WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1972

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 163

(By Mr. Palumbo)

PASSED MARCH 9, 1972

In Effect 90 Days from Passage

163

FILED IN THE OFFICE
JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, IV
SECRETARY OF STATE
THIS DATE 3-29-72
ENROLLED

Senate Bill No. 163

(By Mr. Palumbo)

[Passed March 9, 1972; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend chapter seventeen-b of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated article one-a, relating to adopting the driver license compact.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That chapter seventeen-b of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new article, designated article one-a, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 1A. DRIVER LICENSE COMPACT.

§17B-1A-1. Authorization.

Pursuant to authority granted by an act of the eighty-fifth Congress of the United States, being public law six hundred eighty-four, approved the twentieth day of August, one thousand nine hundred fifty-eight, the governor of this state is hereby authorized and directed to execute a compact on behalf of the state of West Virginia with all other jurisdictions legally joining therein in the form substantially as follows:

ARTICLE I. FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF POLICY.

(a) The party states find that:

(1) The safety of their streets and highways is materially affected by the degree of compliance with state laws and local ordinances relating to the operation of motor vehicles.

(2) Violation of such a law or ordinance is evidence that the violator engages in conduct which is likely to endanger the safety of persons and property.
(3) The continuance in force of a license to drive is predicated upon compliance with laws and ordinances relating to the operation of motor vehicles, in whichever jurisdiction the vehicle is operated.

(b) It is the policy of each of the party states to:

(1) Promote compliance with the laws, ordinances and administrative rules and regulations relating to the operation of motor vehicles by their operators in each of the jurisdictions where such operators drive motor vehicles.

(2) Make the reciprocal recognition of licenses to drive and eligibility therefor more just and equitable by considering the overall compliance with motor vehicle laws, ordinances and administrative rules and regulations as a condition precedent to the continuance or issuance of any license by reason of which the licensee is authorized or permitted to operate a motor vehicle in any of the party states.

ARTICLE II. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this compact:

(a) “State” means a state, territory or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(b) “Home state” means the state which has issued and has the power to suspend or revoke the use of the license or permit to operate a motor vehicle.

(c) “Conviction” means a conviction of any offense related to the use or operation of a motor vehicle which is prohibited by state law, municipal ordinance or administrative rule or regulation, or a forfeiture of bail, bond or other security deposited to secure appearance by a person charged with having committed any such offense, and which conviction or forfeiture is required to be reported to the licensing authority.

ARTICLE III. REPORTS OF CONVICTION.

The licensing authority of a party state shall report each conviction of a person from another party state occurring within its jurisdiction to the licensing authority of the home state of the licensee. Such report shall clearly identify the person convicted; describe the violation
specifying the section of the statute, code or ordinance violated; identify the court in which action was taken; indicate whether a plea of guilty or not guilty was entered, or the conviction was a result of the forfeiture of bail, bond or other security; and shall include any special findings made in connection therewith.

ARTICLE IV. EFFECT OF CONVICTION.

(a) The licensing authority in the home state, for the purposes of suspension, revocation or limitation of the license to operate a motor vehicle, shall give the same effect to the conduct reported, pursuant to Article III of this compact, as it would if such conduct had occurred in the home state, in the case of convictions for:

(1) Manslaughter or negligent homicide resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle;

(2) Driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a narcotic drug, or under the influence of any other drug to a degree which renders the driver incapable of safely driving a motor vehicle;

(3) Any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used;

(4) Failure to stop and render aid in the event of a motor vehicle accident resulting in the death or personal injury to another.

(b) As to other convictions, reported pursuant to Article III, the licensing authority in the home state shall give such effect to the conduct as is provided by the laws of the home state.

(c) If the laws of a party state do not provide for offenses or violations denominated or described in precisely the words employed in subsection (a) of this article, such party state shall construe the denominations and descriptions appearing in subsection (a) hereof as being applicable to and identifying those offenses or violations of a substantially similar nature and the laws of such party state shall contain such provisions as may be necessary to ensure that full force and effect is given to this article.
ARTICLE V. APPLICATIONS FOR NEW LICENSES.

Upon application for a license to drive, the licensing authority in a party state shall ascertain whether the applicant has ever held, or is the holder of a license to drive issued by any other party state. The licensing authority in the state where application is made shall not issue a license to drive to the applicant if:

(1) The applicant has held such a license, but the same has been suspended by reason, in whole or in part, of a violation and if such suspension period has not terminated.

(2) The applicant has held such a license, but the same has been revoked by reason, in whole or in part, of a violation and if such revocation has not terminated, except that after the expiration of one year from the date the license was revoked, such person may make application for a new license if permitted by law. The licensing authority may refuse to issue a license to any such applicant if, after investigation, the licensing authority determines that it will not be safe to grant to such person the privilege of driving a motor vehicle on the public highways.

(3) The applicant is the holder of a license to drive issued by another party state and currently in force unless the applicant surrender such license.

ARTICLE VI. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.

Except as expressly required by provisions of this compact, nothing contained herein shall be construed to affect the right of any party state to apply any of its other laws relating to licenses to drive to any person or circumstance, nor to invalidate or prevent any driver license agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a party state and a nonparty state.

ARTICLE VII. COMPACT ADMINISTRATOR AND INTERCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

(a) The head of the licensing authority of each party state shall be the administrator of this compact for his state. The administrators, acting jointly, shall have the power to formulate all necessary and proper procedures for the exchange of information under this compact.
(b) The administrator of each party state shall furnish
to the administrator of each other party state any in-
formation or documents reasonably necessary to facilitate
the administration of this compact.

ARTICLE VIII. ENTRY INTO FORCE AND WITHDRAWAL.
(a) This compact shall enter into force and become
effective as to any state when it has enacted the same
into law.
(b) Any party state may withdraw from this compact
by enacting a statute repealing the same, but no such
withdrawal shall take effect until six months after the
executive head of the withdrawing state has given notice
of the withdrawal to the executive heads of all other
party states. No withdrawal shall affect the validity or
applicability by the licensing authorities of states re-
main ing party to the compact of any report of convic-
tion occurring prior to the withdrawal.

ARTICLE IX. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY.
This compact shall be liberally construed so as to
effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this
compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause,
sentence or provision of this compact is declared to be
contrary to the constitution of any party state or of the
United States or the applicability thereof to any govern-
ment, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid,
the validity of the remainder of this compact and the
applicability thereof to any government, agency, person
or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this
compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of
any state party thereto, the compact shall remain in full
force and effect as to the remaining states and in full
force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable
matters.

§17B-1A-2. Definitions; implementation of compact.
(1) As used in the compact, the term "licensing
authority", with reference to this state, shall mean the
department of motor vehicles. Said department shall
furnish to the appropriate authorities of any other party
state any information or documents reasonably necessary
to facilitate the administration of Articles III, IV and V of the compact.

(2) The compact administrator provided for in Article VII of the compact shall not be entitled to any additional compensation on account of his service as such administrator, but shall be entitled to be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred in connection with his duties and responsibilities as such administrator, in the same manner as for other such expenses incurred in connection with any other duties or responsibilities of his office or employment.

(3) As used in the compact, with reference to this state, the term “executive head” shall mean the governor.

(4) To aid in the implementation of the compact, records required to be forwarded to the department of motor vehicles by the provisions of section four, article three of this chapter shall be forwarded to such department within the time and as otherwise specified in said section four.

(5) The statutes which Article IV of the compact refers to are sections one, five and six, article three, chapter seventeen-b, section three, article three, chapter seventeen-d, and section five, article four, chapter seventeen-d of the code of West Virginia.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

To take effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

The within approved this the 27th day of March, 1972.

Governor
PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

Date 3/17/72
Time 1:00 p.m.

Mar 29 9 29 AM '72
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA