and

88       (I) Other duties as provided in the rules or bylaws of the compact commission.

89       (2) The executive committee shall be composed of 9 members:

90       (A) The chair and vice chair of the compact commission shall be voting members of the  
91 executive committee;

92       (B) Five voting members from the current membership of the compact commission,  
93 elected by the compact commission;

94       (C) One ex-officio, nonvoting member from a recognized professional association  
95       representing dietitians; and

96       (D) One ex-officio, nonvoting member from a recognized national credentialing  
97       organization for dietitians.

98       (3) The compact commission may remove any member of the executive committee as  
99       provided in the compact commission's bylaws.

100       (4) The executive committee shall meet at least annually.

101       (A) Executive committee meetings shall be open to the public, except that the executive  
102       committee may meet in a closed, non-public meeting as provided in subdivision (f)(2) of this  
103       section.

104       (B) The executive committee shall give 30 days' notice of its meetings, posted on the  
105       website of the compact commission and as determined to provide notice to persons with an  
106       interest in the business of the compact commission.

107       (C) The executive committee may hold a special meeting in accordance with paragraph  
108       (f)(1)(B) of this section.

109       (e) The compact commission shall adopt and provide to the member states an annual  
110       report.

111       (f) Meetings of the compact commission

112       (1) All meetings shall be open to the public, except that the compact commission may meet  
113       in a closed, non-public meeting as provided in subdivision (f)(2) of this section.

114       (A) Public notice for all meetings of the full compact commission shall be given in the same  
115       manner as required under the rulemaking provisions in §30-35A-10 of this code, except that the  
116       compact commission may hold a special meeting as provided in paragraph (f)(1)(B) of this section.

117       (B) The compact commission may hold a special meeting when it must meet to conduct  
118       emergency business by giving 24 hours' notice to all member states, on the compact  
119       commission's website, and other means as provided in the compact commission's rules. The

120 compact commission's legal counsel shall certify that the compact commission's need to meet  
121 qualifies as an emergency.

122 (2) The compact commission or the executive committee or other committees of the  
123 compact commission may convene in a closed, non-public meeting for the compact commission  
124 or executive committee or other committees of the compact commission to receive legal advice or  
125 to discuss:

126 (A) Non-compliance of a member state with its obligations under the compact;  
127 (B) The employment, compensation, discipline, or other matters, practices, or procedures  
128 related to specific employees;

129 (C) Current or threatened discipline of a licensee by the compact commission or by a  
130 member state's licensing authority;

131 (D) Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation;  
132 (E) Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or sale of goods, services, or real  
133 estate;

134 (F) Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;  
135 (G) Trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential;  
136 (H) Information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly  
137 unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

138 (I) Investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes;  
139 (J) Information related to any investigative reports prepared by or on behalf of or for use of  
140 the compact commission or other committee charged with responsibility of investigation or  
141 determination of compliance issues pursuant to the compact;

142 (K) Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or member state law; or  
143 (L) Other matters as specified in the rules of the compact commission.

144 (3) If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed, the presiding officer shall state that the  
145 meeting will be closed and reference each relevant exempting provision, and such reference shall

146 be recorded in the minutes.

147 (4) The compact commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters  
148 discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the  
149 reasons therefore, including a description of the views expressed. All documents considered in  
150 connection with an action shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and documents of a  
151 closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release only by a majority vote of the compact  
152 commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

153 (g) Financing of the compact commission

154 (1) The compact commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable  
155 expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.

156 (2) The compact commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue sources as  
157 provided in subdivision (c)(13) of this section.

158 (3) The compact commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each  
159 member state and impose fees on licensees of member states to whom it grants a compact  
160 privilege to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the compact commission and its staff,  
161 which must, in a total amount, be sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved each year for  
162 which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount for  
163 member states shall be allocated based upon a formula that the compact commission shall  
164 promulgate by rule.

165 (4) The compact commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the  
166 funds adequate to meet the same; nor shall the compact commission pledge the credit of any of  
167 the member states, except by and with the authority of the member state.

168 (5) The compact commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and  
169 disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the compact commission shall be subject to  
170 the financial review and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts  
171 and disbursements of funds handled by the compact commission shall be subject to an annual

172 financial review by a certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the financial review  
173 shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the compact commission.

174 (h) Qualified Immunity, Defense, and Indemnification

175 (1) The members, officers, executive director, employees and representatives of the  
176 compact commission shall be immune from suit and liability, both personally and in their official  
177 capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability  
178 caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that the  
179 person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the  
180 scope of compact commission employment, duties, or responsibilities: *Provided*, That nothing in  
181 this subsection shall be construed to protect any such person from suit or liability for any damage,  
182 loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person. The  
183 procurement of insurance of any type by the compact commission shall not in any way  
184 compromise or limit the immunity granted hereunder.

185 (2) The compact commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director,  
186 employee, and representative of the compact commission in any civil action seeking to impose  
187 liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of  
188 compact commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or as determined by the compact  
189 commission that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing  
190 occurred within the scope of compact commission employment, duties, or responsibilities:  
191 *Provided*, That nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit that person from retaining their own  
192 counsel at their own expense; and: *Provided, further*, That the actual or alleged act, error, or  
193 omission did not result from that person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.

194 (3) The compact commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer,  
195 executive director, employee, and representative of the compact commission for the amount of  
196 any settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged act,  
197 error, or omission that occurred within the scope of compact commission employment, duties, or

198 responsibilities, or that such person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope  
199 of compact commission employment, duties, or responsibilities: *Provided*, That the actual or  
200 alleged act, error, or omission did not result from the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of  
201 that person.

202 (4) Nothing herein shall be construed as a limitation on the liability of any licensee for  
203 professional malpractice or misconduct, which shall be governed solely by any other applicable  
204 state laws.

205 (5) Nothing in this compact shall be interpreted to waive or otherwise abrogate a member  
206 state's state action immunity or state action affirmative defense with respect to antitrust claims  
207 under the Sherman Act, Clayton Act, or any other state or federal antitrust or anticompetitive law or  
208 regulation.

209 (6) Nothing in this compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity by the  
210 member states or by the compact commission.

### **§30-35A-9. Data system.**

1 (a) The compact commission shall provide for the development, maintenance, operation,  
2 and utilization of a coordinated data system.

3 (b) The compact commission shall assign each applicant for a compact privilege a unique  
4 identifier, as determined by the rules.

5 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the contrary, a member state shall  
6 submit a uniform data set to the data system on all individuals to whom this compact is applicable  
7 as required by the rules of the compact commission, including:

8 (1) Identifying information;

9 (2) Licensure data;

10 (3) Adverse actions against a license or compact privilege and information related thereto;

11 (4) Non-confidential information related to alternative program participation, the beginning  
12 and ending dates of such participation, and other information related to such participation not

13     made confidential under member state law;  
14         (5) Any denial of application for licensure, and the reason(s) for such denial;  
15         (6) The presence of current significant investigative information; and  
16         (7) Other information that may facilitate the administration of this compact or the protection  
17         of the public, as determined by the rules of the compact commission.

18             (d) The records and information provided to a member state pursuant to this compact or  
19         through the data system, when certified by the compact commission or an agent thereof, shall  
20         constitute the authenticated business records of the compact commission, and shall be entitled to  
21         any associated hearsay exception in any relevant judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative  
22         proceedings in a member state.

23             (e) Current significant investigative information pertaining to a licensee in any member  
24         state will only be available to other member states.

25             (f) It is the responsibility of the member states to report any adverse action against a  
26         licensee and to monitor the data system to determine whether any adverse action has been taken  
27         against a licensee. Adverse action information pertaining to a licensee in any member state will be  
28         available to any other member state.

29             (g) Member states contributing information to the data system may designate information  
30         that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of the contributing state.

31             (h) Any information submitted to the data system that is subsequently expunged pursuant  
32         to federal law or the laws of the member state contributing the information shall be removed from  
33         the data system.

#### **§30-35A-10. Rulemaking.**

1             (a) The compact commission shall promulgate reasonable rules in order to effectively and  
2         efficiently implement and administer the purposes and provisions of the compact. A rule shall be  
3         invalid and have no force or effect only if a court of competent jurisdiction holds that the rule is  
4         invalid because the compact commission exercised its rulemaking authority in a manner that is

5 beyond the scope and purposes of the compact, or the powers granted hereunder, or based upon  
6 another applicable standard of review.

7 (b) The rules of the compact commission shall have the force of law in each member state:  
8 Provided, That where the rules conflict with the laws or regulations of a member state that relate to  
9 the procedures, actions, and processes a licensed dietitian is permitted to undertake in that state  
10 and the circumstances under which they may do so, as held by a court of competent jurisdiction,  
11 the rules of the compact commission shall be ineffective in that state to the extent of the conflict.

12 (c) The compact commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria  
13 set forth in this section and the rules adopted thereunder. Rules shall become binding on the day  
14 following adoption or as of the date specified in the rule or amendment, whichever is later.

15 (d) If a majority of the legislatures of the member states rejects a rule or portion of a rule, by  
16 enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the compact within four  
17 years of the date of adoption of the rule, then such rule shall have no further force and effect in any  
18 member state.

19 (e) Rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the compact commission.

20 (f) Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the compact commission shall hold a public hearing  
21 and allow persons to provide oral and written comments, data, facts, opinions, and arguments.

22 (g) Prior to adoption of a proposed rule by the compact commission, and at least 30 days in  
23 advance of the meeting at which the compact commission will hold a public hearing on the  
24 proposed rule, the compact commission shall provide a notice of proposed rulemaking:

25 (1) On the website of the compact commission or other publicly accessible platform;

26 (2) To persons who have requested notice of the compact commission's notices of  
27 proposed rulemaking; and

28 (3) In such other ways as the compact commission may by rule specify.

29 (h) The notice of proposed rulemaking shall include:

30 (1) The time, date, and location of the public hearing at which the compact commission will

31 hear public comments on the proposed rule and, if different, the time, date, and location of the  
32 meeting where the compact commission will consider and vote on the proposed rule;

33 (2) If the hearing is held via telecommunication, video conference, or other means of  
34 communication, the compact commission shall include the mechanism for access to the hearing in  
35 the notice of proposed rulemaking;

36 (3) The text of the proposed rule and the reason therefore;

37 (4) A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person; and

38 (5) The manner in which interested persons may submit written comments.

39 (i) All hearings will be recorded. A copy of the recording and all written comments and  
40 documents received by the compact commission in response to the proposed rule shall be  
41 available to the public.

42 (j) Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a separate hearing on each rule.  
43 rules may be grouped for the convenience of the compact commission at hearings required by this  
44 section.

45 (k) The compact commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take final action on the  
46 proposed rule based on the rulemaking record and the full text of the rule.

47 (1) The compact commission may adopt changes to the proposed rule provided the  
48 changes do not enlarge the original purpose of the proposed rule.

49 (2) The compact commission shall provide an explanation of the reasons for substantive  
50 changes made to the proposed rule as well as reasons for substantive changes not made that  
51 were recommended by commenters.

52 (3) The compact commission shall determine a reasonable effective date for the rule.  
53 Except for an emergency as provided in §30-35A-10(l) of this code, the effective date of the rule  
54 shall be no sooner than 30 days after issuing the notice that it adopted or amended the rule.

55 (l) Upon determination that an emergency exists, the compact commission may consider  
56 and adopt an emergency rule with 24 hours' notice, with opportunity to comment: *Provided*, That

57 the usual rulemaking procedures provided in the compact and in this section shall be retroactively  
58 applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than 90 days after the effective  
59 date of the rule. For the purposes of this provision, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted  
60 immediately in order to:

61       (1) Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;  
62       (2) Prevent a loss of compact commission or member state funds;  
63       (3) Meet a deadline for the promulgation of a rule that is established by federal law or rule;  
64       or  
65       (4) Protect public health and safety.

66       (m) The compact commission or an authorized committee of the compact commission may  
67 direct revision to a previously adopted rule for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors  
68 in format, errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revision shall be posted  
69 on the website of the compact commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any  
70 person for a period of 30 days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that  
71 the revision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made in writing and  
72 delivered to the compact commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made,  
73 the revision will take effect without further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision may not  
74 take effect without the approval of the compact commission.

75       (n) No member state's rulemaking requirements shall apply under this compact.

#### **§30-35A-11. Oversight, dispute resolution, and enforcement.**

1       (a) Oversight:  
2       (1) The executive and judicial branches of state government in each member state shall  
3 enforce this compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to implement this compact.  
4       (2) Except as otherwise provided in this compact, venue is proper and judicial proceedings  
5 by or against the compact commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of  
6 competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the compact commission is located. The

7 compact commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or  
8 consents to participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings. Nothing herein shall affect or  
9 limit the selection or propriety of venue in any action against a licensee for professional  
10 malpractice, misconduct, or any such similar matter.

11 (3) The compact commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any  
12 proceeding regarding the enforcement or interpretation of the compact and shall have standing to  
13 intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide the compact commission  
14 service of process shall render a judgment or order void as to the compact commission, this  
15 compact, or promulgated rules.

16 (b) Default, technical assistance, and termination:

17 (1) If the compact commission determines that a member state has defaulted in the  
18 performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this compact or the promulgated rules, the  
19 compact commission shall provide written notice to the defaulting state. The notice of default shall  
20 describe the default, the proposed means of curing the default, and any other action that the  
21 compact commission may take and shall offer training and specific technical assistance regarding  
22 the default.

23 (2) The compact commission shall provide a copy of the notice of default to the other  
24 member states.

25 (c) If a state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting state may be terminated from  
26 the compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates of the member states, and all  
27 rights, privileges, and benefits conferred on that state by this compact may be terminated on the  
28 effective date of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the offending state of  
29 obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of default.

30 (d) Termination of membership in the compact shall be imposed only after all other means  
31 of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be  
32 given by the compact commission to the governor, the majority and minority leaders of the

33 defaulting state's legislature, the defaulting state's licensing authority, and each of the member  
34 states' licensing authority.

35 (e) A state that has been terminated is responsible for all assessments, obligations, and  
36 liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination, including obligations that extend  
37 beyond the effective date of termination.

38 (f) Upon the termination of a state's membership from this compact, that state shall  
39 immediately provide notice to all licensees within that state of such termination. The terminated  
40 state shall continue to recognize all compact privileges granted pursuant to this compact for a  
41 minimum of six months after the date of said notice of termination.

42 (g) The compact commission shall not bear any costs related to a state that is found to be  
43 in default or that has been terminated from the compact, unless agreed upon in writing between  
44 the compact commission and the defaulting state.

45 (h) The defaulting state may appeal the action of the compact commission by petitioning  
46 the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the compact  
47 commission has its principal offices. The prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such  
48 litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.

49 (i) Dispute resolution:

50 (1) Upon request by a member state, the compact commission shall attempt to resolve  
51 disputes related to the compact that arise among member states and between member and non-  
52 member states.

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

55 (j) Enforcement:

56 (1) By supermajority vote, the compact commission may initiate legal action against a  
57 member state in default in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal  
58 district where the compact commission has its principal offices to enforce compliance with the

59 provisions of the compact and its promulgated rules. The relief sought may include both injunctive  
60 relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall be  
61 awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees. The remedies herein  
62 shall not be the exclusive remedies of the compact commission. The compact commission may  
63 pursue any other remedies available under federal or the defaulting member state's law.

64 (2) A member state may initiate legal action against the compact commission in the U.S.  
65 District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the compact commission has  
66 its principal offices to enforce compliance with the provisions of the compact and its promulgated  
67 rules. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial  
68 enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation,  
69 including reasonable attorney's fees.

70 (3) No party other than a member state shall enforce this compact against the compact  
71 commission.

#### **§30-35A-12. Effective date, withdrawal, and amendment.**

1 (a) The compact shall come into effect on the date on which the compact statute is enacted  
2 into law in the seventh member state.

3 (1) On or after the effective date of the compact, the compact commission shall convene  
4 and review the enactment of each of the first seven member states ("charter member states") to  
5 determine if the statute enacted by each such charter member state is materially different than the  
6 model compact statute.

7 (A) A charter member state whose enactment is found to be materially different from the  
8 model compact statute shall be entitled to the default process set forth in §30-35A-11 of this code.

9 (B) If any member state is later found to be in default, or is terminated, or withdraws from  
10 the compact, the compact commission shall remain in existence and the compact shall remain in  
11 effect even if the number of member states should be less than seven.

12 (2) Member states enacting the compact subsequent to the seven initial charter member

13 states shall be subject to the process set forth in §30-35A-8(C)(21) of this code to determine if their  
14 enactments are materially different from the model compact statute and whether they qualify for  
15 participation in the compact.

16 (3) All actions taken for the benefit of the compact commission or in furtherance of the  
17 purposes of the administration of the compact prior to the effective date of the compact or the  
18 compact commission coming into existence shall be considered to be actions of the compact  
19 commission unless specifically repudiated by the compact commission.

20 (4) Any state that joins the compact subsequent to the compact commission's initial  
21 adoption of the rules and bylaws shall be subject to the rules and bylaws as they exist on the date  
22 on which the compact becomes law in that state. Any rule that has been previously adopted by the  
23 compact commission shall have the full force and effect of law on the day the compact becomes  
24 law in that state.

25 (b) Any member state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the  
26 same.

27 (1) A member state's withdrawal shall not take effect until 180 days after enactment of the  
28 repealing statute.

29 (2) Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing state's  
30 licensing authority to comply with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of  
31 this compact prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

32 (3) Upon the enactment of a statute withdrawing from this compact, a state shall  
33 immediately provide notice of such withdrawal to all licensees within that state. Notwithstanding  
34 any subsequent statutory enactment to the contrary, such withdrawing state shall continue to  
35 recognize all compact privileges granted pursuant to this compact for a minimum of 180 days after  
36 the date of such notice of withdrawal.

37 (c) Nothing contained in this compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any  
38 licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a member state and a non-

39 member state that does not conflict with the provisions of this compact.

40 (d) This compact may be amended by the member states. No amendment to this compact  
41 shall become effective and binding upon any member state until it is enacted into the laws of all  
42 member states.

**§30-35A-13. Construction and severability.**

1 (a) This compact and the compact commission's rulemaking authority shall be liberally  
2 construed so as to effectuate the purposes and the implementation and administration of the  
3 compact. Provisions of the compact expressly authorizing or requiring the promulgation of rules  
4 shall not be construed to limit the compact commission's rulemaking authority solely for those  
5 purposes.

6 (b) The provisions of this compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence,  
7 or provision of this compact is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to the  
8 constitution of any member state, a state seeking participation in the compact, or of the United  
9 States, or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held to  
10 be unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of this  
11 compact and the applicability thereof to any other government, agency, person, or circumstance  
12 shall not be affected thereby.

13 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of §30-35A-13(a) of this code, the compact commission  
14 may deny a state's participation in the compact or, in accordance with the requirements of §30-  
15 35A-11(b) of this code, terminate a member state's participation in the compact, if it determines  
16 that a constitutional requirement of a member state is a material departure from the compact.  
17 Otherwise, if this compact shall be held to be contrary to the constitution of any member state, the  
18 compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining member states and in full force  
19 and effect as to the member state affected as to all severable matters.

**§30-35A-14. Consistent effect and conflict with other state laws.**

1 (a) Nothing herein shall prevent or inhibit the enforcement of any other law of a member

2 state that is not inconsistent with the compact.

3 (b) Any laws, statutes, regulations, or other legal requirements in a member state in conflict

4 with the compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.

5 (c) All permissible agreements between the compact commission and the member states

6 are binding in accordance with their terms.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide for the joining of the Dietitian Licensure Compact Commission by the state of West Virginia.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.