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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 9, 2021
Subject: Bill Brief on Senate Bill 77

Senate Bill 77 enacts the audiology and speech-language pathology interstate compact.

Section 1 defines the purpose of the compact, which is generally to facilitate the interstate audiology and speech-language pathology in order to improve the public's access to these services.

Section 2 defines relevant terms to be used throughout the compact.

Section 3 explains what requirements must be met by states to join the compact. To provide the services allowed by this compact the audiologist or speech-language pathologist shall hold a home state license in a compact state. Subsection (b) requires a FBI fingerprint based criminal background check. Subsections (e) and (f) set out licensure requirements that states must meet.

Section 4 describes the requirements for gaining a privilege to practice.

- An audiologist or speech-language pathologist may only have one home state license at a time.
- A privilege to practice is renewable upon the renewal of the home state license.
- The audiologist or speech-language pathologist must function within the laws and regulations of the remote state.
- If the home state license is encumbered, the licensee shall lose the compact privilege in all remote states until the home state license is no longer encumbered and two years have passed since the adverse action.

Section 5 provides that member states shall recognize the right of an audiologist or speech-language pathologist to practice via telehealth.

Section 6 provides that active duty military personnel, and their spouses, may designate a home state where the individual has a current license in good standing. The individual may retain the home state designation during the period the service member is on active duty.

Section 7 explains how the compact, home and remote states will conduct and report adverse actions, as well as the consequences for an audiologist or speech-language pathologist who receives adverse actions.

Section 8 establishes a joint public agency known as the audiology and speech-language pathology compact commission, and provisions related to the commission's membership, voting and meetings.

Section 9 requires sharing licensee information for all compact states. Compact states submit a uniform dataset to the Coordinated Database on all ASLP-IC audiologists and speech-language pathologists to whom this compact is applicable. This database would allow for the expedited sharing of adverse action against compact audiologists and speech-language pathologists. The coordinated database information will be expunged by the law of the reporting compact state.

Section 10 describes the process for creating rules that will govern compact operations. Section 11 details the oversight, dispute resolution and enforcement of the compact.

Section 12 lays out that the compact will become effective when the 10th state enacts the compact into law. Section 13 provides for a liberal construction of the compact's terms as well as a severability clause. Section 14 provides that nothing in the compact prevents enforcement of any other law of a member state that's inconsistent with the act.