



# State of West Virginia

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**For Immediate Release: May 27, 2015**

### **Seventh State Enacts Interstate Medical Licensure Compact; Triggers Formation of Compact Commission**

Charleston, WV — Alabama has joined West Virginia and five other states in enacting the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, which supports medical license portability between states and expands access to health care, particularly to those in rural, underserved areas.

“When Gov. Robert Bentley signed the Alabama bill into law on May 19, that satisfied the requirement of seven states needed to trigger formation of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission,” explained Robert C. Knittle, executive director of the West Virginia Board of Medicine. “Now the work can begin to get the Commission up and running, to put the managerial and administrative structure of the Compact into place.”

Knittle said the Compact legislation streamlines the process to allow physicians to be licensed in multiples states, while assuring that individual state regulatory oversight standards, necessary to protect patients, remain unchanged. The legislation clarifies that the physician must be licensed in the state where the patient is located. It further affirms that the practice of medicine occurs where the patient is located at the time they are treated by a physician.

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin signed West Virginia’s bill (**HB 2496**) on March 31, with an effective date of June 10. The bill had overwhelming, bipartisan support in both the state Senate and House of Delegates, and received strong endorsements from both the Board of Medicine and the WV Board of Osteopathic Medicine, as well as the Federation of State Medical Boards.

In addition to West Virginia, Alabama joined Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming among states that have approved Interstate Compact legislation. Model legislation was developed by a workgroup of medical boards from across the country and released in September 2014. Since then, nearly 20 states have formally introduced the legislation.

The Interstate Compact Commission will meet later this year. Members of the Commission will include two voting representatives appointed by each member state. Commissioners will be selected from:

- Allopathic or osteopathic physicians appointed to a member board;
- Executive directors, executive secretaries, or similar executives of a member board; or,
- Members of the public appointed to a member board.

For more information about the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, visit <http://licenseportability.org/>.