

§2296. Rulemaking**(CONTAINS TEXT WITH VARYING EFFECTIVE DATES)****(WHOLE SECTION TEXT EFFECTIVE ON CONTINGENCY: See T. 32, §2298, sub-§1)**

1. Rule-making authority. The commission shall exercise its rule-making powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this section and the rules adopted pursuant to this section. Rules and amendments become binding as of the date specified in each rule or amendment.

[PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

2. Adoption. The commission shall promulgate reasonable rules in order to effectively and efficiently achieve the purposes of the compact. If the commission exercises its rule-making authority in a manner that is beyond the scope of the purposes of the compact, or the powers granted in the compact, such an action by the commission is invalid and has no force and effect.

[PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

3. Rejection of rules. If a majority of the legislatures of the member states rejects a rule, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the compact within 4 years of the date of adoption of the rule, the rule has no further force and effect in any member state.

[PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

4. Adoption at meeting. Rules or amendments to the rules must be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the commission.

[PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

5. Notice. Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules by the commission, and at least 30 days in advance of the meeting at which the rule will be considered and voted upon, the commission shall file a notice of proposed rulemaking:

A. On the website of the commission or other publicly accessible platform; and [PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

B. On the website of each member state occupational therapy licensing board or other publicly accessible platform or the publication in which each state would otherwise publish proposed rules.

[PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

6. Notice requirements. The notice of proposed rulemaking under subsection 5 must include:

A. The proposed time, date and location of the meeting at which the rule will be considered and voted upon; [PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

B. The text of the proposed rule and the reason for the proposed rule; [PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

C. A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person; and [PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

D. The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the commission of their intention to attend the public hearing and any written comments. [PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

7. Comments. Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the commission shall allow persons to submit written data, facts, opinions and arguments, which must be made available to the public.

[PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

8. Opportunity for public hearing. The commission shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing before it adopts a rule or amendment if a hearing is requested by:

A. At least 25 persons; [PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

B. A state or federal governmental subdivision or agency; or [PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

C. An association or organization having at least 25 members. [PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]
[PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

9. Notice of hearing. If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, the commission shall publish the place, time and date of the scheduled public hearing. If the hearing is held via electronic means, the commission shall publish the mechanism for access to the electronic hearing.

A. A person wishing to be heard at the hearing shall notify the executive director of the commission or other designated member in writing of the person's desire to appear and testify at the hearing not less than 5 business days before the scheduled date of the hearing. [PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

B. A hearing must be conducted in a manner that provides each person who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in writing. [PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

C. All hearings must be recorded. A copy of the recording must be made available on request. [PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

D. Nothing in this subsection may be construed as requiring a separate hearing on each rule. Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the commission at hearings required by this section. [PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]
[PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

10. Consideration of comments. Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close of business on the scheduled hearing date if the hearing was not held, the commission shall consider all written and oral comments received.

[PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

11. No public hearing. If no written notice of intent to attend the public hearing by interested persons is received, the commission may proceed with promulgation of the proposed rule without a public hearing.

[PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

12. Final action. The commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take final action on the proposed rule and shall determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the rule-making record and the full text of the rule.

[PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

13. Emergency rules. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule without prior notice, opportunity for comment or hearing, as long as the usual rulemaking procedures provided in the compact and in this section are retroactively applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than 90 days after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this subsection, an emergency rule is a rule that must be adopted immediately in order to:

A. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety or welfare; [PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

B. Prevent a loss of commission or member state funds; [PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

C. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is established by federal law or regulation; or [PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

D. Protect public health and safety. [PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]
[PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

14. Revisions. The commission or an authorized committee of the commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule or amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format, errors in consistency or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions must be posted on the publicly accessible website of the commission. The revision is subject to challenge by

any person for a period of 30 days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the revision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge must be made in writing and delivered to the chair of the commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision takes effect without further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision may not take effect without the approval of the commission.

[PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 324, §2 (NEW).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Regular and First Special Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through November 1, 2023. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.