

Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc.

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WHA Applauds Signing of Physician Licensure Compact

Borgerding: Compact Creates Efficiencies for Hospitals, Physicians and Quicker Access for Patients

MADISON (December 14, 2015) – At two bill signing ceremonies hosted by western Wisconsin hospitals today, Governor Scott Walker signed Assembly Bill 253 into law making Wisconsin the 12th state in the country to join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. AB 253, a key legislative priority for the Wisconsin Hospital Association, will help expedite the licensure process for qualified physicians from other states who want to practice medicine in Wisconsin and begin serving patients more quickly in Wisconsin communities.

“This bipartisan legislation will streamline the licensure process for many physicians who have been successfully recruited by our members to serve people in communities across Wisconsin,” said WHA President/CEO Eric Borgerding. “Wisconsin’s high-value, high-quality health care system is well served by the caring professionals who take care of patients each and every day. As hospitals and health systems employ nearly 80 percent of the physicians licensed in Wisconsin, hospitals have a vested interest in ensuring that access to care is not burdened by regulatory red tape and paperwork.”

For physicians who utilize the expedited Compact process to receive a Wisconsin license, it will reduce the time and cost for both the physician and the Department of Safety and Professional Services to apply for and process the physician’s Wisconsin license. Most importantly, it will enable those physicians to begin serving Wisconsin communities more quickly. Physicians who do not utilize the expedited Compact process are not affected by the legislation.

“We want to thank Governor Walker for signing this important legislation and thank Representative Nancy VanderMeer and Senator Sheila Harsdorf for shepherding this bill through the legislative process,” said Borgerding. “Over 650 hospital advocates walked the halls of the State Capitol and asked their lawmakers to support this bill during WHA’s 2015 Advocacy Day. We also want to recognize our committed hospital and health system members from all over the state who called on their elected officials to support this bill.”

By joining with the 11 states that have already adopted the Compact (including Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois), Wisconsin can expedite the process to receive a Wisconsin license for many of the physicians who already hold a license in those states.

AB 253 passed both chambers of the legislature with strong, bipartisan votes of 95-1 in the Assembly and 31-1 in the Senate. Mayo Clinic Health System – Franciscan Healthcare in Sparta and Burnett Medical Center in Grantsburg both hosted Governor Walker today for bill signing ceremonies on AB 253. The bill was signed into law as 2015 Act 116.

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