

Nurse Licensure Compact Update

Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)

The mutual recognition model of nurse licensure allows a nurse to have one license (in his or her state of residency) and to practice in other states (both physically and electronically), subject to each state's practice laws and regulations. Under mutual recognition, a nurse may practice across state lines unless otherwise restricted. In order to achieve mutual recognition, each state must enact legislation or regulation authorizing the Nurse Licensure Compact. States entering the compact also adopt administrative rules and regulations for implementation of the compact. Once the compact is enacted, each compact state designates a Nurse Licensure Compact Administrator to facilitate the exchange of information between the states relating to compact nurse licensure and regulation. On January 10, 2000, the Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) were organized to protect the public's health and safety by promoting compliance with the laws governing the practice of nursing in each party state through the mutual recognition of party state licenses. The Executive Director of the Texas Board of Nursing serves as the Compact Administrator for Texas. She is also the APRN Member-at-Large on the NLCA Executive Committee (NLCA-EXEC).

NLCA Meetings

The Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) and the NLCA Executive Committee (NLCA EXEC) meet regularly via teleconference and face to face at least twice a year. The last face to face meeting of the NLCA took place on March 11, 2012 in Chicago. NLCA met by conference call on February 13, 2012 and will meet next by conference call on May 14, 2012.

The NLCA-EXEC Committee met face to face in Phoenix, March 26-28, 2012.

APRN Compact

The Executive Officers and legal counsel of states who have passed the APRN Compact and states interested in joining the APRN Compact met in Salt Lake City on April 3-4, 2012 to draft a new APRN Compact, rules and Uniform Licensure Requirements to conform to the national APRN Consensus Model https://www.ncsbn.org/Consensus_Model_for_APRN_Regulation_July_2008.pdf and to add enforcement and rule making provisions to strengthen the Compact. A follow up meeting is scheduled for June and the projected completion date is Fall 2012.

An Updated History of the APRN Compact can be found at the following link.
[https://www.ncsbn.org/APRN_Compact_hx_timeline_April_2012_\(2\).pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/APRN_Compact_hx_timeline_April_2012_(2).pdf)

Operations Network

In December 2011, the Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) adopted a new policy that creates a networking forum for member board operations staff in NLC states. The purpose of the forum is to dialogue with staff responsible for the day to day implementation of the NLC and to ensure uniform implementation and compliance with NLC statutes, rules and policies. The NLC Operations Network began in February 2012. As reported in the February 2012 NCSBN Council

Connector, “ It’s intended to be educational and may include operations training and the identification or presentation of best practices, problem-solving, or other topics identified by operations staff or the NLCA.”

Secretariat Agreement/MOU

The NLCA continues to work on a proposed a new Memorandum of Understanding which will replace the NLCA Secretariat Agreement with NCSBN. The MOU is still being finalized.

Growth of the NLC

Nurse Licensure Compact legislation is pending this year in Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Illinois. One of the frequent objections to the Compact is absence of Criminal Background Check Requirements by some Compact states. Currently 18 of the 24 Compact states have implemented federal and state Criminal Background Checks. Adoption of CBCs is a goal for all Compact states in the Strategic Plan.

The American Nurses Association has expressed concern regarding the NLC since its implementation. They have, however, reduced their original 14 points of concern regarding the Compact to 4 points. Please see attached response of the NLCA to these remaining points.
[https://www.ncsbn.org/4 ANA TP Revised 031112.pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/4%20ANA%20TP%20Revised%20031112.pdf)

Please see an article on the first decade of experience with the Compact – *Nurse Licensure Compact 2000-2010: Sharing a Decade of Realities*, by Joey Ridenour.
[https://www.ncsbn.org/AZBN Journal NLC edition 12 1 10.pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/AZBN%20Journal%20NLC%20edition%2012%201%2010.pdf)

Participating States

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) has now been implemented in 24 states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin.

For future reference on the Nurse Licensure Compact, refer to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing web site at: <https://www.ncsbn.org/156.htm>

Texas Compact Statute and Rules

The Texas NLC Statute can be found at:

<http://www.bon.state.tx.us/nursinglaw/npa2.html#4-001>

The Texas Administrative Rules for the Compact can be found at this page by clicking on BON Rules and Regulations and navigating to Chapter 220.

<http://www.bon.state.tx.us/nursinglaw/rr.html>