

1 H.86

2 An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the Audiology and Speech-  
3 Language Pathology Interstate Compact

4 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

5 Sec. 1. 26 V.S.A. chapter 87 is amended to read:

6 CHAPTER 87. SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

7 Subchapter 1. Vermont Single-State License

8 \* \* \*

9 Sec. 2. 26 V.S.A. chapter 87, subchapter 2 is added to read:

10 Subchapter 2. Privilege to Practice; Audiology and Speech-Language

11 Pathology Interstate Compact

12 § 4500. AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

13 INTERSTATE COMPACT; ADOPTION

14 This subchapter is the Vermont adoption of the Audiology and Speech-  
15 Language Pathology Interstate Compact. The form, format, and text of the  
16 Compact have been conformed to the conventions of the Vermont Statutes  
17 Annotated. It is the intent of the General Assembly that this subchapter be  
18 interpreted as substantively the same as the Audiology and Speech-Language  
19 Pathology Interstate Compact that is enacted by other Compact party states.

20 § 4501. PURPOSE

21 (a) The purpose of this Compact is to facilitate interstate practice of  
22 audiology and speech-language pathology with the goal of improving public

1 access to audiology and speech-language pathology services. The practice of  
2 audiology and speech-language pathology occurs in the state where the patient,  
3 client, or student is located at the time of the patient, client, or student  
4 encounter. The Compact preserves the regulatory authority of states to protect  
5 public health and safety through the current system of state licensure.

6 (b) This Compact is designed to achieve the following objectives:

7 (1) increase public access to audiology and speech-language pathology  
8 services by providing for the mutual recognition of other member state  
9 licenses;

10 (2) enhance the states' ability to protect the public's health and safety;

11 (3) encourage the cooperation of member states in regulating multistate  
12 audiology and speech-language pathology practice;

13 (4) support spouses of relocating active duty military personnel;

14 (5) enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative, and disciplinary  
15 information between member states;

16 (6) allow a remote state to hold a provider of services with a compact  
17 privilege in that state accountable to that state's practice standards; and

18 (7) allow for the use of telehealth technology to facilitate increased  
19 access to audiology and speech-language pathology services.

1     § 4502. DEFINITIONS

2             As used in this Compact, and except as otherwise provided, the following  
3     definitions shall apply:

4             (1) “Active duty military” means full-time duty status in the active  
5     uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National  
6     Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Chapters 1209  
7     and 1211.

8             (2) “Adverse action” means any administrative, civil, equitable, or  
9     criminal action permitted by a state’s laws that is imposed by a licensing board  
10    or other authority against an audiologist or speech-language pathologist,  
11    including actions against an individual’s license or privilege to practice such as  
12    revocation, suspension, probation, monitoring of the licensee, or restriction on  
13    the licensee’s practice.

14            (3) “Alternative program” means a nondisciplinary monitoring process  
15    approved by an audiology or speech-language pathology licensing board to  
16    address impaired practitioners.

17            (4) “Audiologist” means an individual who is licensed by a state to  
18    practice audiology.

19            (5) “Audiology” means the care and services provided by a licensed  
20    audiologist as set forth in the member state’s statutes and rules.

1           (6) “Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact  
2           Commission” or “Commission” means the national administrative body whose  
3           membership consists of all states that have enacted the Compact.

4           (7) “Audiology and speech-language pathology licensing board,”  
5           “audiology licensing board,” “speech-language pathology licensing board,” or  
6           “licensing board” means the agency of a state that is responsible for the  
7           licensing and regulation of audiologists or speech-language pathologists, or  
8           both.

9           (8) “Compact privilege” means the authorization granted by a remote  
10           state to allow a licensee from another member state to practice as an  
11           audiologist or speech-language pathologist in the remote state under its laws  
12           and rules. The practice of audiology or speech-language pathology occurs in  
13           the member state where the patient, client, or student is located at the time of  
14           the patient, client, or student encounter.

15           (9) “Current significant investigative information” means investigative  
16           information that a licensing board, after an inquiry or investigation that  
17           includes notification and an opportunity for the audiologist or speech-language  
18           pathologist to respond, if required by state law, has reason to believe is not  
19           groundless and, if proved true, would indicate more than a minor infraction.

1           (10) “Data system” means a repository of information about licensees,  
2           including, but not limited to, continuing education, examination, licensure,  
3           investigative, compact privilege, and adverse action.

4           (11) “Encumbered license” means a license in which an adverse action  
5           restricts the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology by the  
6           licensee and said adverse action has been reported to the National Practitioners  
7           Data Bank (NPDB).

8           (12) “Executive Committee” means a group of directors elected or  
9           appointed to act on behalf of, and within the powers granted to them by, the  
10          Commission.

11          (13) “Home state” means the member state that is the licensee’s primary  
12          state of residence.

13          (14) “Impaired practitioner” means an individual whose professional  
14          practice is adversely affected by substance abuse, addiction, or other health-  
15          related conditions.

16          (15) “Licensee” means an individual who currently holds an  
17          authorization from the state licensing board to practice as an audiologist or  
18          speech-language pathologist.

19          (16) “Member state” means a state that has enacted the Compact.

20          (17) “Privilege to practice” means a legal authorization permitting the  
21          practice of audiology or speech-language pathology in a remote state.

1           (18) “Remote state” means a member state other than the home state  
2           where a licensee is exercising or seeking to exercise the compact privilege.

3           (19) “Rule” means a regulation, principle, or directive promulgated by  
4           the Commission that has the force of law.

5           (20) “Single-state license” means an audiology or speech-language  
6           pathology license issued by a member state that authorizes practice only within  
7           the issuing state and does not include a privilege to practice in any other  
8           member state.

9           (21) “Speech-language pathologist” means an individual who is licensed  
10          by a state to practice speech-language pathology.

11          (22) “Speech-language pathology” means the care and services provided  
12          by a licensed speech-language pathologist as set forth in the member state’s  
13          statutes and rules.

14          (23) “State” means any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the  
15          United States of America that regulates the practice of audiology and speech-  
16          language pathology.

17          (24) “State practice laws” means a member state’s laws, rules, and  
18          regulations that govern the practice of audiology or speech-language  
19          pathology, define the scope of audiology or speech-language pathology  
20          practice, and create the methods and grounds for imposing discipline.

1           (25) “Telehealth” means the application of telecommunication  
2           technology to deliver audiology or speech-language pathology services at a  
3           distance for assessment, intervention, and/or consultation.

4           § 4503. STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT

5           (a) A license issued to an audiologist or speech-language pathologist by a  
6           home state to a resident in that state shall be recognized by each member state  
7           as authorizing an audiologist or speech-language pathologist to practice  
8           audiology or speech-language pathology, under a privilege to practice, in each  
9           member state.

10          (b) A state must implement or utilize procedures for considering the  
11          criminal history records of applicants for initial privilege to practice. These  
12          procedures shall include the submission of fingerprints or other biometric-  
13          based information by applicants for the purpose of obtaining an applicant’s  
14          criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
15          and the agency responsible for retaining that state’s criminal records.

16          (1) A member state must fully implement a criminal background check  
17          requirement, within a time frame established by rule, by receiving the results  
18          of the Federal Bureau of Investigation record search on criminal background  
19          checks and use the results in making licensure decisions.

20          (2) Communication between a member state, the Commission, and  
21          among member states regarding the verification of eligibility for licensure

1 through the Compact shall not include any information received from the  
2 Federal Bureau of Investigation relating to a federal criminal records check  
3 performed by a member state under Pub. L. No. 92-544.

4 (c) Upon application for a privilege to practice, the licensing board in the  
5 issuing remote state shall ascertain, through the data system, whether the  
6 applicant has ever held, or is the holder of, a license issued by any other state;  
7 whether there are any encumbrances on any license or privilege to practice  
8 held by the applicant; and whether any adverse action has been taken against  
9 any license or privilege to practice held by the applicant.

10 (d) Each member state shall require an applicant to obtain or retain a  
11 license in the home state and meet the home state's qualifications for licensure  
12 or renewal of licensure as well as all other applicable state laws.

13 (e) An audiologist:

14 (1) must meet one of the following educational requirements:

15 (A) on or before December 31, 2007, has graduated with a master's  
16 degree or doctorate in audiology, or equivalent degree regardless of degree  
17 name, from a program that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized  
18 by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or its successor, or by the  
19 U.S. Department of Education and operated by a college or university  
20 accredited by a regional or national accrediting organization recognized by the  
21 board;



1           (B) on or after January 1, 2008, has graduated with a Doctoral degree  
2           in audiology, or equivalent degree, regardless of degree name, from a program  
3           that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Council for  
4           Higher Education Accreditation, or its successor, or by the U.S. Department of  
5           Education and operated by a college or university accredited by a regional or  
6           national accrediting organization recognized by the board; or

7           (C) has graduated from an audiology program that is housed in an  
8           institution of higher education outside the United States:

9                   (i) for which the program and institution have been approved by  
10                  the authorized accrediting body in the applicable country; and

11                   (ii) the degree program has been verified by an independent  
12                  credentials review agency to be comparable to a state licensing board-approved  
13                  program;

14                  (2) has completed a supervised clinical practicum experience from an  
15                  accredited educational institution or its cooperating programs as required by  
16                  the Commission;

17                  (3) has successfully passed a national examination approved by the  
18                  Commission;

19                  (4) holds an active, unencumbered license;

1           (5) has not been convicted or found guilty, and has not entered into an  
2           agreed disposition, of a felony related to the practice of audiology, under  
3           applicable state or federal criminal law; and

4           (6) has a valid U.S. Social Security or National Practitioner  
5           Identification number.

6           (f) A speech-language pathologist:

7           (1) must meet one of the following educational requirements:

8           (A) has graduated with a master's degree from a speech-language  
9           pathology program that is accredited by an organization recognized by the  
10           U.S. Department of Education and operated by a college or university  
11           accredited by a regional or national accrediting organization recognized by the  
12           board; or

13           (B) has graduated from a speech-language pathology program that is  
14           housed in an institution of higher education outside the United States:

15           (i) for which the program and institution have been approved by  
16           the authorized accrediting body in the applicable country; and

17           (ii) the degree program has been verified by an independent  
18           credentials review agency to be comparable to a state licensing board-approved  
19           program;

1           (2) has completed a supervised clinical practicum experience from an  
2           educational institution or its cooperating programs as required by the  
3           Commission;

4           (3) has completed a supervised postgraduate professional experience as  
5           required by the Commission;

6           (4) has successfully passed a national examination approved by the  
7           Commission;

8           (5) holds an active, unencumbered license;

9           (6) has not been convicted or found guilty, and has not entered into an  
10          agreed disposition, of a felony related to the practice of speech-language  
11          pathology, under applicable state or federal criminal law; and

12          (7) has a valid U.S. Social Security or National Practitioner  
13          Identification number.

14          (g) The privilege to practice is derived from the home state license.

15          (h) An audiologist or speech-language pathologist practicing in a member  
16          state must comply with the state practice laws of the state in which the client is  
17          located at the time service is provided. The practice of audiology and speech-  
18          language pathology shall include all audiology and speech-language pathology  
19          practice as defined by the state practice laws of the member state in which the  
20          client is located. The practice of audiology and speech-language pathology in  
21          a member state under a privilege to practice shall subject an audiologist or

1 speech-language pathologist to the jurisdiction of the licensing board, the  
2 courts, and the laws of the member state in which the client is located at the  
3 time service is provided.

4 (i) Individuals not residing in a member state shall continue to be able to  
5 apply for a member state's single-state license as provided under the laws of  
6 each member state. However, the single-state license granted to these  
7 individuals shall not be recognized as granting the privilege to practice  
8 audiology or speech-language pathology in any other member state. Nothing  
9 in this Compact shall affect the requirements established by a member state for  
10 the issuance of a single-state license.

11 (j) Member states may charge a fee for granting a compact privilege.

12 (k) Member states must comply with the bylaws and rules and regulations  
13 of the Commission.

14 § 4504. COMPACT PRIVILEGE

15 (a) To exercise the compact privilege under the terms and provisions of the  
16 Compact, the audiologist or speech-language pathologist shall:

17 (1) hold an active license in the home state;

18 (2) have no encumbrance on any state license;

19 (3) be eligible for a compact privilege in any member state in  
20 accordance with section 4503 of this subchapter;

1           (4) have not had any adverse action against any license or compact  
2 privilege within the previous two years from date of application;

3           (5) notify the Commission that the licensee is seeking the compact  
4 privilege within a remote state or states;

5           (6) pay any applicable fees, including any state fee, for the compact  
6 privilege; and

7           (7) report to the Commission adverse action taken by any nonmember  
8 state within 30 days from the date the adverse action is taken.

9           (b) For the purposes of the compact privilege, an audiologist or speech-  
10 language pathologist shall only hold one home state license at a time.

11           (c) Except as provided in section 4506 of this subchapter, if an audiologist  
12 or speech-language pathologist changes primary state of residence by moving  
13 between two member states, the audiologist or speech-language pathologist  
14 must apply for licensure in the new home state, and the license issued by the  
15 prior home state shall be deactivated in accordance with applicable rules  
16 adopted by the Commission.

17           (d) The audiologist or speech-language pathologist may apply for licensure  
18 in advance of a change in primary state of residence.

19           (e) A license shall not be issued by the new home state until the audiologist  
20 or speech-language pathologist provides satisfactory evidence of a change in

1 primary state of residence to the new home state and satisfies all applicable  
2 requirements to obtain a license from the new home state.

3 (f) If an audiologist or speech-language pathologist changes primary state  
4 of residence by moving from a member state to a nonmember state, the license  
5 issued by the prior home state shall convert to a single-state license, valid only  
6 in the former home state.

7 (g) The compact privilege is valid until the expiration date of the home  
8 state license. The licensee must comply with the requirements of  
9 subsection (a) of this section to maintain the compact privilege in the remote  
10 state.

11 (h) A licensee providing audiology or speech-language pathology services  
12 in a remote state under the compact privilege shall function within the laws and  
13 regulations of the remote state.

14 (i) A licensee providing audiology or speech-language pathology services  
15 in a remote state is subject to that state's regulatory authority. A remote state  
16 may, in accordance with due process and that state's laws, remove a licensee's  
17 compact privilege in the remote state for a specific period of time, impose  
18 finances, and/or take any other necessary actions to protect the health and safety of  
19 its citizens.

20 (j) If a home state license is encumbered, the licensee shall lose the  
21 compact privilege in any remote state until the following occur:

1           (1) The home state license is no longer encumbered.

2           (2) Two years have elapsed from the date of the adverse action.

3           (k) Once an encumbered license in the home state is restored to good  
4 standing, the licensee must meet the requirements of subsection 4504(a) of this  
5 subchapter to obtain a compact privilege in any remote state.

6           (l) Once the requirements of subsection (j) of this section have been met,  
7 the licensee must meet the requirements in subsection (a) of this section to  
8 obtain a compact privilege in a remote state.

9           § 4505. COMPACT PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE TELEHEALTH

10           Member states shall recognize the right of an audiologist or speech-  
11 language pathologist, licensed by a home state in accordance with section 4503  
12 of this subchapter and under rules promulgated by the Commission, to practice  
13 audiology or speech-language pathology in any member state via telehealth  
14 under a privilege to practice as provided in the Compact and rules promulgated  
15 by the Commission.

16           § 4506. ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL OR THEIR SPOUSES

17           Active duty military personnel, or their spouse, shall designate a home state  
18 where the individual has a current license in good standing. The individual  
19 may retain the home state designation during the period the service member is  
20 on active duty. Subsequent to designating a home state, the individual shall

1 only change the individual's home state through application for licensure in the  
2 new state.

3 § 4507. ADVERSE ACTIONS

4 (a) In addition to the other powers conferred by state law, a remote state  
5 shall have the authority, in accordance with existing state due process law, to:

6 (1) Take adverse action against an audiologist's or speech-language  
7 pathologist's privilege to practice within that member state.

8 (2) Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the  
9 attendance and testimony of witnesses as well as the production of evidence.

10 Subpoenas issued by a licensing board in a member state for the attendance  
11 and testimony of witnesses or the production of evidence from another member  
12 state shall be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent jurisdiction,  
13 according to the practice and procedure of that court applicable to subpoenas  
14 issued in proceedings pending before it. The issuing authority shall pay any  
15 witness fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other fees required by the service  
16 statutes of the state in which the witnesses or evidence are located.

17 (3) Only the home state shall have the power to take adverse action  
18 against a audiologist's or speech-language pathologist's license issued by the  
19 home state.

20 (b) For purposes of taking adverse action, the home state shall give the  
21 same priority and effect to reported conduct received from a member state as it



1 would if the conduct had occurred within the home state. In so doing, the  
2 home state shall apply its own state laws to determine appropriate action.

3 (c) The home state shall complete any pending investigations of an  
4 audiologist or speech-language pathologist who changes primary state of  
5 residence during the course of the investigations. The home state shall also  
6 have the authority to take appropriate action or actions and shall promptly  
7 report the conclusions of the investigations to the administrator of the data  
8 system. The administrator of the coordinated licensure information system  
9 shall promptly notify the new home state of any adverse actions.

10 (d) If otherwise permitted by state law, the member state may recover from  
11 the affected audiologist or speech-language pathologist the costs of  
12 investigations and disposition of cases resulting from any adverse action taken  
13 against that audiologist or speech-language pathologist.

14 (e) The member state may take adverse action based on the factual findings  
15 of the remote state, provided that the member state follows the member state's  
16 own procedures for taking the adverse action.

17 (f) Joint investigations.

18 (1) In addition to the authority granted to a member state by its  
19 respective audiology or speech-language pathology practice act or other  
20 applicable state law, any member state may participate with other member  
21 states in joint investigations of licensees.

1           (2) Member states shall share any investigative, litigation, or compliance  
2           materials in furtherance of any joint or individual investigation initiated under  
3           the Compact.

4           (g) If adverse action is taken by the home state against an audiologist's or  
5           speech-language pathologist's license, the audiologist's or speech-language  
6           pathologist's privilege to practice in all other member states shall be  
7           deactivated until all encumbrances have been removed from the state license.  
8           All home state disciplinary orders that impose adverse action against an  
9           audiologist's or speech-language pathologist's license shall include a statement  
10           that the audiologist's or speech-language pathologist's privilege to practice is  
11           deactivated in all member states during the pendency of the order.

12           (h) If a member state takes adverse action, it shall promptly notify the  
13           administrator of the data system. The administrator of the data system shall  
14           promptly notify the home state of any adverse actions by remote states.

15           (i) Nothing in this Compact shall override a member state's decision that  
16           participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action.

17           § 4508. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-

18                   LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY COMPACT COMMISSION

19           (a) The Compact member states hereby create and establish a joint public  
20           agency known as the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact  
21           Commission:

1           (1) The Commission is an instrumentality of the Compact states.

2           (2) Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the  
3           Commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent  
4           jurisdiction where the principal office of the Commission is located. The  
5           Commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it  
6           adopts or consents to participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

7           (3) Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to be a waiver of  
8           sovereign immunity.

9           (b) Membership, voting, and meetings.

10           (1) Each member state shall have two delegates selected by that member  
11           state's licensing board. The delegates shall be current members of the  
12           licensing board. One shall be an audiologist and one shall be a speech-  
13           language pathologist.

14           (2) An additional five delegates, who are either a public member or  
15           board administrator from a state licensing board, shall be chosen by the  
16           Executive Committee from a pool of nominees provided by the Commission at  
17           large.

18           (3) Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office as provided  
19           by the law of the state from which the delegate is appointed.

20           (4) The member state board shall fill any vacancy occurring on the  
21           Commission within 90 days.

1           (5) Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote with regard to the  
2           promulgation of rules and creation of bylaws and shall otherwise have an  
3           opportunity to participate in the business and affairs of the Commission.

4           (6) A delegate shall vote in person or by other means as provided in the  
5           bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates' participation in meetings by  
6           telephone or other means of communication.

7           (7) The Commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year.  
8           Additional meetings shall be held as set forth in the bylaws.

9           (c) The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

10           (1) Establish the fiscal year of the Commission.

11           (2) Establish bylaws.

12           (3) Establish a code of ethics.

13           (4) Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws.

14           (5) Meet and take actions as are consistent with the provisions of this  
15           Compact and the bylaws.

16           (6) Promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate  
17           implementation and administration of this Compact. The rules shall have the  
18           force and effect of law and shall be binding in all member states.

19           (7) Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the  
20           Commission, provided that the standing of any state audiology or speech-

1 language pathology licensing board to sue or be sued under applicable law  
2 shall not be affected.

3 (8) Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds.

4 (9) Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including, but  
5 not limited to, employees of a member state.

6 (10) Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define  
7 duties, grant individuals appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the  
8 Compact, and establish the Commission's personnel policies and programs  
9 relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel, and other related  
10 personnel matters.

11 (11) Accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money,  
12 equipment, supplies, materials and services, and receive, utilize, and dispose of  
13 the same, provided that at all times the Commission shall avoid any appearance  
14 of impropriety or conflict of interest, or both.

15 (12) Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or  
16 otherwise to own, hold, improve, or use, any property, real, personal or mixed,  
17 provided that at all times the Commission shall avoid any appearance of  
18 impropriety.

19 (13) Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or  
20 otherwise dispose of any property real, personal, or mixed.

21 (14) Establish a budget and make expenditures.

1           (15) Borrow money.

2           (16) Appoint committees, including standing committees composed of  
3 members and other interested persons as may be designated in this Compact  
4 and the bylaws.

5           (17) Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law  
6 enforcement agencies.

7           (18) Establish and elect the Executive Committee.

8           (19) Perform other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to  
9 achieve the purposes of this Compact consistent with the state regulation of  
10 audiology and speech-language pathology licensure and practice.

11           (d) The Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have the  
12 power to act on behalf of the Commission according to the terms of this  
13 Compact.

14           (1) The Executive Committee shall be composed of 10 members:

15           (A) seven voting members who are elected by the Commission from  
16 the current membership of the Commission;

17           (B) two ex-officios, consisting of one nonvoting member from a  
18 recognized national audiology professional association and one nonvoting  
19 member from a recognized national speech-language pathology association;  
20 and

1           (C) one ex-officio, nonvoting member from the recognized  
2           membership organization of the audiology and speech-language pathology  
3           licensing boards.

4           (e) The ex-officio members shall be selected by their respective  
5           organizations.

6           (1) The Commission may remove any member of the Executive  
7           Committee as provided in bylaws.

8           (2) The Executive Committee shall meet at least annually.

9           (3) The Executive Committee shall have the following duties and  
10          responsibilities:

11           (A) recommend to the entire Commission changes to the rules or  
12          bylaws, changes to this Compact legislation, and fees paid by Compact  
13          member states, such as annual dues and any commission Compact fee charged  
14          to licensees for the compact privilege;

15           (B) ensure Compact administration services are appropriately  
16          provided, contractual or otherwise;

17           (C) prepare and recommend the budget;

18           (D) maintain financial records on behalf of the Commission;

19           (E) monitor Compact compliance of member states and provide  
20          compliance reports to the Commission;

21           (F) establish additional committees as necessary; and

1           (G) other duties as provided in rules or bylaws.

2           (4) Meetings of the Commission. All meetings shall be open to the  
3           public, and public notice of meetings shall be given in the same manner as  
4           required under the rulemaking provisions in section 4510 of this subchapter.

5           (5) The Commission or the Executive Committee or other committees of  
6           the Commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting if the  
7           Commission or Executive Committee or other committees of the Commission  
8           must discuss:

9           (A) noncompliance of a member state with its obligations under the  
10          Compact;

11          (B) the employment, compensation, discipline, or other matters,  
12          practices, or procedures related to specific employees or other matters related  
13          to the Commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;

14          (C) current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation;

15          (D) negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or sale of goods,  
16          services, or real estate;

17          (E) accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;

18          (F) disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information  
19          that is privileged or confidential;

20          (G) disclosure of information of a personal nature where disclosure  
21          would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;



1           (H) disclosure of investigative records compiled for law enforcement  
2 purposes;

3           (I) disclosure of information related to any investigative reports  
4 prepared by or on behalf of or for use of the Commission or other committee  
5 charged with responsibility of investigation or determination of compliance  
6 issues pursuant to the Compact; or

7           (J) matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or  
8 member state statute.

9           (6) If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to this  
10 provision, the Commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the  
11 meeting may be closed and shall reference each relevant exempting provision.

12           (7) The Commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe  
13 all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate  
14 summary of actions taken, and the reasons therefore, including a description of  
15 the views expressed. All documents considered in connection with an action  
16 shall be identified in minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting  
17 shall remain under seal, subject to release by a majority vote of the  
18 Commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

19           (8) Financing of the Commission.

20           (A) The Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the  
21 reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.

1           (B) The Commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue  
2           sources, donations, and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and  
3           services.

4           (C) The Commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment  
5           from each member state or impose fees on other parties to cover the cost of the  
6           operations and activities of the Commission and its staff, which must be in a  
7           total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved each year for  
8           which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual  
9           assessment amount shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined  
10          by the Commission, which shall promulgate a rule binding upon all member  
11          states.

12          (9) The Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to  
13          securing the funds adequate to meet the same nor shall the Commission pledge  
14          the credit of any of the member states, except by and with the authority of the  
15          member state.

16          (10) The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and  
17          disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the Commission shall be  
18          subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws.  
19          However, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the Commission  
20          shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant, and the

1 report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of  
2 the Commission.

3 (f) Qualified immunity, defense, and indemnification.

4 (1) The members, officers, executive director, employees, and  
5 representatives of the Commission shall be immune from suit and liability,  
6 either personally or in their official capacity, for any claim for damage to or  
7 loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising  
8 out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that the  
9 person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing  
10 occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or  
11 responsibilities, provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to  
12 protect any person from suit or liability, or both, for any damage, loss, injury,  
13 or liability caused by the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that  
14 person.

15 (2) The Commission shall defend any member, officer, executive  
16 director, employee, or representative of the Commission in any civil action  
17 seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or  
18 omission that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or  
19 responsibilities or that the person against whom the claim is made had a  
20 reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission  
21 employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that nothing herein shall be

1 construed to prohibit that person from retaining the person's own counsel, and  
2 provided further that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result  
3 from that person's intentional, willful, or wanton misconduct.

4 (3) The Commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member,  
5 officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the Commission for  
6 the amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising  
7 out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the  
8 scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities or that person  
9 had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission  
10 employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act,  
11 error, or omission did not result from the intentional, willful, or wanton  
12 misconduct of that person.

13 § 4509. DATA SYSTEM

14 (a) The Commission shall provide for the development, maintenance, and  
15 utilization of a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure,  
16 adverse action, and investigative information on all licensed individuals in  
17 member states.

18 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the contrary, a  
19 member state shall submit a uniform data set to the data system on all  
20 individuals to whom this Compact is applicable as required by the rules of the  
21 Commission, including:

1           (1) identifying information;

2           (2) licensure data;

3           (3) adverse actions against a license or compact privilege;

4           (4) nonconfidential information related to alternative program  
5 participation;

6           (5) any denial of application for licensure and the reason or reasons for  
7 denial; and

8           (6) other information that may facilitate the administration of this  
9 Compact as determined by the rules of the Commission.

10          (c) Investigative information pertaining to a licensee in any member state  
11 shall only be available to other member states.

12          (d) The Commission shall promptly notify all member states of any adverse  
13 action taken against a licensee or an individual applying for a license. Adverse  
14 action information pertaining to a licensee in any member state shall be  
15 available to any other member state.

16          (e) Member states contributing information to the data system may  
17 designate information that may not be shared with the public without the  
18 express permission of the contributing state.

19          (f) Any information submitted to the data system that is subsequently  
20 required to be expunged by the laws of the member state contributing the  
21 information shall be removed from the data system.

1     § 4510. RULEMAKING

2           (a) The Commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers pursuant to the  
3           criteria set forth in this section and the rules adopted thereunder. Rules and  
4           amendments shall become binding as of the date specified in each rule or  
5           amendment.

6           (b) If a majority of the legislatures of the member states rejects a rule, by  
7           enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the  
8           Compact within four years of the date of adoption of the rule, the rule shall  
9           have no further force and effect in any member state.

10          (c) Rules or amendments to the rules shall be adopted at a regular or special  
11          meeting of the Commission.

12          (d) Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules by the  
13          Commission, and at least 30 days in advance of the meeting at which the rule  
14          shall be considered and voted upon, the Commission shall file a Notice of  
15          Proposed Rulemaking:

16                 (1) on the website of the Commission or other publicly accessible  
17                 platform; and

18                 (2) on the website of each member state audiology or speech-language  
19                 pathology licensing board or other publicly accessible platform or the  
20                 publication in which each state would otherwise publish proposed rules.

21          (e) The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking shall include:

1           (1) the proposed time, date, and location of the meeting in which the  
2           rule shall be considered and voted upon;

3           (2) the text of the proposed rule or amendment and the reason for the  
4           proposed rule;

5           (3) a request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested  
6           person; and

7           (4) the manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the  
8           Commission of their intention to attend the public hearing and any written  
9           comments.

10          (f) Prior to the adoption of a proposed rule, the Commission shall allow  
11          persons to submit written data, facts, opinions, and arguments, which shall be  
12          made available to the public.

13          (g) The Commission shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing before  
14          it adopts a rule or amendment if a hearing is requested by:

15               (1) at least 25 persons;

16               (2) a state or federal governmental subdivision or agency; or

17               (3) an association having at least 25 members.

18          (h) If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, the  
19          Commission shall publish the place, time, and date of the scheduled public  
20          hearing. If the hearing is held via electronic means, the Commission shall  
21          publish the mechanism for access to the electronic hearing.

1           (1) All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing shall notify the  
2           executive director of the Commission or other designated member in writing of  
3           their desire to appear and testify at the hearing not less than five business days  
4           before the scheduled date of the hearing.

5           (2) Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each person who  
6           wishes to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in  
7           writing.

8           (3) All hearings shall be recorded. A copy of the recording shall be  
9           made available on request.

10          (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a separate  
11          hearing on each rule. Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the  
12          Commission at hearings required by this section.

13          (i) Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close of business on the  
14          scheduled hearing date if the hearing was not held, the Commission shall  
15          consider all written and oral comments received.

16          (j) If no written notice of intent to attend the public hearing by interested  
17          parties is received, the Commission may proceed with promulgation of the  
18          proposed rule without a public hearing.

19          (k) The Commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take final  
20          action on the proposed rule and shall determine the effective date of the rule, if  
21          any, based on the rulemaking record and the full text of the rule.



1       (l) Upon determination that an emergency exists, the Commission may  
2       consider and adopt an emergency rule without prior notice, opportunity for  
3       comment, or hearing, provided that the usual rulemaking procedures provided  
4       in the Compact and in this section shall be retroactively applied to the rule as  
5       soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than 90 days after the effective  
6       date of the rule. For the purposes of this provision, an emergency rule is one  
7       that must be adopted immediately in order to:

8               (1) meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;

9               (2) prevent a loss of Commission or member state funds; or

10              (3) meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is  
11       established by federal law or rule.

12       (m) The Commission or an authorized committee of the Commission may  
13       direct revisions to a previously adopted rule or amendment for purposes of  
14       correcting typographical errors, errors in format, errors in consistency, or  
15       grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be posted on the  
16       website of the Commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any  
17       person for a period of 30 days after posting. The revision may be challenged  
18       only on grounds that the revision results in a material change to a rule. A  
19       challenge shall be made in writing and delivered to the chair of the  
20       Commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the

1 revision shall take effect without further action. If the revision is challenged,  
2 the revision may not take effect without the approval of the Commission.

3 § 4511. OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AND ENFORCEMENT

4 (a) Dispute resolution.

5 (1) Upon request by a member state, the Commission shall attempt to  
6 resolve disputes related to the Compact that arise among member states and  
7 between member and nonmember states.

8 (2) The Commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both  
9 mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.

10 (b) Enforcement.

11 (1) The Commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall  
12 enforce the provisions and rules of this Compact.

13 (2) By majority vote, the Commission may initiate legal action in the  
14 United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district  
15 where the Commission has its principal offices against a member state in  
16 default to enforce compliance with the provisions of the Compact and its  
17 promulgated rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include both injunctive  
18 relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the  
19 prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of litigation, including reasonable  
20 attorney's fees.

1           (3) The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the  
2           Commission. The Commission may pursue any other remedies available under  
3           federal or state law.

4           § 4512. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERSTATE

5                   COMMISSION FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE

6                   PATHOLOGY PRACTICE AND ASSOCIATED RULES,

7                   WITHDRAWAL, AND AMENDMENT

8           (a) The Compact shall come into effect on the date on which the Compact  
9           statute is enacted into law in the 10th member state. The provisions, which  
10           become effective at that time, shall be limited to the powers granted to the  
11           Commission relating to assembly and the promulgation of rules. Thereafter,  
12           the Commission shall meet and exercise rulemaking powers necessary to the  
13           implementation and administration of the Compact.

14           (b) Any state that joins the Compact subsequent to the Commission's initial  
15           adoption of the rules shall be subject to the rules as they exist on the date on  
16           which the Compact becomes law in that state. Any rule that has been  
17           previously adopted by the Commission shall have the full force and effect of  
18           law on the day the Compact becomes law in that state.

19           (c) Any member state may withdraw from this Compact by enacting a  
20           statute repealing the same.

1           (1) A member state’s withdrawal shall not take effect until six months  
2           after enactment of the repealing statute.

3           (2) Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the  
4           withdrawing state’s audiology or speech-language pathology licensing board to  
5           comply with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of this  
6           act prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

7           (d) Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to invalidate or  
8           prevent any audiology or speech-language pathology licensure agreement or  
9           other cooperative arrangement between a member state and a nonmember state  
10          that does not conflict with the provisions of this Compact.

11          (e) This Compact may be amended by the member states. No amendment  
12          to this Compact shall become effective and binding upon any member state  
13          until it is enacted into the laws of all member states.

14          § 4513. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

15          This Compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes  
16          thereof. The provisions of this Compact shall be severable and if any phrase,  
17          clause, sentence, or provision of this Compact is declared to be contrary to the  
18          constitution of any member state or of the United States or the applicability  
19          thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the  
20          validity of the remainder of this Compact and the applicability thereof to any  
21          government, agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If

1 this Compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any member state, the  
2 Compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining member  
3 states and in full force and effect as to the member state affected as to all  
4 severable matters.

5 § 4514. BINDING EFFECT OF COMPACT AND OTHER LAWS

6 (a) Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other law of a member  
7 state that is not inconsistent with the Compact.

8 (b) All laws in a member state in conflict with the Compact are superseded  
9 to the extent of the conflict.

10 (c) All lawful actions of the Commission, including all rules and bylaws  
11 promulgated by the Commission, are binding upon the member states.

12 (d) All agreements between the Commission and the member states are  
13 binding in accordance with their terms.

14 (e) In the event any provision of the Compact exceeds the constitutional  
15 limits imposed on the legislature of any member state, the provision shall be  
16 ineffective to the extent of the conflict with the constitutional provision in  
17 question in that member state.

18 § 4515. ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPACT

19 (a) The Office of Professional Regulation shall have the power to:

20 (1) oversee the administration and enforcement of the Compact within  
21 the State of Vermont subject to the provisions and rules of the Compact; and

1           (2) recover from the affected audiologist or speech-language pathologist  
2           the costs of investigations and disposition of cases resulting from any adverse  
3           action taken against that audiologist or speech-language pathologist subject to  
4           the provisions and rules of the Compact.

5           (b) The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall designate  
6           the two delegates of the Compact for the State of Vermont pursuant to  
7           subsection 4508(b) of this subchapter.

8           Sec. 3. 26 V.S.A. chapter 67, subchapter 5 is added to read:

9           Subchapter 5. Privilege to Practice; Audiology and Speech-Language

10   Pathology Interstate Compact

11           § 3305. AUDIOLOGISTS; AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE

12   PATHOLOGY INTERSTATE COMPACT PRIVILEGE TO

13   PRACTICE

14           (a) Vermont is a member state of the Audiology and Speech-Language  
15           Pathology Interstate Compact. Applicants for a privilege to practice audiology  
16           shall be subject to the requirements prescribed under chapter 87, subchapter 2  
17           of this title.

18           (b) Individuals with a privilege to practice issued by a member state of the  
19           Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact may practice  
20           audiology in the State subject to the requirements of chapter 87, subchapter 2  
21           of this title.

1 Sec. 4. 3 V.S.A. § 123(j)(1) is amended to read:

2 (j)(1) The Office may inquire into the criminal background histories of  
3 applicants for initial licensure and for license renewal of any Office-issued  
4 credential, including a license, certification, registration, or specialty  
5 designation for the following professions:

6 (A) licensed nursing assistants, licensed practical nurses, registered  
7 nurses, and advanced practice registered nurses licensed under 26 V.S.A.  
8 chapter 28;

9 (B) private investigators, security guards, and other persons licensed  
10 under 26 V.S.A. chapter 59;

11 (C) real estate appraisers and other persons or business entities  
12 licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 69; ~~and~~

13 (D) osteopathic physicians licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 33;

14 (E) audiologists licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 67; and

15 (F) speech-language pathologists licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter

16 87.

17 Sec. 5. 26 V.S.A. § 3290 is amended as follows:

18 § 3290. ELIGIBILITY FOR AUDIOLOGIST LICENSE

19 To be eligible for licensure as an audiologist, an applicant shall have:

20 (1) Either:

1           (A) ~~A~~ a master’s degree or equivalent in audiology or speech-  
2 language pathology from an educational institution approved by the Director,  
3 with course work completed in areas specified by rule; or

4           (B) a doctoral degree in audiology, or an equivalent doctoral degree  
5 regardless of name, from a program that is accredited by an accrediting agency  
6 recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or its  
7 successor, or by the United States Department of Education and operated by a  
8 college or university accredited by a regional or national accrediting  
9 organization.

10   \* \* \*

11       Sec. 6. 3 V.S.A. § 125 is amended to read:

12       § 125. FEES

13   \* \* \*

14       (b) Unless otherwise provided by law, the following fees shall apply to all  
15 professions regulated by the Director in consultation with advisor appointees  
16 under Title 26:

17   \* \* \*

18       (4) Biennial renewal, \$240.00, except biennial renewal for:

19   \* \* \*





1 § 332. RIGHT TO INTERPRETER; COMMUNICATION ACCESS  
2 REALTIME TRANSLATION (CART) SERVICES; ASSISTIVE  
3 LISTENING EQUIPMENT

4 (a) Any person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or  
5 DeafBlind who is a party or witness in any proceeding shall be entitled to be  
6 provided with a qualified interpreter or CART services for the duration of the  
7 person's participation in the proceeding.

8 (b) Any person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or  
9 DeafBlind shall be entitled to be provided with a qualified interpreter or CART  
10 services upon five working days' notice that the person has reasonable need to  
11 do any of the following:

12 \* \* \*

13 (c) If a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or  
14 DeafBlind is unable to use or understand sign language, the presiding officer or  
15 State board or agency or State legislative official shall, upon five working  
16 days' notice, make available appropriate assistive listening equipment for use  
17 during the proceeding or activity.

18 § 333. APPOINTMENT OF INTERPRETER

19 (a) The presiding officer in a proceeding shall appoint an interpreter after  
20 making a preliminary determination that the interpreter is able to:

1 (1) readily communicate with the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing,~~  
2 ~~to~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind;

3 (2) accurately interpret statements or communications from the person  
4 who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing,~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind; and ~~to~~

5 (3) interpret the proceedings to the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~  
6 Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind.

7 \* \* \*

8 § 336. RULES; INFORMATION; ~~LIST OF INTERPRETERS~~ CONTRACT  
9 SERVICES

10 (a) The ~~Vermont Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall, by~~  
11 ~~rule, establish factors to be considered by the presiding officer under section~~  
12 ~~333 of this title before appointing an interpreter who is not a qualified~~  
13 ~~interpreter. Such factors shall encourage the widest availability of interpreters~~  
14 ~~in Vermont while at the same time ensuring~~ State of Vermont shall maintain  
15 contracts to operate CART services and a statewide sign language interpreter  
16 referral service to provide services to a person who has a right to an interpreter  
17 or CART services under section 332 of this subchapter. The contract shall  
18 require that the an interpreter providing services through the sign language  
19 interpreter referral service:

20 (1) is able to communicate readily with the person who is ~~deaf or hard~~  
21 ~~of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind;

1           (2) is able to interpret accurately statements or communications by the  
2 person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind;

3           (3) is able to interpret the proceedings to the person who is ~~deaf or hard~~  
4 ~~of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind;

5           (4) ~~shall~~ maintain confidentiality;

6           (5) ~~shall~~ be impartial with respect to the outcome of the proceeding;

7           (6) ~~shall~~ does not exert any influence over the person who is ~~deaf or~~  
8 ~~hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind; and

9           (7) ~~shall~~ does not accept assignments the interpreter does not feel  
10 competent to handle.

11           (b) ~~Rules established by the Vermont Commission of the Deaf and Hard of~~  
12 ~~Hearing pursuant to subdivision 331(3) of this title amending the standards of~~  
13 ~~competency established by the national or Vermont Registry of the Deaf shall~~  
14 ~~be limited to the factors set forth in subsection (a) of this section. [Repealed.]~~

15           (c) ~~The Vermont Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall~~  
16 ~~prepare an explanation of the provisions of this subchapter which shall be~~  
17 ~~distributed to all State agencies and courts. [Repealed.]~~

18           (d) ~~The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall~~  
19 ~~maintain a list of qualified interpreters in Vermont and, where such~~  
20 ~~information is available, in surrounding states. The list shall be distributed to~~  
21 State of Vermont shall maintain access to qualified interpreters in Vermont and

1 CART services for all State agencies and courts through the statewide  
2 contracts maintained by the State pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

3 § 337. REVIEW

4 (a) A decision, order, or judgment of a court or administrative agency may  
5 be reversed on appeal if the court or agency finds that a person who is ~~deaf or~~  
6 ~~hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind who was a party or a  
7 witness in the proceeding was deprived of an opportunity to communicate  
8 effectively, and that the deprivation was prejudicial.

9 \* \* \*

10 § 338. ADMISSIONS; CONFESSIONS

11 (a) An admission or confession by a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~  
12 Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind made to a law enforcement officer or any  
13 other person having a prosecutorial function may only be used against the  
14 person in a criminal proceeding if:

15 (1) ~~The~~ the admission or confession was made knowingly, voluntarily,  
16 and intelligently and is not subject to alternative interpretations resulting from  
17 the person's habits and patterns of communication-; and

18 (2) ~~The~~ the admission or confession, if made during a custodial  
19 interrogation, was made after reasonable steps were taken, including the  
20 appointment of a qualified interpreter, to ensure that the defendant understood  
21 ~~his or her~~ the defendant's constitutional rights.

1 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section supplement the  
2 constitutional rights of the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of  
3 Hearing, or DeafBlind.

4 § 339. COMMUNICATIONS MADE TO INTERPRETERS; PROHIBITION  
5 ON DISCLOSURE

6 (a) An interpreter, whether or not the interpreter is a qualified interpreter,  
7 shall not disclose or testify to:

8 (1) a communication made by a person to an interpreter acting in ~~his or~~  
9 ~~her~~ the capacity as of an interpreter for a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~  
10 Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind or a person with limited English  
11 proficiency; or

12 (2) any information obtained by the interpreter while acting in ~~his or her~~  
13 the capacity as of an interpreter for a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~  
14 Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind or a person with limited English  
15 proficiency.

16 (b) There is no prohibition on disclosure under this section if the services  
17 of the interpreter were sought or obtained to enable or aid anyone to commit or  
18 plan to commit what the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of  
19 Hearing, or DeafBlind or the person with limited English proficiency knew or  
20 reasonably should have known to be a crime or fraud.

21 \* \* \*

1           (d) As used in this section, “person with limited English proficiency”  
2 means a person who does not speak English as ~~his or her~~ the person’s primary  
3 language and who has a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand  
4 English.

5       Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATES

6           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023, except that Secs. 1–3 (audiologists  
7 and speech-language pathologists interstate compact) and Sec. 6 (fees) shall  
8 take effect on July 1, 2024.