

To: All Legislators

From: Representative Nancy VanderMeer  
Senator Patrick Testin  
Representative Deb Kolste  
Senator Patty Schachtner

Date: February 11, 2019

Re: Co-Sponsorship of LRB-1122 & LRB-1831: Medical Licensure Compact Re-Authorization Act

**DEADLINE: 4:00 P.M. Monday, February 25, 2019**

In 2015 the legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law, Wisconsin Act 116 making Wisconsin one of the first twelve states to join what is now known as the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. This licensure compact is a voluntary process for expediting physician licensure across state lines. With the addition of Michigan in January 2019, there are now twenty-five states participating in this nationwide Compact.

When 2015 Wisconsin Act 116 was signed into law, it included a sunset after five years to trigger legislative review of Wisconsin's participation in the Compact. The goal of this sunset was not to terminate Wisconsin's participation, but to review the benefits and reevaluate the need to continue Wisconsin's participation in this interstate agreement.

Wisconsin's participation in the Compact has helped reduce regulatory burden and expedite licensure processes for physicians wanting to serve patients in Wisconsin. In April 2017, Wisconsin's Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) became the first licensing agency in the nation to process a Compact license. Since then, nearly 400 physicians residing in other states have used the Compact process to become licensed and serve patients in Wisconsin.

Additionally, the Compact has become an even more attractive licensure process for physicians living in Wisconsin. Utilization of the Compact process for physicians residing in Wisconsin has doubled in the most recent licensing year.

Since the Compact's inception, Wisconsin's Medical Examining Board has maintained two seats on the Interstate Medical Licensure Commission. The current Chair of the Compact Commission is a representative from Wisconsin's Medical Examining Board.

Once a Wisconsin hospital, health system or medical group successfully recruits a physician, they are required to wait on the physicians licensing process before that physician can treat a patient. While it is not a regular occurrence, delays in licensure processes – by the state or by those providing primary source verification of the physician's application - have delayed patient access to care.

Wisconsin health care organizations have utilized the Compact to reduce staff time spent on credentialing physicians and wisely leaned on the primary source verification work done by other states, rather than duplicate government processes and state employee staff time. The Compact has

no additional cost to state taxpayers, all costs associated with Compact licensure are borne by those licensed through the Compact process.

Organizations including the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board, Wisconsin Hospital Association, Wisconsin Medical Society and Wisconsin Medical Group Management Association support reauthorizing the Compact. At its January 16, 2019 meeting, the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board unanimously voted to “denote its strong support for permanent statutory authorization of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.”

After reviewing the benefits provided to physicians and patients in our communities through the Compact, we strongly believe that patients across Wisconsin have benefitted from the physicians who have been licensed through this Compact process.

We are authoring LRB 1122 & LRB 1831 because we believe it is critical to health care access that we maintain Wisconsin’s participation in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. We ask you to join us in co-sponsoring this legislation.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, **please respond to this email or contact Jesse in Representative VanderMeer’s office at 6-8366 by 4PM on Monday, February 25, 2019.** All co-sponsors will be added to both versions of the bill unless otherwise specified.

#### ***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

2015 Wisconsin Act 116 ratified and entered Wisconsin into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (compact), which provides for, as stated in the compact, “a streamlined process that allows physicians to become licensed in multiple states.” The compact provides that a state may withdraw from the compact by repealing the statute authorizing the compact, but that a withdrawal does not take effect until one year after the effective date of that repeal. 2015 Act 116 provided for the repeal of the statutes authorizing the compact on December 16, 2019, which, under the compact, would consequently result in Wisconsin's withdrawal from the compact.

This bill repeals the provisions in 2015 Act 116 that provided for the repeal of the statutes authorizing the compact.



State of Wisconsin  
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1831/1  
MED:cdc

## 2019 BILL

1     **AN ACT to affect** 2015 Wisconsin Act 116, sections 1m, 2m, 4m, 5m, 6m, 7m, 8m,  
2             9m, 10m, 11m, 12m, 13m, 14m, 15m, 16m, 17m, 18m, 19m, 20m, 21m and 22m,  
3             2017 Wisconsin Act 135, sections 14, 17 and 33 (3), 2017 Wisconsin Act 278,  
4             sections 19 and 25 (1) and 2017 Wisconsin Act 319, sections 3 and 6 (2); **relating**  
5             **to:** the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

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