

HOUSE BILL 863

By Rudd

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
relative to actions taken against this state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, is amended by adding the following language as a new chapter:

4-53-101.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Good Neighbor Compact."

4-53-102.

The Good Neighbor Compact is enacted into law and entered into by this state with all states legally joining the compact and in the form substantially as follows:

ARTICLE I. Findings and Declaration of Purpose

a. The member states find that:

1. California has passed legislation banning state-sponsored travel to other states in the Union;

2. The ban stems from legislation enacted by those other states, which the California State Legislature has judged to be morally reprehensible;

3. This type of ban, the result of legitimate disagreements about government policy, is neither persuasive nor productive for either state and will lead to economic warfare among states, as one sovereign entity attempts to tell an equally sovereign entity how to conduct its affairs by restricting travel thereto;

4. The United States Constitution provides for a strong federal government for the common defense, but the Tenth Amendment grants the several states sovereignty in addressing issues solely within their jurisdiction,

and all states should respect this most basic precept of American government;
and

5. State leaders should impose united, reciprocal action against any misguided states that use travel bans against other states in the Union as a punitive action for conducting constitutionally mandated duties.

b. The general purpose of this Compact is to have member states of this Compact reciprocally ban state-sponsored and state-funded travel to any state that has banned state-sponsored travel to any member state of this Compact, the exception being travel for the purpose of economic development and job recruitment.

ARTICLE II. Definitions

As used in this Compact, "state" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, federally recognized Indian tribes, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

ARTICLE III. General Provisions and Jurisdiction

A ban on state-sponsored travel by any state against any member state in this Compact shall result in all member states that have agreed to this Compact imposing, in kind, the same ban on state-sponsored travel to the offending state.

ARTICLE IV. Oversight

Each member state shall enforce this Compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate this Compact's purposes and intent.

ARTICLE V. Effective Date, Withdrawal and Amendment

a. This Compact shall become effective and binding on the earlier of the date of legislative enactment of this Compact into law by no less than twenty-six (26) states or December 31, 2019.

b. Any member state may withdraw from this Compact by enacting a statute repealing the same. A member state's withdrawal shall not take effect until six (6) months after enactment of the repealing statute.

c. This Compact may be amended by the member states. No amendment to this Compact shall become effective and binding upon the member states unless and until it is enacted into the laws of all member states.

ARTICLE VI. 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 member state or of the United States, or if the applicability thereof to any government, 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 to be contrary to the constitution of any member state, this Compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining member states and in full force and effect as to the member state affected as to all severable matters.

SECTION 2. The secretary of state is directed to inform the executive secretary of the Tennessee Code Commission by letter of the effective date for the compact enacted by this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.