By Senator Calatayud

	38-00588-25 20251010
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to the Occupational Therapy Licensure
3	Compact; creating s. 468.226, F.S.; creating the
4	Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact; providing a
5	purpose and objectives of the compact; defining terms;
6	specifying requirements for state participation in the
7	compact; authorizing member states to obtain
8	biometric-based information from and conduct criminal
9	background checks on licensees applying for a compact
10	privilege; requiring member states to grant the
11	compact privilege to licensees if they meet specified
12	criteria; specifying criteria licensees must meet to
13	exercise the compact privilege under the compact;
14	providing for the expiration of the compact privilege;
15	requiring licensees practicing in a remote state under
16	the compact privilege to comply with the laws and
17	rules of that state; subjecting licensees to the
18	regulatory authority of remote states where they
19	practice under the compact privilege; providing for
20	disciplinary action; specifying circumstances under
21	which licensees are ineligible for a compact
22	privilege; specifying conditions that a licensee must
23	meet to regain his or her compact privilege after an
24	adverse action; specifying locations active duty
25	military personnel and their spouses may use to
26	designate their home state for purposes of the
27	compact; providing that only a home state may impose
28	adverse action against a license issued by that state;
29	authorizing home states to take adverse action based

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38-00588-25 20251010 30 on investigative information of a remote state, 31 subject to certain requirements; directing member 32 states that use alternative programs in lieu of discipline to require the licensee to agree not to 33 34 practice in other member states while participating in 35 the program, unless authorized by the member state; 36 authorizing member states to investigate violations by 37 licensees in other member states; authorizing member 38 states to take adverse action against compact 39 privileges issued in their respective states; 40 authorizing remote states to issue subpoenas for 41 hearings and investigations; requiring the issuing 42 remote state to pay related fees and expenses; authorizing remote states to recover costs under 43 44 certain circumstances; providing for joint investigations of licensees under the compact; 45 46 establishing the Occupational Therapy Compact 47 Commission; providing for the venue and jurisdiction for court proceedings by or against the commission; 48 49 providing construction; providing for commission 50 membership, voting, and meetings; authorizing the 51 commission to convene closed, nonpublic meetings under 52 certain circumstances; specifying duties and powers of 53 the commission; providing for membership and duties of the executive board of the commission; providing for 54 financing of the commission; providing for qualified 55 56 immunity, defense, and indemnification of the 57 commission; requiring the commission to develop and 58 maintain a coordinated database and reporting system

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38-00588-25 20251010 59 for certain information about licensees under the 60 compact; requiring member states to submit specified 61 information to the system; requiring that information 62 contained in the system be available only to member 63 states; requiring the commission to notify all member 64 states promptly of reported adverse action taken 65 against licensees or applicants for licensure; authorizing member states to designate reported 66 67 information as exempt from public disclosure; 68 providing for the removal of submitted information 69 from the system under certain circumstances; providing 70 for commission rulemaking; specifying public notice 71 and hearing requirements for rulemaking; providing for 72 emergency rulemaking; providing for state enforcement 73 of the compact; providing for the default and 74 termination of compact membership; providing for 75 appeals and costs; providing procedures for the 76 resolution of certain disputes; providing for 77 enforcement against a defaulting state; providing 78 construction; providing for implementation and 79 administration of the compact and associated rules; 80 providing that compact states that join after initial 81 adoption of the commission's rules are subject to such rules; specifying procedures for compact states to 82 83 withdraw from the compact; providing construction; providing for amendment of the compact; providing 84 85 construction and severability; amending s. 456.073, 86 F.S.; requiring the Department of Health to report 87 certain investigative information to the data system

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88	under the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact;
89	amending s. 456.076, F.S.; requiring monitoring
90	contracts for certain impaired practitioners
91	participating in treatment programs to contain
92	specified terms; amending s. 468.205, F.S.; requiring
93	the Board of Occupational Therapy Practice to appoint
94	an individual to serve as the state's delegate on the
95	Occupational Therapy Compact Commission; amending ss.
96	468.207 and 468.209, F.S.; exempting occupational
97	therapists and occupational therapy assistants from
98	licensure requirements if they are practicing in this
99	state pursuant to a compact privilege under the
100	compact; amending s. 468.1755, F.S.; authorizing the
101	board to take adverse action against the compact
102	privilege of occupational therapists and occupational
103	therapy assistants for specified prohibited acts;
104	amending s. 768.28, F.S.; designating the state
105	delegate and other members or employees of the
106	commission as state agents for the purpose of applying
107	sovereign immunity and waivers of sovereign immunity;
108	requiring the commission to pay certain claims or
109	judgments; authorizing the commission to maintain
110	insurance coverage to pay such claims or judgments;
111	providing an effective date.
112	
113	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
114	
115	Section 1. Section 468.226, Florida Statutes, is created to
116	read:
I	

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117	468.226 Occupational Therapy Licensure CompactThe
118	Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact is hereby enacted into
119	law and entered into by this state with all other jurisdictions
120	legally joining therein in the form substantially as follows:
121	
122	ARTICLE I
123	PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES
124	
125	(1) The purpose of the compact is to facilitate interstate
126	practice of occupational therapy with the goal of improving
127	public access to occupational therapy services. The compact
128	preserves the regulatory authority of member states to protect
129	public health and safety through their current systems of state
130	licensure. For purposes of state regulation under the compact,
131	the practice of occupational therapy is deemed to have occurred
132	in the state where the patient is located at the time
133	occupational therapy is provided to the patient.
134	(2) The compact is designed to achieve all of the following
135	objectives:
136	(a) Increase public access to occupational therapy services
137	by providing for the mutual recognition of other member state
138	licenses.
139	(b) Enhance member states' ability to protect the public's
140	health and safety.
141	(c) Encourage the cooperation of member states in
142	regulating multistate occupational therapy practice.
143	(d) Support spouses of relocating military members.
144	(e) Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative, and
145	disciplinary information between member states.

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38-00588-25 20251010 146 (f) Allow a remote state to hold a provider of services 147 with a compact privilege in that state accountable to that state's practice standards. 148 149 150 ARTICLE II 151 DEFINITIONS 152 153 As used in the compact, and except as otherwise provided, 154 the term: 155 (1) "Active duty military" means full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including 156 members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders 157 158 pursuant to 10 U.S.C. chapter 1209 and chapter 1211. 159 (2) "Adverse action" means disciplinary action taken by an occupational therapy licensing board based upon misconduct, 160 161 unacceptable performance, or a combination of both. 162 (3) "Alternative program" means a nondisciplinary 163 monitoring or practice remediation process approved by a state's occupational therapy licensing board. The term includes, but is 164 165 not limited to, programs that address substance abuse issues. 166 (4) "Compact privilege" means the authorization granted by 167 a remote state to allow a licensee from another member state to practice as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy 168 169 assistant in the remote state under its laws and rules. 170 (5) "Continuing competence" means a requirement, as a 171 condition of license renewal, to provide evidence of 172 participation in, and completion of, educational and 173 professional activities relevant to the practice of occupational 174 therapy.

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175	(6) "Data system" means the coordinated database and
176	reporting system created by the Occupational Therapy Compact
177	Commission for the exchange of information between member states
178	relating to licensees or applicants under the compact, including
179	personal identifying information, licensure data, investigative
180	information, adverse actions, nonconfidential information
181	related to alternative program participation, any denial of an
182	application for licensure, and other information as specified by
183	commission rule.
184	(7) "Encumbered license" means a license that an
185	occupational therapy licensing board has limited in any way.
186	(8) "Executive board" means a group of directors elected or
187	appointed to act on behalf of, and within the powers granted to
188	them by, the commission.
189	(9) "Home state" means the member state that is the
190	licensee's primary state of residence.
191	(10) "Investigative information" means information,
192	records, and documents received or generated by an occupational
193	therapy licensing board pursuant to an investigation.
194	(11) "Jurisprudence requirement" means the assessment of an
195	individual's knowledge of the laws and rules governing the
196	practice of occupational therapy in a specific state.
197	(12) "Licensee" means an individual who currently holds an
198	authorization from a state to practice as an occupational
199	therapist or occupational therapy assistant.
200	(13) "Member state" means a state that has enacted the
201	compact.
202	(14) "Occupational therapist" means an individual licensed
203	by a state to practice occupational therapy.

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204	(15) "Occupational therapy" or "the practice of
205	occupational therapy" means the care and services provided by or
206	under the direction and supervision of a licensed occupational
207	therapist.
208	(16) "Occupational therapy assistant" means an individual
209	licensed by a state to assist an occupational therapist in
210	specified areas of occupational therapy.
211	(17) "Occupational Therapy Compact Commission" or
212	"commission" means the national administrative body whose
213	membership consists of all states that have enacted the compact.
214	(18) "Occupational therapy licensing board" means the
215	agency of a state which is responsible for the licensing and
216	regulation of occupational therapists and occupational therapy
217	assistants.
218	(19) "Remote state" means a member state other than the
219	home state where a licensee is exercising or seeking to exercise
220	the compact privilege.
221	(20) "Rule" means a regulation, principle, or directive
222	adopted by the commission which has the force of law.
223	(21) "State" means any state, commonwealth, district, or
224	territory of the United States of America which regulates the
225	practice of occupational therapy.
226	
227	ARTICLE III
228	STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT
229	
230	(1) To participate in the compact, a state must do all of
231	the following:
232	(a) Participate fully in the commission's data system,

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233	including using the commission's unique identifier, as defined
234	by commission rule.
235	(b) Have a mechanism in place for receiving and
236	investigating complaints about licensees.
237	(c) Notify the commission, in accordance with the terms of
238	the compact and rules, of any adverse action or the availability
239	of any investigative information regarding a licensee.
240	(d) Fully implement a criminal background check
241	requirement, within a timeframe established by commission rule,
242	which uses results from the Federal Bureau of Investigation
243	record search on criminal background checks to make licensure
244	decisions in accordance with subsection (2).
245	(e) Comply with the commission's rules.
246	(f) Use a recognized national examination as a requirement
247	for licensure pursuant to the commission's rules.
248	(g) Have continuing competence requirements as a condition
249	for license renewal.
250	(2) Upon adoption of the compact, a member state has the
251	authority to obtain biometric-based information from each
252	licensee applying for a compact privilege and submit this
253	information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a
254	criminal background check in accordance with 28 U.S.C. s. 534
255	and 34 U.S.C. s. 40316.
256	(3) A member state must grant the compact privilege to a
257	licensee holding a valid unencumbered license in another member
258	state in accordance with the terms of the compact and rules.
259	
260	ARTICLE IV
261	COMPACT PRIVILEGE

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262	
263	(1) To exercise the compact privilege under the compact, a
264	licensee must satisfy all of the following conditions:
265	(a) Hold a license to practice occupational therapy in the
266	home state.
267	(b) Not have an encumbrance on any state license.
268	(c) Be eligible for a compact privilege in all member
269	states in accordance with subsections (4), (7), and (8).
270	(d) Not have had an adverse action against any license or
271	compact privilege within the preceding 2 years.
272	(e) Notify the commission that the licensee is seeking the
273	compact privilege within a remote state.
274	(f) Meet any jurisprudence requirements established by the
275	remote state in which the licensee is seeking a compact
276	privilege.
277	(g) Report to the commission any adverse action taken by a
278	nonmember state within 30 days after the date the adverse action
279	is taken.
280	(2) The compact privilege is valid until the expiration
281	date of the home license. The licensee must continue to meet the
282	requirements of subsection (1) to maintain the compact privilege
283	in a remote state.
284	(3) A licensee providing occupational therapy in a remote
285	state under the compact privilege must comply with the laws and
286	rules of the remote state.
287	(4) A licensee providing occupational therapy in a remote
288	state is subject to that state's regulatory authority. A remote
289	state may, in accordance with due process and that state's laws,
290	remove a licensee's compact privilege in the remote state for a
1	

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291	specific period of time, impose fines, and take any other
292	necessary actions to protect the health and safety of its
293	residents. The licensee is not eligible for a compact privilege
294	in any member state until the specific period of time for
295	removal has ended and all fines are paid.
296	(5) If a home state license is encumbered, the licensee
297	loses the compact privilege in all remote states until both of
298	the following conditions are met:
299	(a) The home state license is no longer encumbered.
300	(b) Two years have elapsed from the date of the adverse
301	action.
302	(6) Once an encumbered license in the home state is
303	restored to good standing, the licensee must meet the
304	requirements of subsection (1) to obtain a compact privilege in
305	any remote state.
306	(7) If a licensee's compact privilege in any remote state
307	is removed, the licensee loses the compact privilege in all
308	remote states until all of the following conditions are met:
309	(a) The specific period of time for which the compact
310	privilege was removed has ended.
311	(b) All fines have been paid.
312	(c) Two years have elapsed from the date of the adverse
313	action.
314	(8) Once the requirements of subsection (7) have been met,
315	the licensee must meet the requirements of subsection (1) to
316	obtain a compact privilege in a remote state.
317	
318	ARTICLE V
319	ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR SPOUSES

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320	
321	A licensee who is active duty military or is the spouse of
322	an individual who is active duty military may choose any of the
323	following locations to designate as his or her home state:
324	(1) Home of record.
325	(2) Permanent change of station location.
326	(3) State of current residence, if it is different from the
327	home of record or permanent change of station location.
328	
329	ARTICLE VI
330	ADVERSE ACTIONS
331	
332	(1) A home state has exclusive power to impose adverse
333	action against a license issued by the home state.
334	(2) A home state may take adverse action based on the
335	investigative information of a remote state, so long as the home
336	state follows its own procedures for imposing adverse action.
337	(3) The compact does not override a member state's decision
338	that participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu
339	of adverse action and that such participation remain nonpublic
340	if required by the member state's laws. Member states must
341	require licensees who enter any alternative program in lieu of
342	discipline to agree not to practice in any other member state
343	during the term of the alternative program without prior
344	authorization from such other member state.
345	(4) A member state may investigate actual or alleged
346	violations of the laws and rules for the practice of
347	occupational therapy committed in any other member state by an
348	occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant

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349	practicing under the compact who holds a license or compact
350	privilege in such other member state.
351	(5) A remote state may do any of the following:
352	(a) Take adverse actions as set forth in subsection (4) of
353	Article IV against a licensee's compact privilege in the state.
354	(b) Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations
355	which require the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the
356	production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by an occupational
357	therapy licensing board in a member state for the attendance and
358	testimony of witnesses or for the production of evidence from
359	another member state must be enforced in the latter state by any
360	court of competent jurisdiction, according to the practice and
361	procedure of that court applicable to subpoenas issued in
362	proceedings pending before it. The issuing authority shall pay
363	any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other fees
364	required by the service laws of the state where the witnesses or
365	evidence is located.
366	(c) If otherwise permitted by state law, recover from the
367	licensee the costs of investigations and disposition of cases
368	resulting from any adverse action taken against that licensee.
369	(6)(a) In addition to the authority granted to a member
370	state by its respective occupational therapy practice act or
371	other applicable state law, a member state may participate with
372	other member states in joint investigations of licensees.
373	(b) Member states shall share all investigative,
374	litigation, or compliance materials in furtherance of any joint
375	or individual investigation initiated under the compact.
376	
377	ARTICLE VII

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378	ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COMPACT COMMISSION
379	
380	(1) COMMISSION CREATEDThe member states hereby create and
381	establish a joint public agency known as the Occupational
382	Therapy Compact Commission:
383	(a) The commission is an instrumentality of the member
384	states.
385	(b) Venue is proper, and judicial proceedings by or against
386	the commission must be brought solely and exclusively, in a
387	court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of
388	the commission is located. The commission may waive venue and
389	jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to
390	participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.
391	(c) The compact may not be construed to be a waiver of
392	sovereign immunity.
393	(2) MEMBERSHIP, VOTING, AND MEETINGS
394	(a) Each member state has and is limited to one delegate
395	selected by that member state's occupational therapy licensing
396	board to serve on the commission. The delegate must be a current
397	member of the occupational therapy licensing board who is an
398	occupational therapist, an occupational therapy assistant, a
399	public member, or the board administrator.
400	(b) A delegate may be removed or suspended from office as
401	provided by the law of the state from which the delegate is
402	appointed. Any vacancy occurring on the commission must be
403	filled by the occupational therapy licensing board of the member
404	state for which the vacancy exists.
405	(c) Each delegate is entitled to one vote with regard to
406	the adoption of rules and bylaws and must otherwise have an

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407	opportunity to participate in the business and affairs of the
408	commission.
409	(d) A delegate shall vote in person or by such other means
410	as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates'
411	participation in meetings by telephone or other means of
412	communication.
413	(e) The commission shall meet at least once during each
414	calendar year. Additional meetings may be held as set forth in
415	the bylaws.
416	(f) All meetings must be open to the public, and public
417	notice of meetings must be given in the same manner as required
418	under the rulemaking provisions in Article IX.
419	(g) The commission or the executive board or other
420	committees of the commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic
421	meeting if the commission or executive board or other committees
422	of the commission must discuss any of the following:
423	1. Noncompliance of a member state with its obligations
424	under the compact.
425	2. The employment, compensation, or discipline of, or other
426	matters, practices, or procedures related to, specific employees
427	or other matters related to the commission's internal personnel
428	practices and procedures.
429	3. Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated
430	litigation against the commission, executive board, or other
431	committees of the commission.
432	4. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or
433	sale of goods, services, or real estate.
434	5. An accusation of any person of a crime or a formal
435	censure of any person.

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436	6. Information disclosing trade secrets or commercial or
437	financial information that is privileged or confidential.
438	7. Information of a personal nature where disclosure would
439	constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.
440	8. Investigatory records compiled for law enforcement
441	purposes.
442	9. Information related to any investigative report prepared
443	by or on behalf of or for use of the commission or other
444	committees charged with responsibility for investigation or
445	determination of compliance issues pursuant to the compact.
446	10. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by
447	federal or member state statute.
448	(h) If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed
449	pursuant to this subsection, the commission's legal counsel or
450	designee must certify that the meeting may be closed and must
451	reference each relevant exempting provision.
452	(i) The commission shall keep minutes that fully and
453	clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall
454	provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken and the
455	reasons therefor, including a description of the views
456	expressed. All documents considered in connection with an action
457	must be identified in the minutes. All minutes and documents of
458	a closed meeting must remain under seal, subject to release only
459	by a majority vote of the commission or order of a court of
460	competent jurisdiction.
461	(3) DUTIESThe commission shall do all of the following:
462	(a) Establish the fiscal year of the commission.
463	(b) Establish bylaws.
464	(c) Maintain its financial records in accordance with the
I	

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465	bylaws.
466	(d) Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the
467	provisions of the compact and the bylaws.
468	(4) POWERSThe commission may do any of the following:
469	(a) Adopt uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate
470	implementation and administration of the compact. The rules have
471	the force and effect of law and are binding in all member
472	states.
473	(b) Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the
474	name of the commission, provided that the standing of any state
475	occupational therapy licensing board to sue or be sued under
476	applicable law is not affected.
477	(c) Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds.
478	(d) Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel,
479	including, but not limited to, employees of a member state.
480	(e) Hire employees and elect or appoint officers; fix the
481	compensation of, define the duties of, and grant appropriate
482	authority to such individuals to carry out the purposes of the
483	compact; and establish the commission's personnel policies and
484	programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of
485	personnel, and other related personnel matters.
486	(f) Accept any appropriate donations and grants of money,
487	equipment, supplies, materials, and services and receive, use,
488	and dispose of the same, provided that at all times the
489	commission avoids any appearance of impropriety or conflict of
490	interest.
491	(g) Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations
492	of, or otherwise own, hold, improve, or use any property, real,
493	personal, or mixed, provided that at all times the commission

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494	avoids any appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest.
495	(h) Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange,
496	abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property, real, personal,
497	or mixed.
498	(i) Establish a budget and make expenditures.
499	(j) Borrow money.
500	(k) Appoint committees, including standing committees
501	composed of members, state regulators, state legislators or
502	their representatives, consumer representatives, and such other
503	interested persons as may be designated in the compact and the
504	bylaws.
505	(1) Provide information to, receive information from, and
506	cooperate with law enforcement agencies.
507	(m) Establish and elect an executive board.
508	(n) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or
509	appropriate to achieve the purposes of the compact consistent
510	with the state regulation of occupational therapy licensure and
511	practice.
512	(5) THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
513	(a) The executive board may act on behalf of the commission
514	according to the terms of the compact.
515	(b) The executive board shall be composed of the following
516	nine members:
517	1. Seven voting members who are elected by the commission
518	from the current membership of the commission.
519	2. One ex officio, nonvoting member from the recognized
520	national occupational therapy professional association.
521	3. One ex officio, nonvoting member from the recognized
522	membership organization of the occupational therapy licensing

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523	boards.
524	(c) The ex officio members shall be selected by their
525	respective organizations.
526	(d) The commission may remove any member of the executive
527	board as provided in its bylaws.
528	(e) The executive board shall meet at least annually.
529	(f) The executive board shall do all of the following:
530	1. Recommend to the entire commission changes to the rules
531	or bylaws, compact legislation, fees paid by compact member
532	states, such as annual dues, and any commission compact fee
533	charged to licensees for the compact privilege.
534	2. Ensure compact administration services are appropriately
535	provided, contractually or otherwise.
536	3. Prepare and recommend the budget.
537	4. Maintain financial records on behalf of the commission.
538	5. Monitor compact compliance of member states and provide
539	compliance reports to the commission.
540	6. Establish additional committees as necessary.
541	7. Perform other duties as provided in the rules or bylaws.
542	(6) FINANCING OF THE COMMISSION
543	(a) The commission shall pay, or provide for the payment
544	of, the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization,
545	and ongoing activities.
546	(b) The commission may accept any appropriate revenue
547	sources, donations, and grants of money, equipment, supplies,
548	materials, and services.
549	(c) The commission may levy and collect an annual
550	assessment from each member state or impose fees on other
551	parties to cover the cost of the operations and activities of

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552	the commission and its staff. Such assessments and fees must
553	total to an amount sufficient to cover the commission's annual
554	budget as approved each year for which revenue is not provided
555	by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount must be
556	allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the
557	commission, which shall adopt a rule binding upon all member
558	states.
559	(d) The commission may not incur obligations of any kind
560	before securing the funds adequate to meet such obligations; nor
561	may the commission pledge the credit of any member state, except
562	by and with the authority of the member state.
563	(e) The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all
564	receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of
565	the commission are subject to the audit and accounting
566	procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts
567	and disbursements of funds handled by the commission must be
568	audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant, and
569	the report of the audit must be included in and become part of
570	the annual report of the commission.
571	(7) QUALIFIED IMMUNITY, DEFENSE, AND INDEMNIFICATION
572	(a) The members, officers, executive director, employees,
573	and representatives of the commission are immune from suit and
574	liability, whether personally or in their official capacity, for
575	any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury
576	or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual
577	or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that the
578	person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for
579	believing occurred, within the scope of commission employment,
580	duties, or responsibilities. However, this paragraph may not be
•	

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581	construed to protect any such person from suit or liability for
582	any damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the
583	intentional, willful, or wanton misconduct of that person.
584	(b) The commission shall defend any member, officer,
585	executive director, employee, or representative of the
586	commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability
587	arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission
588	that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties,
589	or responsibilities, or that the person against whom the claim
590	is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the
591	scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities.
592	However, this paragraph may not be construed to prohibit any
593	member, officer, executive director, employee, or representative
594	of the commission from retaining his or her own counsel or to
595	require the commission to defend such person if the actual or
596	alleged act, error, or omission resulted from that person's
597	intentional, willful, or wanton misconduct.
598	(c) The commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any
599	member, officer, executive director, employee, or representative
600	of the commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment
601	obtained against that person arising out of any actual or
602	alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope
603	of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that
604	such person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within
605	the scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities,
606	provided that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did
607	not result from the intentional, willful, or wanton misconduct
608	of that person.
609	

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610	ARTICLE VIII
611	DATA SYSTEM
612	
613	(1) The commission shall provide for the development,
614	maintenance, and use of a coordinated database and reporting
615	system containing licensure, adverse action, and investigative
616	information on all licensed individuals in member states.
617	(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the
618	contrary, a member state shall submit a uniform data set to the
619	data system on all individuals to whom the compact is applicable
620	as required by the rules of the commission, which data set must
621	include all of the following:
622	(a) Personal identifying information.
623	(b) Licensure data.
624	(c) Adverse actions against a license or compact privilege.
625	(d) Nonconfidential information related to alternative
626	program participation.
627	(e) Any denial of application for licensure and the reason
628	for such denial.
629	(f) Other information that may facilitate the
630	administration of the compact, as determined by the rules of the
631	commission.
632	(3) Investigative information in the system pertaining to a
633	licensee in any member state must be available only to other
634	member states.
635	(4) The commission shall promptly notify all member states
636	of any adverse action taken against a license or an individual
637	applying for a license in a member state. Adverse action
638	information pertaining to a licensee in any member state must be
1	

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639	available to all other member states.
640	(5) Member states contributing information to the data
641	system may designate information that may not be shared with the
642	public without the express permission of the contributing state.
643	(6) Any information submitted to the data system which is
644	subsequently required to be expunged by the laws of the member
645	state contributing the information must be removed from the data
646	system.
647	
648	ARTICLE IX
649	RULEMAKING
650	
651	(1) The commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers
652	pursuant to the criteria set forth in this article and the rules
653	adopted thereunder. Rules and amendments become binding as of
654	the date specified in each rule or amendment.
655	(2) If a majority of the legislatures of the member states
656	rejects a rule by enactment of a statute or resolution in the
657	same manner used to adopt the compact within 4 years after the
658	date of adoption of the rule, such rule does not have further
659	force and effect in any member state.
660	(3) Rules or amendments to the rules must be adopted at a
661	regular or special meeting of the commission.
662	(4) Before adoption of a final rule by the commission, and
663	at least 30 days before the meeting at which the rule will be
664	considered and voted upon, the commission must file a notice of
665	proposed rulemaking on all of the following:
666	(a) The website of the commission or another publicly
667	accessible platform.

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668	(b) The website of each member state's occupational therapy
669	licensing board or another publicly accessible platform or the
670	publication in which each state would otherwise publish proposed
671	rules.
672	(5) The notice of proposed rulemaking must include all of
673	the following:
674	(a) The proposed date, time, and location of the meeting in
675	which the rule or amendment will be considered and voted upon.
676	(b) The text of the proposed rule or amendment and the
677	reason for the proposed rule.
678	(c) A request for comments on the proposed rule or
679	amendment from any interested person.
680	(d) The manner in which interested persons may submit
681	notice to the commission of their intention to attend the public
682	hearing and any written comments.
683	(6) Before adoption of a proposed rule or amendment, the
684	commission must allow persons to submit written data, facts,
685	opinions, and arguments, which must be made available to the
686	public.
687	(7) The commission must grant an opportunity for a public
688	hearing before it adopts a rule or an amendment if a hearing is
689	requested by any of the following:
690	(a) At least 25 persons.
691	(b) A state or federal governmental subdivision or agency.
692	(c) An association having at least 25 members.
693	(8) If a scheduled public hearing is held on the proposed
694	rule or amendment, the commission must publish the date, time,
695	and location of the hearing. If the hearing is held through
696	electronic means, the commission must publish the mechanism for

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697	access to the electronic hearing.
698	(a) All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing must
699	notify the executive director of the commission or another
700	designated member in writing of their desire to appear and
701	testify at the hearing at least 5 business days before the
702	scheduled date of the hearing.
703	(b) Hearings must be conducted in a manner providing each
704	person who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity
705	to comment orally or in writing.
706	(c) All hearings must be recorded. A copy of the recording
707	must be made available on request.
708	(d) This article may not be construed to require a separate
709	hearing on each rule. Rules may be grouped for the convenience
710	of the commission at hearings required by this article.
711	(9) Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close
712	of business on the scheduled hearing date if the hearing was not
713	held, the commission shall consider all written and oral
714	comments received.
715	(10) If no written notice of intent to attend the public
716	hearing by interested parties is received, the commission may
717	proceed with adoption of the proposed rule without a public
718	hearing.
719	(11) The commission shall, by majority vote of all members,
720	take final action on the proposed rule and shall determine the
721	effective date of the rule, if any, based on the rulemaking
722	record and the full text of the rule.
723	(12) Upon determination that an emergency exists, the
724	commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule without
725	prior notice, opportunity for comment, or hearing, provided that

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726	the usual rulemaking procedures provided in the compact and in
727	this article are retroactively applied to the rule as soon as
728	reasonably possible, in no event later than 90 days after the
729	effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this subsection,
730	an emergency rule is one that must be adopted immediately in
731	order to do any of the following:
732	(a) Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or
733	welfare.
734	(b) Prevent a loss of commission or member state funds.
735	(c) Meet a deadline for the adoption of an administrative
736	rule established by federal law or rule.
737	(d) Protect public health and safety.
738	(13) The commission or an authorized committee of the
739	commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule or
740	amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors,
741	errors in format, errors in consistency, or grammatical errors.
742	Public notice of any revisions must be posted on the website of
743	the commission. The revision is subject to challenge by any
744	person for a period of 30 days after posting. The revision may
745	be challenged only on grounds that the revision results in a
746	material change to a rule. A challenge must be made in writing
747	and delivered to the chair of the commission before the end of
748	the notice period. If a challenge is not made, the revision
749	takes effect without further action. If the revision is
750	challenged, the revision may not take effect without the
751	approval of the commission.
752	
753	ARTICLE X
754	OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AND ENFORCEMENT
1	

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755	
756	(1) OVERSIGHT
757	(a) The executive, legislative, and judicial branches of
758	state government in each member state shall enforce the compact
759	and take all actions necessary and appropriate to carry out the
760	compact's purposes and intent. The provisions of the compact and
761	the rules adopted pursuant thereto have standing as statutory
762	law.
763	(b) All courts shall take judicial notice of the compact
764	and the rules in any judicial or administrative proceeding in a
765	member state pertaining to the subject matter of the compact
766	which may affect the powers, responsibilities, or actions of the
767	commission.
768	(c) The commission is entitled to receive service of
769	process in any such proceeding and has standing to intervene in
770	such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide service
771	of process to the commission renders a judgment or an order void
772	as to the commission, the compact, or the adopted rules.
773	(2) DEFAULT, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND TERMINATION
774	(a) If the commission determines that a member state has
775	defaulted in the performance of its obligations or
776	responsibilities under the compact or the adopted rules, the
777	commission must do all of the following:
778	1. Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other
779	member states of the nature of the default, the proposed means
780	of curing the default, and any other action to be taken by the
781	commission.
782	2. Provide remedial training and specific technical
783	assistance regarding the default.

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784	(b) If a state in default fails to cure the default, the										
785	defaulting state may be terminated from the compact upon an										
786	affirmative vote of a majority of the member states, and all										
787	rights, privileges, and benefits conferred by the compact may be										
788	terminated on the effective date of termination. A cure of the										
789	default does not relieve the offending state of obligations or										
790	liabilities incurred during the period of default.										
791	(c) Termination of membership in the compact may be imposed										
792	only after all other means of securing compliance have been										
793	exhausted. The commission shall give notice of intent to suspend										
794	or terminate a defaulting member state to the governor and										
795	majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's										
796	legislature, and to each of the member states.										
797	(d) A state that has been terminated from the compact is										
798	responsible for all assessments, obligations, and liabilities										
799	incurred through the effective date of termination, including										
800	obligations that extend beyond the effective date of										
801	termination.										
802	(e) The commission will not bear any costs related to a										
803	state that is found to be in default or that has been terminated										
804	from the compact, unless agreed upon in writing between the										
805	commission and the defaulting state.										
806	(f) The defaulting state may appeal the action of the										
807	commission by petitioning the U.S. District Court for the										
808	District of Columbia or the federal district where the										
809	commission has its principal offices. The prevailing member										
810	shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including										
811	reasonable attorney fees.										
812	(3) DISPUTE RESOLUTION										

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813	(a) Upon request by a member state, the commission must									
814	attempt to resolve disputes related to the compact which arise									
815	among member states and between member and nonmember states.									
816	(b) The commission shall adopt a rule providing for both									
817	mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as									
818	appropriate.									
819	(4) ENFORCEMENT									
820	(a) The commission shall, in the reasonable exercise of its									
821	discretion, enforce the compact and the commission's rules.									
822	(b) By majority vote, the commission may initiate legal									
823	action in the United States District Court for the District of									
824	Columbia or the federal district where the commission has its									
825	principal offices against a member state in default to enforce									
826	compliance with the provisions of the compact and its adopted									
827	rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include both injunctive									
828	relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is									
829	necessary, the prevailing member must be awarded all costs of									
830	such litigation, including reasonable attorney fees.									
831	(c) The remedies under this article are not the exclusive									
832	remedies of the commission. The commission may pursue any other									
833	remedies available under federal or state law.									
834										
835	ARTICLE XI									
836	DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COMPACT AND									
837	ASSOCIATED RULES; WITHDRAWAL; AND AMENDMENTS									
838										
839	(1) The compact becomes effective on the date that the									
840	compact statute is enacted into law in the tenth member state.									
841	The provisions that become effective at that time are limited to									
1										

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842	the powers granted to the commission relating to assembly and									
843	the adoption of rules. Thereafter, the commission shall meet and									
844	exercise rulemaking powers necessary for the implementation and									
845	administration of the compact.									
846	(2) Any state that joins the compact subsequent to the									
847	commission's initial adoption of the rules is subject to the									
848	rules as they exist on the date that the compact becomes law in									
849	that state. Any rule that has been previously adopted by the									
850	commission has the full force and effect of law on the day the									
851	compact becomes law in that state.									
852	(3) Any member state may withdraw from the compact by									
853	enacting a statute repealing the same.									
854	(a) A member state's withdrawal does not take effect until									
855	6 months after enactment of the repealing statute.									
856	(b) Withdrawal does not affect the continuing requirement									
857	of the withdrawing state's occupational therapy licensing board									
858	to comply with the investigative and adverse action reporting									
859	requirements of this act before the effective date of									
860	withdrawal.									
861	(4) The compact may not be construed to invalidate or									
862	prevent any occupational therapy licensure agreement or other									
863	cooperative arrangement between a member state and a nonmember									
864	state which does not conflict with the provisions of the									
865	compact.									
866	(5) The compact may be amended by the member states. An									
867	amendment to the compact does not become effective and binding									
868	upon any member state until it is enacted into the laws of all									
869	member states.									
870										

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871	ARTICLE XII										
872	CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY										
873											
874	The compact must be liberally construed so as to carry out										
875	the purposes thereof. The provisions of the compact are										
876	severable, and, if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of										
877	the compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of										
878	any member state or of the United States or the applicability										
879	thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is										
880	held invalid, the validity of the remainder of the compact and										
881	the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or										
882	circumstance is not affected thereby. If the compact is held										
883	contrary to the constitution of any member state, the compact										
884	remains in full force and effect as to the remaining member										
885	states and in full force and effect as to the member state										
886	affected as to all severable matters.										
887											
888	ARTICLE XIII										
889	BINDING EFFECT OF COMPACT AND OTHER LAWS										
890											
891	(1) A licensee providing occupational therapy in a remote										
892	state under the compact privilege shall function within the laws										
893	and regulations of the remote state.										
894	(2) Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other										
895	law of a member state which is not inconsistent with the										
896	compact.										
897	(3) Any law in a member state in conflict with the compact										
898	is superseded to the extent of the conflict.										
899	(4) Any lawful action of the commission, including all										
I											

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900	rules and bylaws adopted by the commission, is binding upon the									
901	member states.									
902	(5) All agreements between the commission and the member									
903	states are binding in accordance with their terms.									
904	(6) In the event any provision of the compact exceeds the									
905	constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of any member									
906	state, the provision is ineffective to the extent of the									
907	conflict with the constitutional provision in question in that									
908	member state.									
909	Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (10) of section									
910	456.073, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:									
911	456.073 Disciplinary proceedings.—Disciplinary proceedings									
912	for each board shall be within the jurisdiction of the									
913	department.									
914	(10)									
915	(b) The department shall report any significant									
916	investigation information relating to a nurse holding a									
917	multistate license to the coordinated licensure information									
918	system pursuant to s. 464.0095; any investigative information									
919	relating to an audiologist or a speech-language pathologist									
920	holding a compact privilege under the Audiology and Speech-									
921	Language Pathology Interstate Compact to the data system									
922	pursuant to s. 468.1335; any investigative information relating									
923	to an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant									
924	holding a compact privilege under the Occupational Therapy									
925	Licensure Compact to the data system pursuant to s. 468.226; any									
926	investigative information relating to a physical therapist or									
927	physical therapist assistant holding a compact privilege under									
928	the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact to the data system									

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929	pursuant to s. 486.112; any significant investigatory									
930	information relating to a psychologist practicing under the									
931	Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact to the coordinated									
932	licensure information system pursuant to s. 490.0075; and any									
933	significant investigatory information relating to a health care									
934	practitioner practicing under the Professional Counselors									
935	Licensure Compact to the data system pursuant to s. 491.017.									
936	Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 456.076, Florida									
937	Statutes, is amended to read:									
938	456.076 Impaired practitioner programs									
939	(5) A consultant shall enter into a participant contract									
940	with an impaired practitioner and shall establish the terms of									
941	monitoring and shall include the terms in a participant									
942	contract. In establishing the terms of monitoring, the									
943	consultant may consider the recommendations of one or more									
944	approved evaluators, treatment programs, or treatment providers.									
945	A consultant may modify the terms of monitoring if the									
946	consultant concludes that, through the course of monitoring,									
947	that extended, additional, or amended terms of monitoring are									
948	required for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare									
949	of the public. If the impaired practitioner is an audiologist or									
950	a speech-language pathologist practicing under the Audiology and									
951	Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact pursuant to s.									
952	468.1335, an occupational therapist or occupational therapy									
953	assistant practicing under the Occupational Therapy Licensure									
954	Compact pursuant to s. 468.226, a physical therapist or physical									
955	therapist assistant practicing under the Physical Therapy									
956	Licensure Compact pursuant to s. 486.112, a psychologist									
957	practicing under the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact									
ļ										

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958	pursuant to s. 490.0075, or a health care practitioner									
959	practicing under the Professional Counselors Licensure Compact									
960	pursuant to s. 491.017, the terms of the monitoring contract									
961	must include the impaired practitioner's withdrawal from all									
962	practice under the compact unless authorized by a member state.									
963	Section 4. Subsection (6) is added to section 468.205,									
964	Florida Statutes, to read:									
965	468.205 Board of Occupational Therapy Practice									
966	(6) The board shall appoint an individual to serve as the									
967	state's delegate on the Occupational Therapy Compact Commission,									
968	as required under s. 468.226.									
969	Section 5. Section 468.207, Florida Statutes, is amended to									
970	read:									
971	468.207 License required.— <u>A</u> No person <u>may not</u> shall									
972	practice occupational therapy or hold himself or herself out as									
973	an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant									
974	or as being able to practice occupational therapy or to render									
975	occupational therapy services in <u>this</u> the state unless he or she									
976	is licensed in accordance with this part or holds a compact									
977	privilege in this state under the Occupational Therapy Licensure									
978	Compact as specified in s. 468.226 the provisions of this act.									
979	Section 6. Subsection (6) is added to section 468.209,									
980	Florida Statutes, to read:									
981	468.209 Requirements for licensure									
982	(6) A person licensed as an occupational therapist or an									
983	occupational therapy assistant in another state who is									
984	practicing in this state under the Occupational Therapy									
985	Licensure Compact pursuant to s. 468.226, and only within the									
986	scope provided therein, is exempt from the licensure									
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987	requirements of this section.									
988	Section 7. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 468.1755,									
989	Florida Statutes, are amended to read:									
990	468.1755 Disciplinary proceedings									
991	(1) The following acts constitute grounds for denial of a									
992	license or disciplinary action, as specified in s. 456.072(2) <u>or</u>									
993	<u>s. 468.226</u> :									
994	(a) Violation of any provision of s. 456.072(1) or s.									
995	468.1745(1).									
996	(b) Attempting to procure a license to practice nursing									
997	home administration by bribery, by fraudulent misrepresentation,									
998	or through an error of the department or the board.									
999	(c) Having a license to practice nursing home									
1000	administration revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against,									
1001	including the denial of licensure, by the licensing authority of									
1002	another state, territory, or country.									
1003	(d) Being convicted or found guilty, regardless of									
1004	adjudication, of a crime in any jurisdiction which relates to									
1005	the practice of nursing home administration or the ability to									
1006	practice nursing home administration. Any plea of nolo									
1007	contendere shall be considered a conviction for purposes of this									
1008	part.									
1009	(e) Making or filing a report or record which the licensee									
1010	knows to be false, intentionally failing to file a report or									
1011	record required by state or federal law, willfully impeding or									
1012	obstructing such filing, or inducing another person to impede or									
1013	obstruct such filing. Such reports or records shall include only									
1014	those which are signed in the capacity of a licensed nursing									
1015	home administrator.									
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38-00588-25 20251010 1016 (f) Authorizing the discharge or transfer of a resident for 1017 a reason other than those provided in ss. 400.022 and 400.0255. 1018 (g) Advertising goods or services in a manner which is 1019 fraudulent, false, deceptive, or misleading in form or content. 1020 (h) Fraud or deceit, negligence, incompetence, or 1021 misconduct in the practice of nursing home administration. 1022 (i) Violation of a lawful order of the board or department 1023 previously entered in a disciplinary hearing or failing to comply with a lawfully issued subpoena of the board or 1024 1025 department. 1026 (j) Practicing with a revoked, suspended, inactive, or 1027 delinquent license. (k) Repeatedly acting in a manner inconsistent with the 1028 1029 health, safety, or welfare of the patients of the facility in which he or she is the administrator. 1030 1031 (1) Being unable to practice nursing home administration 1032 with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of 1033 illness, drunkenness, use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any 1034 other material or substance or as a result of any mental or 1035 physical condition. In enforcing this paragraph, upon a finding 1036 of the State Surgeon General or his or her designee that 1037 probable cause exists to believe that the licensee is unable to 1038 serve as a nursing home administrator due to the reasons stated 1039 in this paragraph, the department shall have the authority to issue an order to compel the licensee to submit to a mental or 1040 1041 physical examination by a physician designated by the 1042 department. If the licensee refuses to comply with such order, 1043 the department's order directing such examination may be 1044 enforced by filing a petition for enforcement in the circuit

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38-00588-25 20251010 1045 court where the licensee resides or serves as a nursing home 1046 administrator. The licensee against whom the petition is filed 1047 may shall not be named or identified by initials in any public 1048 court records or documents, and the proceedings must shall be 1049 closed to the public. The department is shall be entitled to the 1050 summary procedure provided in s. 51.011. A licensee affected 1051 under this paragraph must shall have the opportunity, at 1052 reasonable intervals, to demonstrate that he or she can resume 1053 the competent practice of nursing home administration with 1054 reasonable skill and safety to patients. (m) Willfully or repeatedly violating any of the provisions 1055 1056 of the law, code, or rules of the licensing or supervising 1057 authority or agency of the state or political subdivision 1058 thereof having jurisdiction of the operation and licensing of 1059 nursing homes. 1060 (n) Paying, giving, causing to be paid or given, or 1061 offering to pay or to give to any person a commission or other 1062 valuable consideration for the solicitation or procurement, 1063 either directly or indirectly, of nursing home usage. 1064 (o) Willfully permitting unauthorized disclosure of 1065 information relating to a patient or his or her records. 1066 Discriminating with respect to patients, employees, or (p) 1067 staff on account of race, religion, color, sex, or national 1068 origin. 1069 Failing to implement an ongoing quality assurance (q) 1070 program directed by an interdisciplinary team that meets at 1071 least every other month. 1072 (r) Violating any provision of this chapter or chapter 456, 1073 or any rules adopted pursuant thereto.

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1	38-00588-25 20251010									
1074	(2) <u>(a)</u> The board may enter an order denying licensure or									
1075	imposing any of the penalties in s. 456.072(2) against any									
1076	applicant for licensure or licensee who is found guilty of									
1077	violating any provision of subsection (1) of this section or who									
1078	is found guilty of violating any provision of s. 456.072(1).									
1079	(b) The board may take adverse action against an									
1080	occupational therapist's or an occupational therapy assistant's									
1081	compact privilege under the Occupational Therapy Licensure									
1082	Compact pursuant to s. 468.226 and may impose any of the									
1083	penalties in s. 456.072(2) if such occupational therapist or									
1084	occupational therapy assistant commits an act specified in									
1085	subsection (1) or s. 456.072(1).									
1086	Section 8. Paragraph (m) is added to subsection (10) of									
1087	section 768.28, Florida Statutes, to read:									
1088	768.28 Waiver of sovereign immunity in tort actions;									
1089	recovery limits; civil liability for damages caused during a									
1090	riot; limitation on attorney fees; statute of limitations;									
1091	exclusions; indemnification; risk management programs									
1092	(10)									
1093	(m) For purposes of this section, the individual appointed									
1094	under s. 468.205(6) as the state's delegate on the Occupational									
1095	Therapy Compact Commission, when serving in that capacity									
1096	pursuant to s. 468.226, and any administrator, officer,									
1097	executive director, employee, or representative of the									
1098	Occupational Therapy Compact Commission, when acting within the									
1099	scope of his or her employment, duties, or responsibilities in									
1100	this state, is considered an agent of the state. The commission									
1101	shall pay any claims or judgments pursuant to this section and									
1102	may maintain insurance coverage to pay any such claims or									
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1103	judgr	ments.										
1104		Section	9.	This	act	shall	take	effect	July	1,	2025.	