Section 8. Proposed Modifications to SARA Policy

8.1 Drafting of Proposed Modifications to SARA Policy

a. The Regional Steering Committee (RSC) shall maintain the Greenlight Working Group whose charge is to draft proposed policy modifications for SARA policy to put forward through the NC-SARA Policy Modification Process.

b. Upon the conclusion of the Fall NC-SARA Board Meeting, M-SARA staff shall solicit the RSC and State Portal Entities for potential policy modifications to SARA policy. The M-SARA staff will collect and organize potential policy modifications to present to the Greenlight Working Group.

c. Upon the NC-SARA general call for proposed policy modifications on, or around, January 3rd of each year, the M-SARA RSC Greenlight Working Group shall finalize any proposed policy modifications approved by the RSC to be submitted through the NC-SARA Policy Modification Process. The RSC Chair and M-SARA staff are responsible for submitting the proposals on, or around, February 3rd of each year.

8.2 Review of Proposed Modifications to SARA Policy

a. On or around February 15th, the Regional Compact staff and RSC leadership shall meet in an inter-regional meeting to identify potential alignment of similar proposals submitted to the NC-SARA Policy Modification Process. This is to avoid duplication of proposals as much as possible.

b. On or around March 1st, the RSC shall appoint a member of the RSC to present any MHEC RSC policy modification proposals at the public forum hosted by NC-SARA.

c. On or around March 28th, the RSC must vote to withdraw or amend any of the MHEC RSC policy modification proposals.

d. The RSC Chair will submit any request to amend or withdraw a MHEC RSC policy modification proposal approved by the RSC on, or around, April 5th of each year.

e. On or around June 7th, the RSC shall appoint a member of the RSC to present any MHEC RSC policy modification proposal at the public forum hosted by NC-SARA.

f. On or around June 28th, the RSC must vote to withdraw or amend any of the MHEC RSC policy modification proposals.

1 Excerpted from the M-SARA Regional Steering Committee’s Guidelines and Procedures Manual.
g. The RSC Chair will submit any request to amend or withdraw a MHEC RSC policy modification proposal approved by the RSC on, or around, July 5th of each year. Upon the July 5th public deadline for amending or withdrawing proposals, M-SARA staff will review and collect the proposed policy modifications submitted and prepare them for the RSC.

h. A formal and group review of the proposed policy modifications will be conducted at the July RSC Meeting. Those proposals voted by M-SARA to move forward shall be decided upon by the deadline on, or around, September 1st of each year.

i. If the committee requires an additional meeting to vote on the policy modification proposals, the M-SARA staff shall organize an RSC meeting prior to the September 1st deadline.

8.3 Voting on Proposed Policy Modifications to Move Forward to the Board

a. The RSC will vote on each policy modification proposal using the voting rules outlined in 2.2 d-e.

2.2 d-e:

d. A two-thirds positive vote of the eligible RSC members present is needed to recommend the state for approval, with a quorum of 50% of all steering committee members +1 must be present for all votes concerning state membership. Members of the RSC who are from the state under review (both at-large and state reps) will abstain from voting.

e. Voting members of the RSC may appoint a proxy to attend a meeting and vote in their stead if they complete a formal appointment of proxy form and provide the form to regional compact staff prior to the meeting and vote in question.