



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 116
[2015 Assembly Bill 253]

**Interstate Medical Licensure
Compact Ratification**

2015 WISCONSIN ACT 116

2015 Wisconsin Act 116 ratifies and enters Wisconsin into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (“the Compact”), a multi-state agreement that creates a streamlined process for physicians to become licensed in multiple states. The Compact creates a process by which a physician who is licensed in one state may become licensed in one or more other states without having to verify “static qualifications” in each state. These are qualifications that do not change over time, such as medical education, graduate medical education, and results of medical or licensing examinations. States typically require primary source verification of these qualifications. Under the Compact, after a physician’s primary state of licensure has verified the qualifications, and certain additional criteria have been met, other member states may rely on the primary state’s verification when issuing a license to the physician. The Compact specifically provides, however, that it will not affect other aspects of the regulation of medicine in a member state.

The Compact’s process to allow licensing in multiple states is referred to as the “expedited licensing process.” A license issued through the expedited process is valid for a period consistent with the licensure period in the member state and in the same manner as required for other physicians holding a full and unrestricted license within the member state. A physician who received an expedited license must comply with all continuing medical education requirements for renewal of a license in each state in which they are licensed. Expedited licensing is administered by the Interstate Commission, which is made up of two members from the Medical Examining Board (MEB) of each member state.

The Compact establishes additional criteria that a physician must meet in order to be eligible for the expedited licensing process. In some cases, those criteria may be more stringent than the individual licensing requirements of a specific member state. If a physician

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

does not meet the criteria for expedited licensing under the Compact, he or she may apply for a license in any member state by following the laws and requirements for direct licensure in that state.

The Act also provides that the members of the MEB who are appointed to serve on the Interstate Commission will require confirmation by the Senate. The Act includes a sunset provision that terminates the state's participation in the Compact five years after the bill's effective date. Additionally, the Act includes a reporting provision directing the MEB to provide information regarding rules promulgated by the Interstate Commission to the Joint Committee on Finance.

Effective date: December 16, 2015, except that certain provisions of the Act take effect on the date that is four years after the date of publication.

Prepared by: Steve McCarthy, Staff Attorney

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