



February 3, 2024

SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (013319): Enacts the *Dietitian Licensure Compact*, an interstate compact to recognize licensed dietitians from member states. Establishes that the compact will become effective on the date on which the compact is enacted into law by the seventh member state. Authorizes a dietitian with a qualifying license who meets certain criteria to be awarded compact privilege to practice as a dietitian in a remote state.

Creates the Dietitian Licensure Compact Commission on or after the effective date of the compact. Entitles each member state to one delegate on the commission. Authorizes the commission to collect an annual assessment from each member state and impose fees on licensees of member states to whom it grants a compact privilege.

Authorizes the Department of Health (DOH), in consultation with the Board of Dietitian/Nutritionist Examiners (Board) to promulgate rules to implement the legislation. Requires the chair of the Board to notify the chairs of each of the Government Operations Committees and the revisor of statutes within 30 days of the date the Compact comes into effect.

For the purpose of promulgating rules, takes effect upon becoming law. Effective January 1, 2026 for all other purposes.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

Other Fiscal Impact - A precise fiscal impact cannot be determined, but expenditures to the Board of Dietitian/Nutritionist Examiners are reasonably estimated to exceed \$10,000 for participation once the compact goes into effect.

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all health-related boards are required to be self-supporting over a two-year period. The Board of Dietitian/Nutritionist Examiners had a surplus of \$39,354 in FY21-22, a surplus of \$33,535 in FY22-23, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$ 372,921 on June 30, 2023.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- According to the provisions of the compact, seven states need to enact the proposed legislation in order for it to go into effect. Currently, zero states have enacted the compact.

- When the compact goes into effect the member states will convene and establish a joint government agency known as the commission.
- The commission is authorized to establish fees and collect an annual assessment from each member state.
- The total cost of participating in the compact is unknown. However, based on information previously provided by the DOH regarding typical expenditures for participation in interstate compacts, the total recurring increase in state expenditures to the Board is reasonably estimated to exceed \$10,000.
- The Board and DOH can promulgate rules to implement the proposed legislation and provide notice to the appropriate entities utilizing existing personnel and resources.
- Due to multiple unknown factors, including when six other states will pass legislation to enact the compact and the amount of fees assessed by the commission, a precise fiscal impact cannot be reasonably estimated.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all health-related boards are required to be self-supporting over a two-year period. The Board of Dietitian/Nutritionist Examiners had a surplus of \$39,354 in FY21-22, a surplus of \$33,535 in FY22-23, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$ 372,921 on June 30, 2023.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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