

COMMISSION AND ALL OTHER FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS INCURRED BY IT, SHALL BE ITS SOLE RESPONSIBILITY AND NO PARTICIPATING STATE OR THE UNITED STATES SHALL BE LIABLE THEREFOR.

SEC. 19. AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS.

(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL KEEP ACCURATE ACCOUNTS OF ALL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS, WHICH SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED UNDER ITS RULES. IN ADDITION, ALL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF FUNDS HANDLED BY THE COMMISSION SHALL BE AUDITED YEARLY BY A QUALIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT AND THE REPORT OF THE AUDIT SHALL BE INCLUDED IN AND BECOME PART OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION.

(B) THE ACCOUNTS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE OPEN AT ANY REASONABLE TIME FOR INSPECTION BY DULY CONSTITUTED OFFICERS OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES AND BY ANY PERSONS AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMISSION.

(C) NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PREVENT COMMISSION COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS RELATING TO AUDIT OR INSPECTION OF ACCOUNTS BY OR ON BEHALF OF ANY PARTICIPATING STATE OR OF THE UNITED STATES.

ARTICLE VIII. ENTRY INTO FORCE; ADDITIONAL MEMBERS AND WITHDRAWAL.

SEC. 20. ENTRY INTO FORCE; ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.

THE COMPACT SHALL ENTER INTO FORCE EFFECTIVE WHEN ENACTED INTO LAW BY ANY THREE STATES OF THE GROUP OF STATES COMPOSED OF CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, MAINE, MARYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT, AND VIRGINIA, AND WHEN THE CONSENT OF CONGRESS HAS BEEN OBTAINED. THIS COMPACT SHALL ALSO BE OPEN TO STATES WHICH ARE CONTIGUOUS TO ANY OF THE NAMED STATES AND OPEN TO STATES WHICH ARE CONTIGUOUS TO PARTICIPATING STATES.

SEC. 21. WITHDRAWAL FROM COMPACT.

ANY PARTICIPATING STATE MAY WITHDRAW FROM THIS COMPACT BY ENACTING A STATUTE REPEALING THE SAME, BUT NO SUCH WITHDRAWAL SHALL TAKE EFFECT UNTIL ONE YEAR AFTER NOTICE IN WRITING OF THE WITHDRAWAL IS GIVEN TO THE COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNORS OF ALL OTHER PARTICIPATING STATES. NO WITHDRAWAL SHALL AFFECT ANY LIABILITY ALREADY INCURRED BY OR CHARGEABLE TO A PARTY STATE PRIOR TO THE TIME OF SUCH WITHDRAWAL.

SEC. 22. SEVERABILITY.

IF ANY PART OR PROVISION OF THIS COMPACT IS ADJUDGED INVALID BY ANY COURT, SUCH JUDGMENT SHALL BE CONFINED IN ITS OPERATION TO THE PART OR PROVISION DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE CONTROVERSY IN WHICH SUCH JUDGMENT SHALL HAVE BEEN RENDERED AND SHALL NOT AFFECT OR IMPAIR THE VALIDITY OF THE REMAINDER OF THIS COMPACT.